

# "Mayday"

## The M.E.T.A. Newsletter

VOLUME 1 No. 6

SEPTEMBER 1976

### WORKER PROFILE - RODNEY COCKROFT

Born in England in 1932, Rodney came to Canada in 1948 having survived the Blitz during World War II. On January 1st 1949 Rodney arrived in Vancouver and things haven't been the same since! The RCAF was blessed with his presence from 1953 where he served as an Operating Mechanic and also helped drive an ambulance; this after suitably impressing a senior officer with his ability to take the ambulance around the aerodrome corners on two wheels without putting it on the roof.

As a founding member of Westwood in 1958 he started his love affair with the track by cutting down trees so that the course could be built. In 1959 he was a mechanic on Al Tompkins' car, a spectator in 1960 and in 1961 Rodney worked as a mechanic on several Royal City Sports Car Club cars (seven at one stage).

Racing a Morgan is how Rodney spent 1962 and 1963, and finally in 1964 and 1965 he became a track worker, displaying his skills at several corners. The next year Rodney became a Corner Marshal and in 1972 he was asked to become the Senior Corner Marshal. Then in 1973 Rodney became Assistant Course Marshal and not too long after that he was asked to assume the position of Course Marshal, which is what he is doing right now.

Rodney's first sports car was a 1949 MG TC, after which he purchased the Morgan he raced in the sixties. Next he purchased a Datsun 2000 sedan and now runs a Datsun 240Z. Working at Langley Honda, Rodney is rumoured to be one of the better men around with injection systems (somehow that doesn't sound quite on the up and up!)

Among the high points of his career at Westwood, he considers being asked to be a Corner Marshal, and having to duck under low-flying Lotus Elans at Turn 4 to be the most memorable. The job he enjoyed most was Senior Corner Marshal (he could skulk around in the bush and sneak up on different corners to check on how things were going). The greatest satisfaction comes from the fact that there have been no fatal accidents at Westwood since he became Course Marshal.

As a founding member of M.E.T.A. and the club's first president, Rodney's future plans at Westwood are uncertain at the moment but he thinks he will be around for at least one more year.

It is obvious by this short profile of Rodney that he is an integral part of Westwood's history and we at "MAYDAY" congratulate him and express our desire that he continue to shape Westwood's future.

### PLAYERS' ONTARIO

Bobby Rahal won the Players' Ontario after a race long battle with a series of challengers. An exciting race was enjoyed by the spectators with lots of action, especially at Turn 3 where a crumbling road surface made it quite treacherous. Among the victims were Syd Demovsky (No. 80) and Players' Pacific winner Marty Loft who hit the Armco barrier late in the race while he was in second place.

Non-starters were Bill Brack with electrical problems and Gilles Villeneuve who ran out of sponsorship money and couldn't afford to run. Fortunately for Villeneuve it didn't affect his standings as he had enough points to get the Canadian Driving Championship. Second place in the overall standings went to Bertil Roos.

The final race standings were; (1) Bobby Rahal, (2) Tom Gloy, (3) Bertil Roos, (4) Price Cobb, and (5) Bruce Jensen.

Marcel Talbot (No. 10) won the Rookie of the Year honors while Gilles Villeneuve also won the Wayne Kelly Trophy for good sportsmanship. An interesting feature of this year's Challenge Series was that March cars won every race.

