



MAYDAY

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

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Those Easter Bunnies were at it again this past race weekend! Shaking their ears at one and all, collecting cute compliments and being eyed in sheer disbelief. Thanks, Vic, for your usual imagination!

The Easter Bunny was good to the Course Marshal, too, depositing fledgling workers everywhere for him to find and put to good use. Dave seemed overwhelmed by the turnout at the 8:15 meeting and therefore had to re-arrange turn assignments (see message about how to avoid this later in this issue - Ed.) We had a total of 11 new people, 6 of which were not at Driver Training. This doesn't include extra assistance by a few new folks in other places, such as Timing, Pre-Grid and Tech. Nice to see Craig Daw and Paul Bjerkan in their orange overalls come to help us out, too (grew out of the whites since last year or changing to Formula One gear, we're not sure!)

Speaking of auld acquaintances, on Saturday, we had a visit from former M.E.T.A. member Mindy Robinson and her mom, Cherie. They brought optimistic news from Race City in-Calgary - the track is to be paved any day, now. Mindy has been asked to be Starter, as she has the most race working experience of just about everyone and Cherie will head Pre-Grid. So, we may be travelling there after all in 87 (we shall see!)

Did you notice the brand new Ford Diesel pick-up picking up various vehicles, etc? It's M.E.T.A.'s own, donated by Ford, to be used on race weekends as backup to the regular tow vehicles. It will eventually have a box built for our equipment with the M.E.T.A. name emblazoned across it. We agreed to provide a log book documenting the use of the vehicle and arranged for fifty season passes and a half page of advertising in 8 race programs to be donated by the Sports Car Club. Good stuff for Ford, the S.C.C.B.C. and especially us! Thanks to some dedicated work by a number of members over a number of years.

Just a short word on future issues of the MAYDAY. As race season is upon us, the newsletter will be kept brief, to advise you of upcoming events, things you need to know and any incredible revelations. I will do my best not to write too many chatty items until October or thereabouts. The race and event schedule will remain, as will the Special Report from the Executive members (thought you were getting off scot-free there for a minute, didn't you, Executive-type people!), updates on the training program and any contributions from members. The membership list will be published only when changes occur, so remember to keep the most recent one handy (new list in this issue). As before, the deadline will be the 10TH OF THE MONTH - next one is May 10th.

P.S. Julie Wilkinson qualified 6th on the grid in the 1st Honda Heat Race!!



Working the
"Bunny System"



SPECIAL REPORT

Our first weekend, Driver Training at Westwood, is over and we couldn't have asked for better weather. Roger and Rick finished off the fortress at Turn 4. All we need now is some longbows and slingshots and we should be able to fend off Tony Morris and his company of Civics, Camaros & Firebirds. It looks impressive anyways, the new station.

I spent my time cleaning up the cut brush at Turn 3 during the sessions. Beware of 6" stumps around the turn station and bank as you could easily injure yourself. They could have been cut closer to the ground.

I was very impressed with the quality of drivers, who were fast and well-behaved. (Some forgot what a standing yellow flag means, though). Our two club members who took Driver Training (Barb Moewes and Pam Wood - Ed.) looked very impressive through 3.

Our first race is on April 19, then the Knox Mountain Hillclimb on May 16 & 17. A vintage driver training in the morning and racing on Saturday afternoon on the 23rd should also keep us busy. I will mention the vintage day the next meeting.

Barb and I are manning a booth at White Rock Arena on April 26th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. if you are out that way. The Corvette Club are putting on a swap meet there. Maybe Roger could swap his shortened Corolla for.....

I don't know if you will get this before or after the next meeting, but hope you will all be there!

Nick Roche
Vice-President



THE PROCEDURE FOR ENSURING A SMOOTH RACE WEEKEND STARTS WITH A PHONE CALL



Yes, a phone call is all it takes to help the Course Marshal plan his people and thereby, start the morning meeting on time, start racing on time and get the show on the road, er, track.

So that Dave has the data to make an informed decision, he asks the following:

- a) If you have stated you will be working the entire season, he must assume you mean all race days listed on the Westwood racing schedule. This includes the Fridays where applicable. If you cannot attend any of those days, including Fridays, please let him know.
- b) If you need to advise him race by race which days you will be attending, please honour the following time frame when calling:
 - The Monday before the race weekend, between the hours of 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. - Dave will ensure he is home to take your calls at this time.

Any changes in this method will be printed here or announced at the M.E.T.A. meetings or morning race meetings.

