

"Mayday"

The M.E.T.A. Newsletter

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At our last meeting and last Mayday issue, the editor of this fine publication made a humble request for some contributions (however small) to be printed for the benefit of all readers. Well, I received at least four "Have I got an article for you". And those people still must have them because I sure don't!

In this issue, however, we have the sequel to "Conference Race in Victoria". Yes all you stomping ladybug fans, Arlene has done it again. Done what again, you may ask? Read on!

Also a blurb from our beloved social committee, Bill & Loretta, always on the lookout for various amusements, a schedule of coming events (Can I say that???) and a new feature. This month, we profile Roger Salomon, Vice President and worker-about-town. Who knows - next month it could be you.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 23 & 24 CASC/Motorcycles	Yes, fun with cars & bikes again! Our last Regional event of the year other than the Enduro.
August 30 & 31 Conference, Spokane	If Mount St. Helen's doesn't do it to us again, this one might run.
September 5, 6 & 7 TRANS-AM (not a Firebird!)	Our other super successful professional event - look for some close racing minus the Turbo Porsches. Look for tears in Robin's eyes!
September 13 & 14 Conference, Westwood	Last of the season at Westwood.
September 20 & 21 Conference, Portland	Last event in Portland until their Enduro in October.
September 26, 27 & 28 Grand Prix, Ile de Notre Dame Montreal, P.Q.	To watch or listen to. Of course, some of us more fortunate ones....!

SOCIAL CLUB PLEA

As you may know the social club is holding a raffle at every META meeting to raise money for the club. This is very hard if we do not get support from you. Tickets cost 50¢ each or 3-\$1.00, that means that you have to save 25¢ every week. That does not seem too much to ask of any body. Just don't buy 2 chocolate bars every month and you have \$1.00. Every prize we offer is worth \$5.00 or more. Quite a bargain. Any donation for a prize would help a great deal as we would not have to use your money to buy one. Any ideas for prizes would help also. If you have any ideas, please let us know. You can see us at any META meeting with one hand holding long streams of tickets and the other hand grasping for money.

WORKER PROFILE

ROGER SALOMON - Vice-President, META

Born 1937 Meiringen, Switzerland

Family still resides in Switzerland

- Brother - Roland Salomon, two-time Swiss Formula Two champion - now retired
- Family never owned a car, always traveled by train (could explain why Roger has about 3 vehicles!)

Nicknames - Cookie, Small But Fancy

Roger Salomon first became interested in motorsport around the early 50's when he was on his brother's pit crew. Roland at the time, was world champion in model car racing. (not AFX type, you understand, far more sophisticated!) Roger watched his first Grand Prix in Berne, Switzerland in 1954. Like most of us, after a first time at a big race, he was hooked.

Soon after, in 1960, Roger came to Canada (you mean he's been speaking English for 20 years and I still can't understand him?!) lived in Montreal for 4 years, then moved to Vancouver. Jim McRae, Honourary META member and Competition Chairman at Westwood this year, met Roger in 1968 and got him interested in Westwood. One year was spent as Assistant Starter, then he worked Turn 2 for 3 years, the last year as Assistant Turn Marshall. From 1971-75, Roger was the Turn Marshall at Turn 2 (get the feeling he knows the Clubhouse Turn pretty well). In 1976, Roger became Course Marshall, which was his position for 2 years. But the lure of four wheels off brought him back as Assistant Turn Marshall for a year. During these three years, 1976-73 Roger was elected President of META during which he accomplished quite a bit. He was the founder of the META car shows, which are held in the spring in conjunction with the SCCBC. Roger helped to form a training program for new workers. He also began to travel to the various tracks in the Pacific Northwest, helping their workers with their events, promoting Westwood and safety in motorsport. META came to symbolize hard-working people, who were concerned about safety, were slightly crazy in the bargain and appreciated for their help.

Roger became Chief Turn Marshall in 1979 and holds this position currently. He is free to observe the workers at Westwood and keeps informed on how everyone is progressing. Roger can help those who have questions about working at Westwood as to who, where, when, why etc. Just look for the old guy in white (only kidding) Usually Roger is wearing a denim and white floppy hat and is always in whites (does this narrow it down?) He conducts worker meetings on race mornings and can usually be found near a white Volkswagen Van with META written all over it (another great promotion idea), near a Renault painted with the same colours or near a lady named Grace.

Roger has been involved in motorsport for a long time and will continue to try to further safety and fun in racing for a long time to come.

LOST & FOUND - Mike Bailey has lost his whistle - a horror for any turnworker. He thinks it may be in the Turn One vicinity but then again it could be anywhere by now. The whistle is silver and is strung on a shoestring. (Nice touch Mike!) If you see it or have found it, please return to Mike or bring it to the META meeting.

CONFERENCE - VICTORIA - July 19/20

(or: The Lady Bug Strikes Again)

It really distresses me that I will have to wait a whole year before we get to go to another race in Victoria. They sure know how to have a good time at that place!!! (The racing isn't too bad either but then who goes to see the races??)

Initially the weekend started out dismally with clouds and rain for the good (or bad) portion of Saturday. Fortunately by the end of the race day the sun was shining and the track was dry so the two novice races went off without any problems. For the most part I think the day was relatively uneventful except for a few minor spins. David, Al, Grace and myself had the dubious distinction of working "the crossing" so the day consisted of letting people in and out of the grandstand area between races. It was terribly challenging work and obviously Al couldn't stand the pressure as he deserted us on Sunday to work on a "real" corner.

