



# MAYDAY

The official newsletter of the Motorsport Emergency Turnworkers Association

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META Website: [www.meta.bc.ca](http://www.meta.bc.ca)

January 2003  
Volume 28 Issue 1

## SPEED READING

Jan 8	SCCBC Meeting – Best Western,	North Road	Coquitlam, BC
Jan 11&12	Ice Races – Barnes Lake (Alternate for Jan 4/5)	WCIRABC	Cache Creek, BC
Jan 18	IRDC Banquet Info: Gary Woy 253-435-1616	DND Fabricating	Puyallup, WA
Jan 18&19	Ice Races – Barnes Lake	WCIRABC	Cache Creek, BC
Jan 22	META Meeting – Century House	7:30	New West, BC
Jan 25	META Banquet – Best Western	North Road	Coquitlam, BC
Feb 1&2	Ice Races & Enduro – Barnes Lake	WCIRABC	Cache Creek, BC
Feb 8&9	Ice Races – Barnes Lake	WCIRABC	Cache Creek, BC
Feb 12	SCCBC Meeting – Best Western,	North Road	Coquitlam, BC
Feb 22&23	Ice Races – Barnes Lake	WCIRABC	Cache Creek, BC
Feb 26	META Meeting – Century House	7:30	New West, BC

*Note: Ice Races are subject to weather and ice conditions; check the Hotline at 604-945-4592 or [www.carsonice.ca](http://www.carsonice.ca) before traveling.*

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All opinions expressed in the Mayday are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mayday staff, Club Executive, or the members of META.

META meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Publication deadline is the 30th of each month. Submissions may be faxed or e-mailed to the Editor.

Printed in Canada.

## Is it Winter Yet????

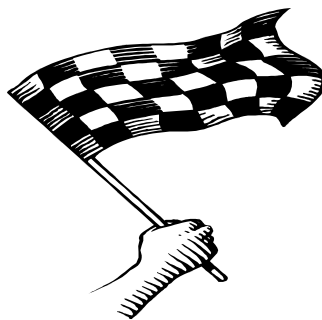
Well it figures doesn't it!!!! I hype the ice races as much as I can. Get you all so excited that you can't wait to get up there and Mother Nature comes along and throws a wrench in the works. As of Dec 31 there was only 5 inches of ice with a snow cover. 8 to 12 inches is necessary and the snow makes it slower to build. January 4/5 has been cancelled with January 11/12 being the make-up date. Keep your fingers crossed and start your ice dances to get that ice thickness up to what we need. However, there is still plenty to do this month. IRDC has their banquet on January 18, and they are giving out a gift certificate to workers so that it costs you **NOTHING** to attend. Hopefully other organizations will see the light and come up with similar ways to show their appreciation.

And then there's the big one, META's Banquet is on January 25. This is our chance to congratulate our peers for jobs well done, get together with friends we haven't seen since summer and generally have a really fun time. Everyone is encouraged to attend this wonderful event as the more the merrier. Support your club and see your friends, come on out.

*Also, time to renew your membership in META!! Don't forget now!! Only \$20!!!!*



# M.E.T.A. AWARDS BANQUET



*Our Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003.*

*The BEST WESTERN Coquitlam Inn has been chosen by popular demand.*

*We would like to encourage all the Membership to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our fellow Track Volunteers!*

**TEDDY BEARS WELCOME !**

*~ Bring Your Best Dressed Teddy Bear ~  
(All Teddies will be donated to a local charity or hospital)*



*Cocktails: 6:30pm*

*Dinner: 7:30pm*

*Awards: 8:30pm*

*Dancing: After the Awards presentation, Dance the Night away to the GROOV ' N TUNES of Freddy Yaw-Man, of Club 2000!*

*Best Western Coquitlam Inn is located at*

*319 North Road, Coquitlam, BC.*

*Phone: 604-931-9011*

*Please fill in the form below, and mail it with your payment. Thank you.*

META BANQUET TICKETS

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 / Person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Total on Cheque)

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## **ISA to Compete Head to Head With CASCAR**

By Greg Salter

On October 2nd in Toronto, stock car racing in Canada received a major shakeup, as the MMC Group announced the International Stockcar Alliance. The ISA will compete head-to-head with CASCAR, and comes with a lot of fanfare and promises, but many questions as well.