Let's work together to make sure these operations run as smoothly as possible. If you are a turn marshal, it will give you more time to have a meeting with your people, let them meet each other, determine who needs training and how you will rotate the jobs. Race Control can make sure all the radios are working properly with time to spare, make any early morning announcements and give instructions to new communicators and deer spotters. And the Clerk will have lots of time to make changes in the schedule (whoops, that shouldn't be there, unless, of course it's to give us a longer lunch hour!)

Dave just wants to be a good Boy Scout - we can help him "Be Prepared".



THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Well, we did it. We put on our first of the re-vamped Basic Worker Training programs. A small, but enthusiastic turnout was the order of the day at Evergreen Hall in Chilliwack. Though a press release was given to the local Chilliwack paper, the "Chilliwack Progress", unfortunately a severely edited version appeared in the same edition as the front page story "Dark Shadow Over Motorsport" which may or may not account for the low attendance. However, from all reports, Dave Forster did a great job of leading the session and the program, with a few minor changes, is on its way to being an all-round success.

Personally, I'm sorry I missed the debut, though I will definitely be at the session to be held here. As Chairman of the Committee, I would like to thank Grace Lassen, Merv New and Dave Forster for giving me their support & encouragement, always driving to my place and helping to make my germ of an idea a reality. Thanks also to Training Assistants at Chilliwack, Vic Kennedy, Nick Roche and Roger Salomon for their expert help. Kudos to Shari Forster for giving us the benefit of her point of view as a relatively new worker - her suggestions helped us "veterans" put it all together. Another t.y. to Roger for being Master of Ceremonies (he's always a Master-something, isn't he!!)

Now we have a Lower Mainland program to schedule and work will begin on a Turn Marshall Module later on. TRAINING LIVES!

Robin Bentley

M.E.T.A. IS TO BE A C.A.S.C. CLUB

Unless we've already paid, in which case, we are a C.A.S.C. club. A vote was taken amongst the members to determine if we should take the plunge. A hefty majority said "Yes", so we have some work to do. The Executive must begin by determining our rights and benefits as a club and what we should do to enhance the relationship. Expect a report at every meeting on the latest news or project being undertaken, plus information from the B.C. Region meetings. Some of this will likely find its way into the MAYDAY, so watch and listen for further updates.

SPECIAL NOTICE

- APRIL 22 M.E.T.A. Meeting - 8:00 p.m., Moody Park, Music Room
- APRIL 25 SCCA Driver's School -Seattle
- APRIL 25 & 26 ICSCC (Cascade SCC) Championship Race - Portland
- APRIL 26 Corvette Club Swap Meet - White Rock Arena
(see Nick's article)
- MAY 2 & 3 SPI-Formula Atlantic/IMSA - Laguna Seca, California
- MAY 2 & 3 ICSCC (IRDC) Championship Race - Seattle
- MAY 2 & 3 SCCA Regional Race - Portland
- MAY 16 & 17 SPI-Formula Atlantic/IHSA - Firebird, Arizona
- MAY 16 & 17 Knox Mountain Hillclimb - Kelowna
May 16 - 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast at Knox Ntn.
7:30 a.m. - Corner and workers' meeting
8:00 a.m. - Go to corners
9:00 a.m. - Course open to practice runs until
2:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - Timed runs begin
12:00 noon - Beer garden opens until 6:00 p.m.
May 17 - Same as previous, except no practice runs
Awards to be presented Sunday night at the
Kelowna Curling Club
May 18 - If you are still there, the organizers could use
some help in cleaning up the hill.
If you plan to attend, please call Bruce Yeo immediately
at (W) 461-1221.
- MAY 24 Editor's birthday
(Not to mention the Indianapolis 500)
- MAY 25 Monday night before the race - Call Dave Forster between 6
and 10 p.m. at 420-0472 to confirm or deny your attendance
- MAY 27 M.E.T.A. Meeting - 8:00 p.m., Moody Park, Music Room
- MAY 30 & 31 CASC REGIONAL - ICSCC CHAMPIONSHIP RACE -
HONDA HICHELIN CHALLENGE - WESTWOOD
- MAY 30 & 31 SPI-Formula Atlantic/Trans-Am - Sears Point, California
- MAY 30 & 31 CART - Miller American 200 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- JUNE 6 & 7 Rose Cup Race - Portland
- JUNE 12, 13 & 14 CART - Budweiser/G.I. Joe's 200 - Portland



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