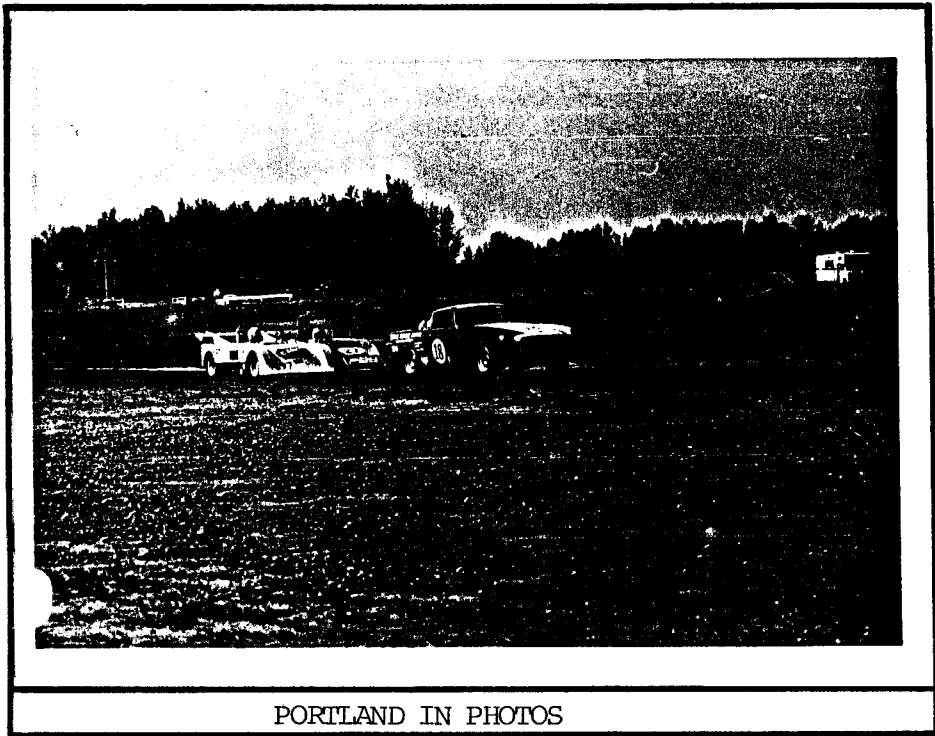
### HOROSCOPE - LIBRA September 23 - October 22

You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. If you are a man, you are more than likely to be a queer. Chances for employment and monetary gains are excellent. Most Libra women are good prostitutes. All Libra people die of venereal disease.

GO-KART RACES September 5th

The Vancouver Karting Club held their second Enduro of the year at Westwood on the Labor Day weekend, and as usual the weather decided to behave in its' own Westwood way, 'fog and rain', but some karters raced in spite of the weather.

For the help of the few M.E.T.A. members who showed up, the Karting club paid \$50.00 to M.E.T.A. We would like to thank the karters for their donation and to those members who helped make it possible.



PORTLAND IN PHOTOS

Club Crests \$2.00 each  
 - 6 colours  
 - available from -  
 Ruby Strelton  
 (Turn Two)

ICE CHALLENGE '77

Herman Kroetlinger announced a new series of ice races to be held at Barnes Lake near Ashcroft B.C. The probable dates are; January 9th and 23rd, and February 6th and 28th. Sponsors for the series will include Carling O'Keefe and Honda.

For the workers who decide to work at the Ice races there will be a subsidy for expenses, with assistance being given for gas, food and lodging. The Bar Q Guest Ranch will be utilized as an entertainment centre with Disco music and dancing being one of the features. A training and familiarization program will be conducted in the late fall for race officials.

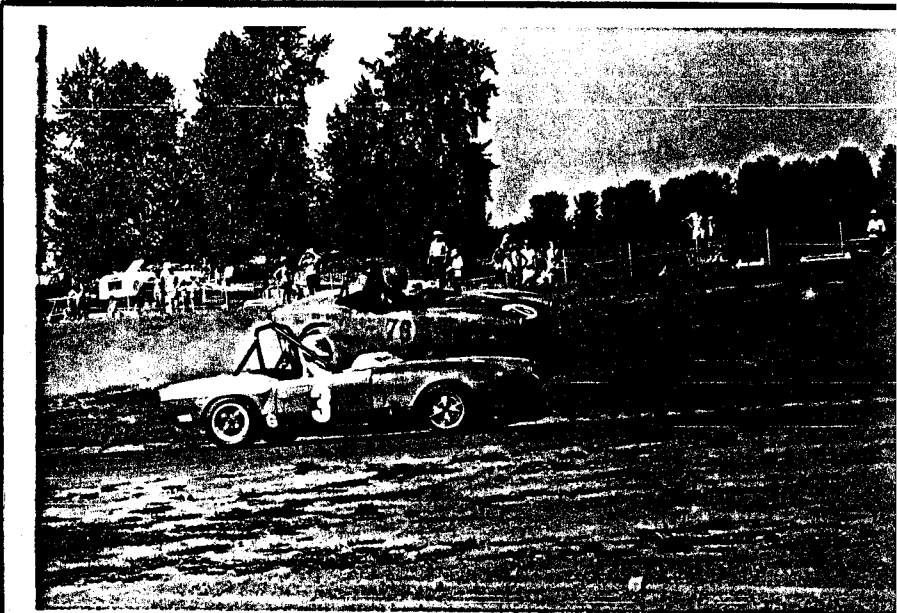
There will be seven CB weather and road condition checkpoints through the Fraser Canyon for those travelling to and from the races.