MMC, headed by former CASCAR employee Mitch Mortimer, was the group responsible for this summer's NASCAR-studded "Canada Day Shootout" at Cayuga Speedway. At that event, approximately 20,000 people turned out to see Winston Cup drivers such as Tony Stewart, Matt Kenseth, Kenny Schrader, and Johnny Benson battle the CASCAR regulars on the 5/8th mile oval. Spurred on by that success, MMC has announced their own schedule, their own rules, a few sponsors and partners, and a significant increase in money to lure both race tracks and drivers to their series.

"The ISA is coming to Canada," said Mortimer. "We are ready to provide the cars, the drivers and the excitement at both new and well-respected racing facilities across the country."

Exide Batteries has signed a one year deal to be the title sponsor of the series, and they will be providing a \$500,000 points program, which dwarfs the payouts available from CASCAR. There are also payouts of up to \$50,000 for race winners, and a driver/fan pairing scheme (patterned after Winston Cup's successful "No-Bull" driver/fan promotion) that will pay out a MILLION DOLLARS (EACH!) to a driver and their matched fan if they win a particular race.

The 2003 ISA schedule has also been announced, and it includes races at Mosport, Race City in Calgary, Sun Valley in Vernon, and the mothballed Sanair Superspeedway in Quebec. ISA will also replace CASCAR at the Molson Indy events in Vancouver and Toronto, and will expand Kawartha Speedway to approximately one mile for a pair of events.

Several NASCAR and CASCAR drivers were at the series announcement, including Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch, Jeff and Jim Lapceovich, Kerry Micks, Robbie Thompson, and Pete Vanderwyst. Other CASCAR drivers to announce their affiliation with the ISA include Dave Jacombs, Dave Whitlock, and Mark Dilley. The ISA has also announced that besides current CASCAR-compatible cars from Ford, Chevrolet, and Dodge, the series would also allow new platforms such as Toyota, Saab, Volvo, and Jaguar.

"My decision was strictly business," said Micks. "ISA put a business plan in front of me that was extremely intriguing to both myself and (sponsor) UFCW Canada."

Finally, the ISA has lined up an impressive number of well-known partners, including Molson Sports and Entertainment, House of Blues Canada, TSN, the Sun Newspaper chain, and Raceline Radio.

But many questions are still floating around regarding the ISA and the Exide Racing Series, and they almost entirely revolve around money. While they have announced their schedule at many well-known tracks, it has been revealed that many of the tracks are actually renting out their tracks to the ISA, and will either share promotion with the ISA, or not participate at all in promotion.

The costs borne by the ISA with regards to the track do not only revolve around track rental and promotion. The series has indicated that they expect crowds of 30,000 to 50,000 at tracks such as Race City and Kawartha, neither of which have those kinds of seating capacities. That means temporary grandstands will have to be rented and transported, along with other facilities such as temporary concessions and wash rooms. The costs for expanding Kawartha Downs will also involve more than just asphalt and concrete walls. The new track will sit where Kawartha's current horse racing track resides, and that will mean that significant horse racing and betting revenue will be lost during track construction. Even once the track is built, two weeks of horse racing will be lost for every race, as the dirt has to be removed prior to the ISA race and replaced after the ISA race.

Conspicuously absent from the 2003 ISA schedule was Cayuga Speedway. Apparently, there are still unresolved money issues with MMC from the 2002 Canada Day Shootout.

Tony Novotny, founder and president of CASCAR, reacted to the ISA announcement with confidence. "We are very pleased to say that many of our highest profile sponsors have confirmed their commitment to CASCAR for the 2003 season", said Novotny. "CASCAR is Canada's premier racing series, and we look forward to continuing to provide excellent value to our corporate partners in the years to come."

With the economy tight and racing sponsorship budgets already under scrutiny, it remains to be seen which, if any, Canadian stock car series will survive 2003.

## New Developmental Racing Series

By Gordon McIntyre  
Sports Reporter

There's already the poisonous CART/IRL split. You'd think the last thing car racing needs is yet another series.

