



MAYDAY

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

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OCTOBER 1988

It's okay - you didn't miss the August/September issue. I didn't produce one - my humble apologies. I could make a bunch of excuses, but I won't. It won't change the fact that you've been Mayday-less for all this time, will it?

So, this issue will make a desperate attempt to catch up some news, views and dues (for youse). I'd better quit while I'm ahead...

I guess this might be a good wrap-up issue - a review of the season, as it were. We have many things to be proud of as a club and as part of Westwood. I think we can look forward to a very good 1989 season - and you'll see why in the next few pages.

By the way, I have an article which was given to me by Vic Kennedy by the deadline for August, which will now be printed. It is a "timeless" piece!

I'd also like to take the opportunity in this space to say "Goodbye" to a valuable member of the Executive, an enthusiastic and always willing-to-learn turnworker, a substitute trainer extraordinaire and special friend to me and Ross. This paragon is, of course, Merv New, who has forsaken us and moved to (gasp!) Nanaimo. And, horrors, he took his lovely and extremely talented wife, Mary, with him!! We hope we will see them both for many a race weekend next year and any other time they wish to visit. All of us at META will miss you guys (and do already).

But, it is also time to think of celebrating and the META awards banquet (Coming over for that, M & M?). Actually, the entire banquet season begins now. We thought we were burned out from attending races every weekend. Think of 8 or more Saturdays of rubber chicken, oh-so-fascinating acceptance speeches and music that is impossible to dance to and I think you get my drift. But it is the final Enduro of sorts and is a much a part of racing as the sunny, hot Formula Atlantic weekends. At least one of them is a must - why not make it the META bash? (Of course, none of the semi-derogatory descriptions above apply!)

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS 1988 SEASON

Some time ago, META's executive at that time decided it would be in the interest of the club to put some money away for equipment to make our job easier. Many things were considered, but once we had a goodly amount of money, a 150 lb. fire bottle was purchased for use on the emergency truck at Westwood.

And speaking of the truck, a deal was negotiated with GM for a GMC product for the use of our club. It has been used at Westwood events, some practice nights, taken on the road to Kelowna, Seattle, Portland - all the while advertising our club and what we do.

Fund raising is another forte of members of this club. Two swap meets/auctions were held on the two Formula Atlantic weekends at Westwood. The first netted approximately \$535, the second \$325 - a very good haul. And this is not to mention the sale of META pens. About 275 were sold this season at \$5 each for a grand total of \$1,385. Stickers at \$1 a piece were good sellers and netted about \$100.

Members of our club organized the annual Formula Atlantic bash, this time in Pre-Grid, as the Clubhouse had been torched by vandals. Good food, good times and good drinks were had by all.

META committed to manning practice nights again this year for the Sports Car Club of B.C. Other than a few monetary glitches at first, and some confusion on the part of a few members as to what night they were to be there (myself included!), we did our job and made some money for the club coffers.

Our club members are in demand for motorsport shows, club events such as the Vintage Weekend and in Kelowna, the Hillclimb; we are welcomed at racing events stateside for Conference and SCCA events, not to mention IMSA & CART.

We have increased our membership to 65. Welcome to all newcomers and thanks to many long time members whose friendliness, willingness to share their knowledge and commitment to their sport have brought new people into our milieu.

And speaking of people, some extra special kudos go to the following members who were instrumental in one or more of the above. In no particular order: Barb Moewes, Danielle Baxter, Dave Forster, Fran Pelletier, Grace Lassen, Jan Smale, Joey Adair, Linda Gregg, Lori Nerada, Merv New, Nick Roche, Rick Neyedli, Rick Smale, Roger Salomon, Russ Mitchell, Shari Forster & Vic Kennedy. If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize (and please let me know). These are mainly people I have had the pleasure of working with, though there may be many others I know nothing about. Congratulations to all of you - you made it a special year.

TRAINING PROGRAM

Just a few end of year statistics from our program efforts this year:

Of a possible 39 new workers, we were able to contact:	31
Of those contacted, we trained in formal sessions:	19
Of those contacted, number attended/worked at least one race event:	24
Number of new workers who have joined META:	8

So, we're on the way to increasing our membership bit by bit, getting interested people out to the track and trained, introducing more and more people to the sport we love.

We will be contacting as many of the above as we can to attend the November meeting if they so wish and possibly the Christmas Awards Banquet. We will also attempt to find out if they have no interest in returning or would like to look at doing something different, or that perhaps their priorities have just changed for the moment. If they show interest still, then we have a group ready to be trained or re-trained for next season.

Thank you to all turn marshals and their crews who took new people throughout the year and have helped them along the way. Thank you to all members who have taken the rookies under their wings.

We hope that many if not all those who we contacted/trained this year will be back. We have some work to complete on the Communicators' module (racing season tends to preclude much work mid-season) and future modules such as refresher and Turn Marshall training will be researched. On to 1989!!

ELECTIONS

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I know you have received your election notice from Rick Smale (and smartly done, Rick!). Please remember to exercise your right to vote on November 23rd. As a member of the nominating committee, I can tell you we have some excellent possibilities - all hard-workers and committed to this club. They may feel the need to be committed after a term of office - to an asylum that is. So you know that these positions require a lot of work, determination, diplomacy and so on. Please consider your vote carefully when the time comes!

VIEW FROM THE TOP (OF THE TOWER, THAT IS)

And now for something completely different. After working the Turns at Westwood for 8 years, I worked in the Tower for the latest Conference Race (July). Timing and Scoring were new skills to learn as well as operate a radio with the Course Marshal at Start/Finish. Running a stop watch is easy, but these there fancy ones that print everything for you makes life very easy indeed. Even got up to 4 cars at once. The new computer system was being used but they wanted manual times for backup. These were done by myself and two novice drivers completing the programmes. On to scoring in the top floor of the Tower. Derek got 3 rookies to teach! The novice open wheel race was a good way to break in, only 6 cars. But the closed wheel event had about 17 cars with Otar roaring around quickly and leading the lap tapes. Now we were writing fast, trying to get all the numbers. Only missed a couple, not too bad. Sunday was more timing during morning qualifying and attempts at lap records during the races. A most enjoyable weekend.

Vic Kennedy

(Rumour has it that Vic did such a good job, he'll be asked to be Chief Timer next season!)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We going to start bugging you really early this time! And there is a good reason for this. CASC dues are payable at the end of February 1989. If we should so decide to join, we had better have the money to do so. Therefore, Rick Smale, our current Treasurer puts everyone on notice:

DUES ARE PAYABLE BY FEBRUARY 1st, 1989.

YOU WILL BE STRUCK FROM THE MEMBERSHIP LIST IF
YOUR MONEY IS NOT IN THE CLUB'S HANDS BY THEN.

There. You are forewarned!

MEMBERSHIP LIST

There will be a new and updated list by the next issue which (to hedge my bets) will be in December or January. In the meantime, if you need to contact anyone and can't find the number feel free to call me - I'll provide it if I have it. My number is 581-6849 or 588-8383 (business answering machine).

Robin