



MAYDAY

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

Volume 10 #9

October 16, 1985

AUTUMN LEAVES ISSUE
(Happy Turkey Day)

Editors' Soapbox

As the season winds down with the year the Editors remind you that the best is yet to come. Yes folks, banquet and party time. Starting with Thanksgiving and proceeding through our wrap-up party, then on to the banquets. ICSCC's on November 9th and SCCBC's at a date still to be announced. Get those reservations in to Pat Moe and the Bellvue Holiday Inn. And then, of course, there's this occasion on December 25th. Let's be thankful we have all these good times ahead which follow the good times we've had all season. Kind of makes you feel very fortunate, no? Take it easy on the road.

META Meeting of September 25, 1985

-21 members present

-Reading of minutes - Fran Pelletier - Approved

-Treasurer's Report - Tom Popovich - current balance 1641.73 with a recent infusion of 652.00, mostly from our work of manning the track for SCCBC practice days/nights.

-Correspondence - Fran - Letter from Joey Adair. She and Dave now in Louisiana but mail should still go to Dove Lane, West Richland or

P.O. Box 2825
Crystal River, FL
(904) 795-8632

-Social Director - Nick Roche - announced the mandatory raffle and that the wrap-up party is still on at his place sometime after the Portland Enduro stay tuned.

-Training/Course Marshall - Dave Forster - Dave cautioned that we are not to think of our hydraulic spreader in terms of "Jaws of Life". They may be useful in minor situations but remember your primary rough extraction device, the good ol' wrecking bar.

Regarding the hammering that the tirewall along the pre-grid fence

took on the September 14/15 weekend, Dave appreciated the quickness with which repairs were effected but reminds us not to get too many people involved and to get firm control early of those you do get to assist.

With respect to arm-chair racers, screamers and hecklers on the sidelines - ignore non-constructive criticism unless it becomes such a problem that it affects your ability to do your job. A call to the Course Marshall is the remedy. Ask would-be helpers responding to an incident to return to the spectator areas unless confident of their contribution and ability to act under your direction. If crowd control becomes a problem, remember, the line of control is you to the Course Marshall to the Race Chairman - Use it.

Some discussion regarding Steward interference on course. Stewards are as subject to your control when out on the course as anyone else. You're in command in your area. Make your decision, do your job, complain after.

-Membership - Fran - 39 paid
- 5 honorary

-Mayday - Joanne Henderson, Rick Smale - Rick apologizes for the missed deadline this time and presented copies for members present.

It was agreed that photocopying arrangements (one source of the delay) would be altered to paying for the service, ensuring a prompt publication or, at least, maybe using SCCBC's machinery, supplying our own paper.

Historian - Joe Proud - Nothing new to report

Old Business - None

Project Committee - Vic Kennedy - Vic has been on to Ron Livingston, a stunt car driver friend and scrap car pick-up dealer who is on the lookout for a vehicle in the \$75 to \$100 range for use in the project. He has also given his assistance in recommendations on retro-fitting safety equipment and external crash protection to the car. Discussion on the size/type of vehicle boiled down to something on the Chevelle/Maverick size with a definite bias towards the GM product or equivalent. Vic will pass this on to Ron. We'll get the vehicle to Janusc at F1 Automotive in North Vancouver who will do the prep work. META will pay for materials required for the retro-fit. Vic presented a draft of the data recording sheet we will use to plot the results of the impacts.

-Vice President's - Roger Salomon - announced ICSCC banquet and ROD meeting on November 9, 1985. Meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to attend. This is our one chance for input to Conference for the year.

No word yet from Ford on the truck. Roger will wait until the end of September before following up. He has not had a chance yet to approach Players for help in producing the META posters and, possibly, filling the void left by Valvoline when they went out of the jacket business.

Break

-President's Report - Rick Neyedli
-\$70.00 collected at September 12 practice night
-October 3, pre-enduro practice - we need at least 6 warm bodies from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

-New Business - Striking of Nominating Committee for slate of officers in the upcoming A.G.M.

-asked and accepted: Grace Lassen
Joe Proud
Rick Smale

-Dave -

-For the Enduro flashlights with red batons will be used after dark as general caution signals

-Slowly raised/lowered = steady
-Large figure-eight = waving

Announcements

Joanne has 11 English Pointer/Black Shephard cross puppies available in a couple of weeks. If you're interested just call.

