

What To Do About The Runoffs®
September 2004

What do you mean, “what to do about The Runoffs”? What’s wrong with the runoffs? We’ve had “The Runoffs” forever! It’s great! The drivers have a great time; the workers have a great time; everyone who comes to The Runoffs has a great time so why are you questioning The Runoffs?

OK, OK, I agree, The Runoffs are great; but, it’s contract time, the RFP’s are out there, tracks who want to bring The Runoffs to their town are plying us with proposals. Even though Mid Ohio has treated us very well all these years we still look at proposals periodically and one of the most important functions of the Long Range Planning Committed, headed by Director Charlie Clark, is to consider how The Runoffs should be structured and organized to best serve our members.

Some of the West Coast competitors think the tow to central Ohio is a bit much so what if we ran at Laguna Seca? The West-of-the-Rockies crowd would love it but it is a very tough haul from Boston. What about Heartland Park? It’s in the geographic center of the country but it doesn’t have much elevation change. Maybe V.I.R.; great track but a beastly tow from Seattle. Well, at Mid-Ohio it rains too much; I want to go where it doesn’t rain, it’s no more than two days tow, and, by the way, I want the CRB to give me 100 pounds less weight and 20 more horsepower! Yeah, sure.

Sound familiar?

Seriously, now, the LRP committee does consider possible format changes as moderate as changing the number of groups that run to having a championship series of 3 or more races around the country. Other thoughts include picking perhaps 3 or 4 tracks around the county and rotating through the list with a different track each year. Or several “qualifying races” at regional tracks with a grand finale in the center of the country or rotating through the major venues. Or changing the current one-track format to have a series of “heat races” like the Saturday night roundy rounders.

Dear members, I know you are just full of ideas about the runoffs! Give us your thoughts. E-mail me (gpitts@scca.com) or Charlie (cclark@scca.com) or your local Director. Our members have never had a problem making themselves heard so please give us your thoughts on this subject.

And, I’ll see you at The Runoffs!

Gary Pitts