



MAYDAY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF M.E.T.A.

Volume 9 No. 6

HAPPY HOLLYDAYS

December 6, 1984

Christmas time is near again - time for getting together with friends and family, time for exchanging good wishes and gifts, time for pigging out. We'll be able to do at least the pigging out at the next META meeting. It shouldn't be called a meeting, really. It is more of a get-together, a party, if you will. The ever-hospitable Roger and Grace will be hosting the party at their house, (10952 McAdam Road, Delta - tel. 581-7189) on Friday, December 21st. Festivities begin at 7 p.m., spouses and friends welcome. So be there, or don't be there!

ELECTION RESULTS

META held the Annual General meeting on November 28, in which the election of officers took place. Our new Executive for 1984-85 is:

Rick Neyedli - President
Roger Salomon - Vice-President
Fran Pelletier - Secretary
Tom Popovich - Treasurer

Congratulations to all. The same is due for the outgoing (as opposed to shy) Executive of 1983-84 for a job very well done in keeping interest high, encouraging new workers, giving credit when due and keeping politics to a minimum.

Of course, election results would not be complete without giving a nod to the new Executive of the Sports Car Club of B.C. The new officers are:

Pete Jadot - President
Martin Stretton - Vice President
Marty Knoll - Secretary
Ron Nessel - Treasurer

Al Ores & Ross Bentley - Westwood Committee

The Sports Car Club has had a good year. \$17,000 richer due mainly to Cecile's efforts in the concession stand, a successful racing season with some interesting competition and a bright outlook for racing in the future are some of the occurrences.

It takes a dedicated group, however small, to keep our track going and the cooperation between clubs and people has been interesting to see. We all look forward to a good year to come, and many more racing years after that.

META AWARDS

As is customary, our awards were presented at the Sports Car Club banquet on November 30th. Enthusiasm, hard work and a love of the sport we call marshalling are the qualities we look for in our winners. And here they are:

META Member of the Year - Fran Pelletier & Nick Roche (joint winners)

META Rookie of the Year - Rick Zeller

Non-META Member Rookie of the Year - Pam Woods

Congratulations, one and all.

THE UNKNOWN SCRIBER STRIKES AGAIN

This time, I'll tell you some of the things I've seen that I get miffed over.

Let's start with equipment. First, how many people have a whistle, a knife or something to cut with or proper footwear other than running shoes? Have you ever had to lend someone a pair of gloves or rain gear (only to get it back torn)? Not very keen or smart!

Do construction people wear safety gear? Yes, because their health and lives depend on it. Well, bringing out the minimum personal equipment or even investing in some additional gear could save yourself some injury or even a person's life.

I've noticed the flags to be pretty sloppy at times. Be a driver for a while and see how much attention or trust you will put in the flagging you have to depend on. I know drivers who have said that when they see a particular worker flagging, they don't pay them any heed. Can we blame them? Blue flaggers...be sharp!

Has anybody heard how many workers in the past few years have been casualties - too many, obviously. So let's practise the things we know that work for us. The buddy system is one of the most intelligent ideas we have developed. This goes for safety marshalls, when there are enough, or even the communicator and turn marshall when they are stuck by themselves at the apex. I can remember a few times when everybody was watching an incident, not seeing the one just happening at their backs.

How about on the Leap? Put yourself in a driver's position - knowing people have been killed from deer and come flying over the Leap and notice the workers are either looking in the wrong direction or not looking very alert. That must be a great confidence builder.

Has anyone ever wanted to cross the track at a blind spot and put their arm up for a safe crossing signal and the person you are signalling to stands there or just waves you across? Why do we have hand signals anyway?

I don't see people thinking for themselves very much. Case in point - the Turn Marshall and a safety man (taken off the blue flag) were attending a two car incident. There happened to be an extra communicator trainee on the corner. That person, who was not very experienced, was sent over to yellow flag and free up one more person for safety. This kind of backing ourselves up is just not done often enough. Just take a few moments to plan your move before reacting - don't leave your butt exposed to danger or to be chewed out by that nasty Course Marshall (just kidding, David). And remember the

Course Marshall is a good guy and there to take flack for us and hack us up, but it's difficult for him if we don't act sensibly or professionally.

Lastly, I haven't noticed much enthusiasm to attract people to the track this year. Yes, before you scream, I have this year brought three, count 'em, three new workers. So, that is it, don't you think other people would want to get into this? We aren't the only crazy people out there! If it's that you're not enjoying yourself, what are you doing here? The only people that should be out there are the ones who really want to be. They are the ones who interested enough to put enthusiasm and heart into their jobs and they will attract other people like that. That sounds like the old days and that sounds like fun to me.

What do you think?

Well, I asked that the last time I printed this person's article and I did not receive one reply, query or rebuttal. I made a little promise to myself - if I didn't hear a peep, not only would I assume everyone agreed, I would relinquish the editorship of the Mayday. And I have. Now don't think this is sour grapes, because it's not. I just feel that after 4 years of doing this (sometimes extremely half-heartedly), I thought that instead of giving you my usual sweetness and light (?!), I'd give you something to think about, get upset about, talk about because it's important. I guess I expected too much, given the usual issue everyone was accustomed to receiving. And so, as I mentioned, I am no longer editor, typist, photocopy service, stapler, stamper and sender. However, I do have some articles already written for the new co-editors and I intend to be regular contributor. I find it easier to write than to be the whole staff!

And so, I will let the new editors introduce themselves in the next issue and invite comments on the last "Unknown Scriber" article. And who knows, I may let it slip out who that person is someday!

I wish the new Executive, the new Committee Heads and the members of META a Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.