



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

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April Showers at Wetwood

EDITORS' SOAPBOX

Ha! Here we are. Late as usual. Had to hold off to see if any interesting cases of pneumonia developed from that absolutely typical "Wetwood" Driver Training weekend. What a soaker! And the Cold! Aghhh! Well, gee, how else would we know that the season had started again?

Judging from conversations overheard at the bull session on Sunday, it seems as if our efforts were appreciated by organizers and novices alike. The entrants all talked about what a good time they had. Well worth the time and money (even the guy that almost had to shoot his Pony after his soft roll-over in Turn 3.) That's what it's all about folks. Thanks for turning out.

Thanks are also due to Roger and the rest of you who, once again, gave their all to help organize and staff the 3 car shows for SCCBC. Some of us are in top car-pushing shape already. Thanks also to the drivers who sacrificed their prize mortgage-busters to the whims of the shopping public. Have a good season one and all.

Thought there might have been something interesting to report from the Brazilian Gran Prix but, apart from the usual horrendous attrition that this track exacts via worn out tires and blown engines, everything ran pretty much to script - Prost and McLaren winning again. Surprisingly, both Ferraris finished strongly and in the points. Mayhaps this augers well for Alboreto, Arnoux and company after their disappointing season last year.

Results:

- 1 - Alain Prost - McLaren
- 2 - Michele Alboreto - Ferrari
- 3 - Elio De Angelis - Lotus
- 4 - Rene Arnoux - Ferrari
- 5 - Patrick Tambay - Renault
- 6 - Jacques Laffite - Ligier

FROM THE EXECUTIVE'S CORNER

As this months Mayday comes to you, it is the treasurer's turn to write a few lines on a subject of his choice. So, since treasure indicates something of value, lets talk about a subject that is close to everyone's heartMONEY.

META is a non-profit organization that gets very little financial help to supplement the cause. Steady cash flow into our bank account is virtually nil. We are looking for ways of fattening our books. Since nothing can be accomplished without the prospect of ideas, we would like to hear from you. If there are any schemes lurking in the back of your mind, please bring them up at our next meeting.

One final note, at last count about half of the membership has their dues 'paid up', so the rest of you cough up your \$10.00. If you can not make the meeting, send the money directly to Fran Pelletier our membership person, or myself.

Thank you
Tom Popovich, Treasurer

CHEF'S CORNER

Nothing tasty in the mail this month. One editor starving to death. HELP!

MEETING , MARCH 27th

The "T" shirts and name tags have been ordered and from what I understand there is a possibility that the prices may vary by a couple dollars on the "T" shirts.

Dave discussed the meeting next month as it will be a training session for new workers. However, he did say that it would be a good idea for you veterans to come out and refresh your skills. He also stressed that he wants people to register during the week before an event. (remember this is your chance to request where you would like to work) Dave's phone number is 420-0472.

As we will have two flat tows this year (one of them thanks to an organizer of the PNE car show) there was a discussion held about the advantages of having a second emergency team at turn 3. It was brought up that these vehicles would be dispatched through the communicator of the turn and the turn marshall.

Thanks came from Roger and Rick Neyedli for the people who helped to build the tire wall at turn 1.

Brad has done a draft for a promotional poster that we can put up any where we think might attract a bit of attention to our cause. It looks great folks.

After a lengthy discussion on where META will be if a new motorsport facility happens, the main points that everyone seemed to agree on were that we must continue to work professionally and support motorsport in B.C.

Watch out for Brad Velander in the next driver training. (Fran drew his name.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Motorsport complex, is it fact or fantasy? The answer is up to you, yes I mean you. In fact, it's up to each and every one of us to decide the answer. There is a lot of people out there who think that racing in B.C. is dead, and unless each and every one of us helps out, it might be. This doesn't mean leaving it up to someone else, or talking about doing something. It means getting out there, and doing something. Bring someone new out as a worker or even as a spectator. If you know a driver who isn't going to run, try and change his mind. Even if he is not competitive it means another car on the track, and he would probably have some fun while he's at it. I know a lot of drivers who say they are going to wait and see what happens before they finish their cars. If everyone did that, where would racing be. We have all heard about other tracks that closed, never to have another one built in their place. It boils down to this, we need cars to get spectators, we need spectators to get public interest, and we need public interest to keep racing alive in B.C.

There is a hell of lot of people out there trying to get this complex going. But, for every one of them there is probably 10 more who are just sitting and saying, "it's not up to me." Well, you're wrong, it is up to you. If everyone out there was to start bringing people to the racetrack just think how crowded it could be. If we had that much public interest, then the politicians in this province might take notice. So come on people, lets get our act together. Phone up any old workers you know and get them out there. Bring new people to see what it's all about. But most of all, get out there and support your favorite sport. RACING!

Brian J. Meakings

Overheard at the mall while putting the cars in:

A very future worker asked, "Daddy, I want to drive a car". Daddy replied, "Not with a dirty face you can't".

Now then, if we could only enforce this for some of our older drivers....

A suggestion for a new acronym:

METTA - Motorsport Emergency Turnworkers and Tirewall Association.....

FROM THE UNKNOWN SCRIBE

I would like to thank those who responded to my editorials. My hope is that people understand I only want to address attitudes, not skills or abilities. During my brief time being around this terrific sport I have met some very committed and dedicated people. It seems too often a few do the work for the many, and often thanklessly.

People work long and hard at their jobs and careers without rewards. So when in an arena where winning, from challenging oneself and taking risks, and being acknowledged for it, I can feel empathy for feeling left out of the recognition. So I guess the reason I persevere is because knowing that I've learned something new from someone, or from challenging myself to do better than yesterday, is a good enough feeling. Although I also appreciate the odd thank-you, job well done from a worker, racer, or organizer who appreciate my efforts.

This might seem an overworked point to bring up, but consider how important attitudes will be when the new multi-purpose facility goes up. My impression is that this track will be run in a more business-like manner and justifiably so. I imagine it will be similar to how Portland is organized, nevertheless, we will become small fish in a larger pond. I'm sure it will be important to work harder at being supportive and have a spirit of co-operation.

I have seen disputes in the past which have resulted in the loss of qualified people.

I am looking forward to working in a proud new facility which could perhaps host event like IMSA, CART, or even Formula One! The probability of increased audiences, and spectators from the other motorsport areas will be sure to follow. Not to mention an increase in sponsors for events and drivers, which everybody could benefit by. I can continue to add to my hat and "T" Shirt collection. Who knows maybe we can earn some more points and get more than one beer ticket for after those tiring hot days?! Aaaah, just imagine, more cold frosties!!

In any event lets continue to go out there with a spirit of support of the drivers, organizers and spectators. Should any problems arise, what can't we resolve over a cold beer afterwards, to ensure smooth running during the day. So kids lets get out our wits, whites and whistles and get ready for some more fun this year.

Just some more thoughts from.....

The Unkown Scribe

LAST WORD - (again editors' prerogative)

Thanks to all of you who contributed to this month's issue. It helps us out a lot. Keep 'em coming. Wasn't so hard was it.