Soup and Chili will be prepared and delivered to the workers during the Enduro.

Worker awards lists will be compiled by Dave and distributed in the Mayday or by some other method. Start thinking about your choices now. To qualify, the META worker of the year must have attended at least 75% of Westwood events (excluding Vintage). The META rookie and the Non-META worker must have worked at least 50%.

Norm announced that the Lower Mainland Oval Racing Association is having a dance at the North Delta Recreation Centre, Saturday September 28. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Dancing 9:00 to 1:00. \$5:00 per person.

Vic has made a model available to whoever can write the best words to the tune of 'Greensleeves' using the theme of 'Greasesweep'.

Good and Welfare - none

Swap and Shop - none

Results of the Draw

1. Pat Lebaron - Doesn't drink and doesn't drive a car so could not use the prizes.
2. Barb Moewes - The beer.
3. Vic Kennedy - The wine.
4. Chris Morris -Some fine RAINX
5. Joanne Henderson - Instant Patch

Next Meeting: October 23, 1985
The Music Room
Century House
Moody Park Rec Centre
8th street at 8th avenue
New Westminster



DOWN AT THE TRACK

Robin Preps The Racers

The whine of high-performance racecars holds a particular fascination for Training and Education Assistant Co-ordinator **Robin Holloway**.

From April to October, she spends most weekends at Westwood Motorsport Park in Port Coquitlam as a track official wearing white coveralls. A volunteer for nine years now, Robin admits she's hooked. "When the race is on, the adrenalin is really pumping through my veins. A race keeps you on edge because you know anything could happen. I feel totally absorbed and very excited."

While she's taken the driver training course, Robin prefers being a track marshall. "You have a responsibility to ensure that drivers and spectators are safe, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the races. Actually much of my job happens before the action begins."

As one of two people assigned to "pre-grid", Robin's task is to bring order out of chaos. During practice sessions the day before a race, she helps inspect 125 to 180 cars. She ensures that all drivers have helmets, gloves, eye protection, and safety equipment. She informs them of track conditions, points out any equipment problems, and assigns them to a racing group.

On race day, after the entrants are positioned in grids of 10 to 30 cars, Robin calls a five-minute warning to drivers to ready their engines. Then, at a one-minute warning, she orders anyone whose motor has failed to go to the back of the pack, and moves the rest to the starting line.

Once the race is on, Robin and co-worker **Arlene Young**, become emergency personnel. "If a car spins, or there is an accident in our vicinity, we deal with it. We check the drivers, put out fires, and report to race control." Sometimes safety is difficult to monitor or predict. Deer have been known to lean the fence at Westwood, causing an

The job requires constant concentration. "You really have to be on the ball," says Robin. As soon as one race is over, another group must be prepared on time for the next race.

Travels to action

Through this interest, Robin met boyfriend **Ross Bentley**, recently referred to in a *Vancouver Sun* article as "perhaps the best driver in these parts". In addition to her role as a track official, Robin writes proposals to companies or people who are potential sponsors for his car. The cost to enter a Formula Atlantic race is about \$12,000, she says. Even if Ross wins, the \$10,000 to \$12,000 prize would be divided among the top 15 finishers. "As you can see," says Robin, "cash prizes cover only a portion of the entry fees, not to mention the cost of maintaining the car itself."

Even on holidays, Robin's away to the races. She particularly recalls the 1982

Grand Prix in Montreal when she worked as an official communicator and flagger. Two to five times during each racing season, she travels to Seattle or Portland to watch Ross race with top U.S. drivers. One universally-recognized entrant in the line-up is actor **Paul Newman**, who apparently joins in as "just another racer".

As the 1985 season draws to a close, what are Robin's plans for '86?

Besides helping with a study on sa barriers, she's assisting with the development of a new training program for race marshalls. "If anyone's interested in becoming a track official, just call me," she encourages *Banner* readers.

As for holiday plans, you can take Robin away from Westwood, but not racing altogether. This February she's off to Florida to visit her parents and — you've probably guessed it — to catch the action at Daytona's raceway.