A few of the racing features will include a Datsun 510 claimer and wings for the unlimited studs class. The brightest feature of all promises to be Herman's guarantee that there would be more sunshine at Barnes Lake than at Westwood. The media coverage will be quite extensive this year, spreading to a national broadcast on television, so it should be quite an exciting series. We will be keeping you posted on any future developments.

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PORTLAND PASSING !!

THE \$50 OFFER....

Simply refer a friend to Dean Warner at Kingsway Honda. Should they buy a HONDA, Dean will pay you \$25 and donate \$25 to M.E.T.A. So far the club has been doing fairly well on this proposition. So lets keep those HONDA buyers coming!!!!

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF A TAPED CONVERSATION BETWEEN TONY "THE GUT" ROMANO AND BENNY "THE GRUNT".....

TONY: "Ehhh, Pisano, youa hear that theres'a biga banquet on'a October da 2nd in'a New Westminster? They'a servin' da spaget, ya da spaget. Deres gonna be a Disco dancing a too! Ehhh da besta part isa dat its'a only costin \$7.50 per person. I hear its'a gonna be a lotsa fun. Ehhh and pisano you only a got until September da 25th to geta your a tickets. We'a already gotta ours. Be sure to bring a whole a bunch of friends a too, eh?

BENNY: Huh?

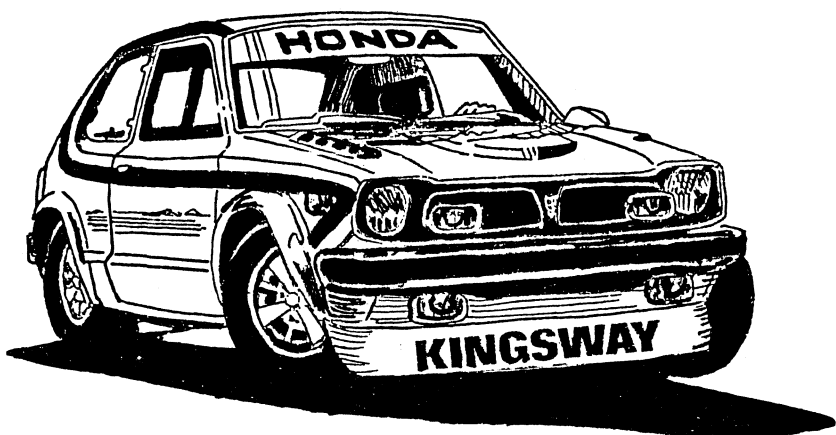


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M.E.T.A. MEETING September 7th

In the financial report it was reported that we have \$133.14 on hand plus two cheques totalling \$150.00 leaving a balance of \$283.14.

The first item of business was the upcoming 7 hour Enduro race of October 9 - 10th. Points brought up were the open ditch in Turn Two which has still not been filled in as promised by the SCCBC, and some means of slowing down the cars should a bad accident happen during the race. Nothing conclusive regarding the ditch was achieved, however the subject will be brought up at a competition meeting; there was some talk of the corner crew at Turn Two not working unless the ditch was covered in. Regarding the hazard created for corner crews by cars refusing to reduce speed when an accident has occurred, the pace car will come out and all race vehicles will form up behind it, thus slowing the cars down to a safe speed.

Dave Bevan promised that all the fire bottles would be fully charged for the Enduro. Some decision will be made (for next year's racing) regarding the location of the command post at the Esses from the outside to the inside of the track as the outside is where most of the cars land after leaving the track.

A new system of distribution of the M.E.T.A. club crests has been worked out. They will now be available to qualified turn workers from out of the province for \$2.00, thus making them honorary members. They will also be encouraged to join M.E.T.A. and receive full club benefits.

Other points brought up were the Sept. 25th deadline for banquet tickets and the nomination deadline of Oct. 6th for the election of the new executive.

New crests featuring Westwood's "Mountain High Racing" motto were mentioned and production costs are to be investigated.