"That was my exact same thought," said Vancouver driver Ross Bentley, referring to Fran-Am, which has the backing of Renault and which will open its first full season in 2003.

"But as I looked into it," said Bentley, who is Fran-Am's driver development coach, "I thought, 'No, we don't need another series, but we do need one series that puts it all together.'"

That's Fran-Am's mission statement: To take racers from go-karting all the way up the ladder and graduate CART- or Formula One-ready drivers. As such, it will compete with CART's "ladder system"—go-karts, Barber Dodge and Toyota Atlantic.

"There is strong support behind it," Bentley said. "It's going to go." In Europe, it's called Formula Renault. Here, the upstart series doesn't own the licence to the Renault name. The unlikely sounding Fran-Am was chosen because the two men heading it — CEO Thierry Burckhart and operations manager Arden Weatherford — are from France and the U.S.A.

"They don't call it Formula Renault, but that's what it is," Molson Indy Vancouver GM Stu Ballantyne said. "They bring a formula to the table that's a proven formula. It's a pretty sophisticated car, but doesn't cost a lot of money.

Fran-Am raced at the Vancouver and Montreal Indys last year and this year will at a half-dozen Canadian races, including Vancouver again.

"With half the Fran-Am races in Canada, it makes it easier for me to get sponsorship," said Ian McIntosh, the founder of Kirmac Collision, a 20-year racing veteran and father of 17-year-old emerging racing star Sean McIntosh of Coquitlam (who won the Vancouver Fran-Am race in July).

"There's nothing out there that can match up with what [Fran-Am] proposes."

"Our goal is to change car racing in North America in the middle ranks," said Andrew Field, Fran-Am's Vancouver-based director of marketing and a long-time driver, team owner and race promoter. "There are so many options out there for drivers, it's so fragmented.

"We'll take them from the time they're 14 to the level just before Formula One and Champ car. We're like a farm system."

This year the series will introduce a full schedule for the 1600 and 2000 series and a V6 series is proposed for 2004. Unlike, say, Formula Ford's steel-tube construction, Fran-Am cars will have carbon-fibre tubes. The sealed spec engines for the 2000 series are 2-litre, 186-horsepower motors.

"The whole concept of the thing is way cool," Bentley said after testing a car for 150 miles in California. "I've been blown away by how good the cars are.

"You see one special driver emerge every 15 years, but we want to develop 10 or 15 of those guys over the same period."

*Time to renew your membership in ME7A*

It's that time of year again!!! Please send in your renewal as soon as possible to avoid the catastrophe of missing your monthly Mayday. OK, there are other good reasons to join but I'm a little bias. Look elsewhere in this issue for the renewal form and get your \$20 bucks into Thomas. Thank you for your support.

## CLUB MERCHANDISE

Pens on Neck string \$2.00  
 META Crests (Black Border) \$3.00  
 META Crests (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) \$3.00  
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 Stick-On for outside \$1.00 each  
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 100% Cotton--Long sleeve--All sizes--~~\$25.00~~  
**On Sale for \$20.00 or 2 for \$30.00**  
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## New META Shirts available!!!!

White, short sleeve, 'Golf Shirts' with  
 META logo embroidered on front.  
 \$26.00 each  
 Contact Angus Glass (604) 264-1641

## New White "Dickie" Painter pants available

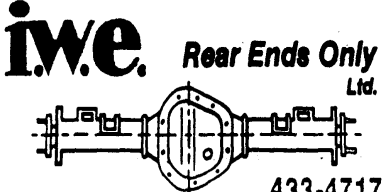
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1/4 Page	\$80.00	\$20.00
Bus. Card	\$40.00	\$10.00
Non-commercial ads are free to members (3 months max.) Contact the editor for more info		

Time to renew your membership in META. If you haven't already done so, send this form in to Thomas with \$20. If you have, then pass it along to someone new, we need to encourage as many new members as we can. Every little bit helps. Note: Each member will receive a new META decal with their membership, please indicate which type you would like, Inside(Static) or Outside(Stick-on)

## Membership

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Cost is \$20--Membership year ends Dec. 31--MAYDAY mailing list will be purged of non-members Mar. 31  
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