Saturday evening provided some great entertainment as we had our very first Can-Am softball game. Just to keep things friendly, a few players from each team were loaned to each other to play on the opposite sides. Don and David were the two Canadian "traitors" to play for the Americans. They did a great job, in fact they never helped the Canadians at all (you turkeys!) The Canadian team had a great cheering (or heckling) squad in the form of Roger, Fred, Robin, myself and Penny (Mike Holloway's baby sister). I use the term "Baby" very loosely. Robin provided the gang with the show stopping cheer on the night only it was so rude that even Roger was blushing. I don't know where Robin learns these things- she is usually so sweet and innocent. (If you believe that then I have this great bridge for sale for anyone who is interested) One of the highlights of the game was Grace's incredible run to 1st base. That is not normally too incredible except that she went to 1st base via 3rd base, then 2nd base (or turn 2 as Don refers to it) and then on to 1st base. The other team was so astounded by this unusual tactic that they forgot to tag her out. Well Done Grace! I hate to say that we lost the game but no one is really sure of the score. It was either 11-6, 12-6, 11-5 or somewhere in the area. It was fun to see all the participation by the various drivers and crews as well as all the workers. If any of you are planning to go to Seattle in August I would suggest that you take your baseball gloves in case we have a rematch.

On to the Party

Well - Don never even made it to the party before getting injured. He refused to say what exactly it was that he and Mindy were doing but somehow he managed to tear the ligaments in this right foot and spent the rest of the weekend hopping around like some mad rabbit. I hope that whatever it was they were doing - it made the whole thing worthwhile.

For about the 1st hour of the party the only people dancing were from our group. (which just goes to prove the stamina of workers) Eventually the rest of the crowd joined in and things got rolling. Roger and Fred even joined in and "got down" when the Rock Lobster was played. (See Robin and Vicky for demonstrations if you don't know what "getting Down" means -- and keep it clean) (Can I say that???) Anyways, it was a unique experience to be lying on the floor with a bunch of faces looking down at us in amazement. Obviously none of the Victoria crew had done the Rock Lobster.

For the most part everyone stayed relatively sane. Grace dazzled all the men with her black jumpsuit and Jim Sheldon wasn't even there to see it. I owe Robin an apology as I assumed it was her who was clumsy and kept spilling drinks on the table. I have since been corrected and understand it was her klutz of a hubby who was having problems. No wonder he avoided using glasses and just drank straight from the can -- not so easy to spill cans!! Al Lobsinger cut loose on the dance floor and kept saying that he hasn't had that much exercise in years. Maybe he should work in pre-grid for a while if he wants exercise - Right Robin?? Vicky retired early as she was nursing a wounded finger from the baseball game. Fred disappeared shortly thereafter with the excuse that Vicky might need some comforting!! (Good story Fred) One of the few to stay til almost the end was David who also went a bit crazy and even danced! He may never do it again now that he knows how weird the rest of us are.

We certainly have to give the "Drunk of the Night" award to Steve. His early strategy was to have a drink in each hand so he would be balanced. Unfortunately, he got very unbalanced and Penny and I have to provide support so he could make it to his bed. Somehow the 3 of us staggered to the campsite without making any wrong turns.

We were rudely woken up by a group of male turnworkers who collapsed the tent on Penny and myself. We know for sure that Roger and Steve were involved but the other two remain nameless. Therefore, I will have to take my revenge on the 2 who were caught. There is a reward, however, for information leading to the "arrest and conviction" of the other two.

Sunday provided some excellent racing even though the grids were fairly small. I've been told that the most exciting incident in Turn 1A was Roger's reaction to a spectator who was casually sauntering along by the tire wall. I wasn't there to see it but according to Al, Roger went a bit crazy. David should be lectured on wearing proper safety equipment as he grabbed an exhaust pipe off a sports racer and promptly burnt his thumb. He great leather gloves had at least 146 holes in them! I also understand that Brian fell down while retrieving some debris from the track and instead of getting up and running, he ROLLED off the track. Anyone want to place any bets on his life expectancy?? I'm surprised the communicator didn't call in a "Delta delta delta" for a rollover by a turnworker.

Speaking of Communicators - It was sure fun to hear Don on the radio. Due to his damaged foot, he was put on the sidelines with the job of communicating. He did a pretty good job but you could hear the frustration in his voice from being "out of the action." Rumour has it that he lives to chase racecars.

The ferries home were packed and we had to wait until around 8:30 p.m. before we could all get on. We were entertained by Fred, Al, Roger and Vicky with their extremely gross jokes and behaviour. Grace and I were shocked but poor Mindy was so scandalized that she went for a walk and disappeared for about 3/4 of an hour. Rick returned from a saunter through the line-up with the amazing information that there were several pairs of nice bowling balls around! I never knew B.C. Ferries had a bowling alley - do you suppose they would consider tennis courts and a swimming pool. I do find it hard to believe that anyone could actually admire pairs of bowling balls! (Each to his own).

Supper on the ferry divided the rich from the poor. The Forsters and Co. headed upstairs to the buffet while the rest of us pooled our resources and hit the cafeteria. By the time dinner was over everyone had virtually died, having used up all their energy on the difficult task of chewing and swallowing.

It was another great weekend but it is a shame we have to go all the way to Victoria to have a good time. Maybe we should consider having our own party sometime in the future so we can get crazy on our own territory?

See you all at the track!

Arlene