All suggestions for track safety improvements are to be made in writing to either Course Marshal Rodney Cockroft or M.E.T.A. President Roger Salomon. Westwood will be in it's present location at least until 1980 and probably 1990, thats the good word.

Internal friction was said to be the club's biggest problem this year and a call was made for club members to try and settle their differences and get on with the fun and enjoyment of auto racing instead.

An announcement was made that the CASC race on Sept. 12th was cancelled due to lack of entries.

PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

Loaded down with camping gear, food and enthusiasm fourteen M.E.T.A. members left Vancouver's foul weather and headed south. Driving around floods in Bellingham, speeding tickets in Seattle and losing people in Vancouver Wash., ten members made it to P.I.R. to find out there would be no camping at the track and almost no race at the track. The driver's write-up mentioned a Wet T-shirt contest, beer drinking and free camping but unfortunately a driver's wife didn't appreciate the idea of the wet T-shirt contest and took it up with city council. When city council saw the write-up given to the drivers they decided there would be no race. Basically city council decided there was not going to be an "orgy" on city property. After some quick thinking and lots of talking by SCCA officials, the city council decided there would be a race, but "with stipulations"... no camping and no orgy. If you can imagine our M.E.T.A. gang going up to a motel at 2.00 am and getting two rooms - perhaps city council was right after all!

Things from now on were a little bit different than at Westwood. At the meeting on start-finish the corner crews are assigned rather than having everyone work the same corner. All Corner Marshals are pre-assigned at a meeting before the race weekend. The corner crews pick up all the tools used in the corner while Turn Captains (T/C) have a meeting with the Course Marshal (he's got the sharpest looking Pantera around) where they discuss problems, turn crews, etc.

Once in the corners the T/C discusses corner problem areas, use of flags and hand signals and introduces the other corner personnel. An important feature of P.I.R. is the consistant use of flags and hand signals by all personnel on every corner. T/C then assigns people for flags and emergency, who, on the average of every second race change positions, and assistant Turn Captains (AT/C).

Emergency is basically like Westwood except he wears bright orange dishwashing gloves, a little hot but very effective as the hand signals can be seen for quite a distance. The emergency worker and his assistant are the only ones who run to cars, he also ensures that the T/C and communications are kept informed of the status of the situation. If a bad accident occurs the T/C will go to the vehicle and the AT/C will take over the corner. Under no circumstances is everyone off to the accident.

By the way the racing that we had was excellent.

May all of us who were down in P.I.R. extend our thanks to Doug, Skip, Jerry, Bob and all the others for making this weekend a memorable one.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| October 2nd        | M.E.T.A. Banquet                   |
| October 7th        | M.E.T.A. Meeting                   |
| October 9th - 10th | ENDURO Race                        |
| October 21st       | M.E.T.A. Meeting - General Meeting |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Remember the Sept. 25th cut-off for banquet tickets
- Cut-off for the October issue of MAYDAY will be October 11th
- A form is attached at the bottom of this page which we hope you will use

CUT HERE ↗

NOMINATING FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_, HEREBY NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE POSITION OF \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATOR

POSITIONS OPEN: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER (1)

President

Vice-President

Secretary Treasurer

SECONDER (2)

\_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATEE

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For the help of the few M.E.T.A. members who showed up the karting club paid \$50 to M.E.T.A. We would like to say thanks to the karters for their donation and to those members who helped make it possible.

QUESTIONNAIRE

YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN RECEIVING COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF "MAYDAY" FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, WE WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR CLUB AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF "MAYDAY" TO YOUR MEMBERS. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND RETURN THIS SECTION TO: "MAYDAY"

212-310 East 2nd St.  
North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 1C7

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT UNLESS WE RECEIVE THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF "MAYDAY" WILL BE TERMINATED.

- 1) Is your copy of "MAYDAY" available to the general membership? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 2) Number of members who read "MAYDAY" 1-10 \_\_\_ 11-20 \_\_\_ 21-40 \_\_\_ 41-60 \_\_\_ over 60 \_\_\_
- 3) Do any of your membership go to Westwood events? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 4) Club Membership \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Would any of your membership be interested in becoming involved with the work of M.E.T.A.? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

NOMINATING FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_, HERBY NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print) (please print)

FOR THE POSITION OF \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATOR

POSITIONS OPEN, \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER (1)

President

Vice-president

Secretary Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER (2)

\_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATEE

