

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

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Here it is, nearing the end of March and Driver Training is just an Easter Bunny hop away. As we know, from the quizzes we took in February on flagging, emergency & comm., we probably need to remove some of the rust, fill in some of the cracks with a bit of bondo and have a brand new coat of professional paint applied. Our first Pro event (meaning Formula Atlantic/GM/Honda) is in May, so we don't have our usual 3-4 months to buff up the finish on our skills. The Training Committee is researching ways to help ourselves do this detailing work. More to come...

A major schedule change has happened, and boy, was I mad when I heard! As you may or may not know, I write for Formula Magazine and Motorsport West, in particular covering the Honda/Michelin Challenge Series. The schedule was set and I had no conflicts. Aha, said the scheduling demons, this gal's life is running too smoothly. So they got a hold of Players Ltd., who sponsor the accompanying GM Series, who decided that due to an eastern race being scheduled June 10/ & 11, they didn't want a western race the same weekend. They didn't ask me what date might be suitable (as I would expect) and so changed the Calgary date to... sob... the Portland CART Weekend. I don't know if I can live without my yearly fix of live Indy cars or my chance to corner work and learn with some great people.

Now I know this won't affect many of you, as you probably hadn't planned to go to Calgary anyway. But spare a thought for the devastation to my race-working spirit this has caused. I try all the time to be two places at once, but Portland and Calgary are a bit far to stretch. If you have any sneaky ways to help me with this dilemma, let me know. I'm open to suggestions in between the gnashing of teeth and rending of hair!

And on a more positive note - two of our members have been appointed to responsible SCCBC chief-type positions. Firstly, we lose our Course Marshal, Dave Forster, to the big tower in the sky as.... Assistant Race Chairman! And then, to get that most important vacant Course Marshal position filled - Nick Roche is the lucky appointee! Congratulations, men. If there's anything we can do to make the transition easier, let us know.

Robin

TRAINING COMMITTEE NEWS

Dave & Shari Forster presented Basic & Communications Training on March 18 & 19 in Calgary. From the feedback they received, it went very well, with both trainees and experienced workers very appreciative of the assistance. Some of the integral parts of our training, such as experiential learning of flags and hand signals had to be abandoned in the face of training over 70 people! Dave and Shari handled it with aplomb and revised as necessary. And guess what - our illustrious and awfully quiet former Course Marshall could be heard from the front of the room to the rear (and likely farther, too!). Must be all that insurance negotiation, Dave - way to go! Shari, though somewhat apprehensive about how she would do, took a deep breath and jumped right in there and impressed 'em, too. Thanks to you both for going to Calgary on our behalf. We hope you felt the trip to be worthwhile and the MAYDAY would like a report in full for the next issue.....

Our New Worker Appreciation Meeting was postponed due to time constraints and will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

We have now set our dates for Training Sessions in 1989. We decided to space the times throughout the year to cover new enthusiasts who become interested mid-season.

The dates are as follows:

Tuesday, April 11	Basic Training
Friday, April 28	Communications Training
Tuesday, June 27	Basic Training
Friday, July 14	Communications Training
Tuesday, August 22	Basic Training

The location will either be Moody Park or the Port Moody Recreation Centre - to be confirmed asap. Time will be 7:30 p.m.

We can always use volunteers to assist with the training - please see Robin, Dave or Grace.

Just a bit of background on the choice of dates and our procedures this year:

Basic Training is scheduled prior to a non-pro event in order that workers can see what constitutes the majority of our racing without overwhelming them, plus make it somewhat easier on the training personnel ie. Training Committee, turn marshals, chiefs, etc.

The training will consist of the classroom session, where the novices are taught meaning of flags and hand signals, actually use the flags and signals themselves and correlate that knowledge to a video presentation. On the Saturday morning of ideally the following race weekend, a walkabout will be conducted, so the new people can become familiar with the turns, the people and the racing. Saturday afternoon will be spent in Race Control, Timing & Scoring, Pre-Grid and the Pit area, to familiarize them with the other departments. Sunday, the trainees can choose to

get out there and flag, work in scoring or do some more observation or whatever.

The cooperation and patience of all turn personnel and department chiefs was greatly appreciated last year - thank you in advance for 1989.

Communications Training is limited to 2 sessions this year. All potential Communicators will be required to go through Basic, unless they've had previous on-track experience. Fridays, though neither ideal for trainers or trainees alike, are scheduled through necessity. Radios are at a premium this year and frankly, we can't afford to rent them by ourselves. We are hoping a deal can be worked out with the SCCBC to use the radios they have already rented for the race weekend. So far it looks positive.

New Communicators will spend their first weekend in this way: Saturday will be spent with Grace in Race Control, listening and observing and possibly helping by recording info. Sunday will be spent trackside with Jo Adair, observing and making calls. Of course, depending on the number of trainees, this may need to be juggled around slightly. No matter how it is structured, this will be far better training than many communicators have received previously - a lot of us had a radio put in our hands and presto - we were communicators! This system will better prepare new personnel and also give us the opportunity to get feedback right away.

And so, we begin the new season with high hopes and good intentions (Paving the way to where, you say?!) We already have approximately 10 new people who have indicated interest and we are in the process of contacting them for the first training session.

MOTORSPORT SHOW/MATSQUI OPEN HOUSE

An unusually low turnout to the show this year netted only a few new worker possibilities so far (keep those cards and letters coming!) META was there in force with a representative display of vehicles from Westwood. Lori Nerada asked the MAYDAY to pass on thank-yous to those who lent a hand.

The Matsqui Open House (in support of the new motorsport complex) attracted probably just the opposite crowd (consequently, I don't think we're going to get a lot of applications to volunteer from this one!) From what I hear, some questions were intelligent and well-thought-out and some were emotional outpourings (sounds like any racing club meeting you'd care to name...), but were for the most part handled expertly by our people. Barb Moewes can argue with the best of them and when she sets her mind to being cool, rational and confident in her facts - whooo boy, watch out - dead in their tracks at 10 paces! Aside from fielding questions, it appears the entire show may have turned some people towards our point of view, but don't bet on it. We've still got a pile of work to do before we're wanted in any area. (This is a whole 'nother editorial topic...coming soon to a MAYDAY near you!) In any case, Lori would also like to thank those who assisted at Matsqui - every little bit helps!

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1/2	Driver Training Westwood
April 15/16	Conference Race Westwood
April 22/23	Conference Race Portland
April 26	M.E.T.A. Meeting - 8:00 p.m. Moody Park, New Westminster
April 29/30	CASC/Enduro, Westwood
May 6/7	SCCA Regional Portland
May 20/21	Knox Mountain Hillclimb Kelowna
May 24	M.E.T.A. Meeting - 8:00 p.m. Moody Park, New Westminster
May 26/27/28	Player's Ltd./Toyota Formula Atlantic/GM Motorsport/ Honda/Michelin Challenge Series Westwood

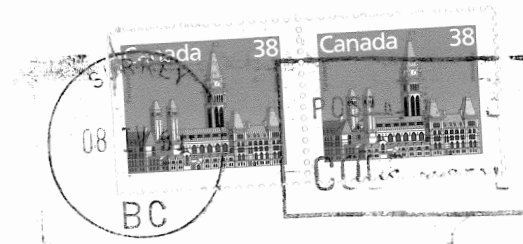
As we get ready for this new year at Westwood and I think about the work involved in the Training program, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Merv New and Mary O'Neil for their work last year in teaching and video/photo production respectively and to thank Vic Kennedy for the offer of his video-shooting services this year (we'll be taking you up on that shortly, Vic).

As Training Committee Chairman, I would also like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Grace Lassen, Dave Forster, Barb Moewes, Roger Salomon, Shari Forster, Jo Adair and Nick Roche who have been absolutely instrumental in getting prepared for this season and who have worked their butts off to ensure we have a Training Program that can really help all workers - something to be proud of...

Sincerely,

Robin

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