

Spec Tires
July 2005

Spec Tires! Now that's a subject I have no problem getting advice on. Not only is the membership, including the philosophers, divided on whether we ought ever to have spec tires, but even among those who agree that some classes should or even must have a spec tire, there is wide disagreement on which tire to select, and what process is proper to select it.

My personal opinion on race car preparation rules, in general, is that the preparation rules should be formulaic, rather than marque or model specific. But I do recognize that there is a higher authority than my personal preference; we are a club of members and our rules are made by and for our members. I also have only 1 vote in 13 which does place a healthy limit on individual action. Consistent, however, with my philosophical base, I do not favor spec tires, but, in the case of SRF as well as SM, the membership has spoken both loudly and clearly. Thus, we will have spec tires for these classes for the foreseeable future.

The situation being what it is, your Board of Directors decided that the process for selection of a spec tire for the National SM class should be as fair and transparent as possible and to this end the Staff, led by Jeremy Thoenes, Technical Manager for Club Racing, with input from the CRB and just about every other member in the club, devised a selection program to implement this objective, which the Board recently approved.

It is not my purpose to recite here all the elements of the process, you can read the full text in the SCCA Garage section of our web site, but, rather, to highlight the most important element, the Selection Criteria. The program description states that the selection will be based on the core criteria of durability, consistency of performance, price to competitors, availability, and program support. I think it is pretty hard to argue that these are the appropriate criteria, but I know that there are strongly held and well reasoned opinions contra, which I urge all of you to freely express to your representatives. [One thing I can certainly assure you, the goal of this process is to ensure that competitors will have a fun and affordable tire to race on, not, as some have speculated, to enrich the national office.](#) Personally, I think the staff did a great job in putting this program together; you couldn't ask for more competent and professional individuals and I urge you to congratulate and thank them whenever you have the opportunity.

The greatest thing about this Club is that it is a club. Each and every one of us takes a little portion of ownership of everything we do, and that is one of the biggest reasons I'm such an avid member.

See you at the track!

Gary