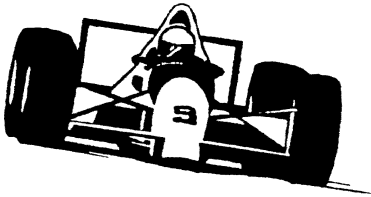




# MAYDAY

The official newsletter of the Motorsport Emergency Turnworkers Association  
M.E.T.A. c/o 10952 McAdam Road, Delta, B.C., Canada, V4C 3E8



May 1999 - Volume 24 Issue 5

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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 15th of each month. Submissions may be faxed ore-mailed to the Editor. Printed in Canada.



# M E N T A T W O R K

# *Presidents Revort*

## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

### **Purpose**

To breakdown real and perceived barriers between volunteers in order to build healthy relationships for the benefit of motorsport in general.

### **Strategic Plan**

1) Implement cross-training. The purpose is for individuals to gain experience and an appreciation for each other's jobs. It is not unusual for one group to be understaffed and the other over staffed. Cross training can help fill the gaps when required.

Priority for training E-Crew members will be in the area of quick response (procedures, hand signals etc.) on the comers. Training should also cover teamwork and the overall operation of the comer. Specific training on flagging is not required; however an E-Crew member is welcome to give it a try. Training specifics for comer workers and other disciplines will be prioritized by the training committee and Course Marshall. All cross training on a specific weekend will be at the discretion of the Course Marshall and chiefs as staffing levels dictate.

2) Coffee and donuts at META trailer available for all volunteers. Provides a reason for visiting the META trailer in the morning in order to mingle and get to know each other.

3) Conscious effort by all volunteers to go out of their way to get to know each other, learn each others names, say "HI", or "good morning". (group hug optional)

4) Truck committee is focused, with real objectives and time table for work to be done on the truck. Purpose is to provide E-Crew with safe, quality equipment so they can do their job efficiently and effectively.

5) Participation by everyone at the Saturday night BBQ. This is an event put on by the Sports Car Club of BC to show their sincere appreciation for the hard work put in by all volunteers at Mission. This is the major social event of the weekend and is a chance to get to know the drivers and other volunteers.

6) Chiefs meeting to review any problems, ideas, concerns etc. Purpose is to facilitate timely and open communication between all groups. Everyone should feel their voice can be heard. Meeting should be held at least once per race weekend if not twice.

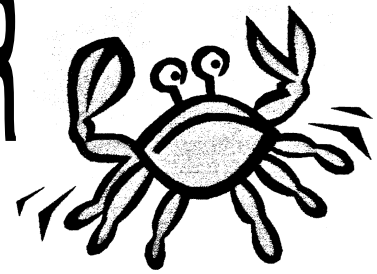
7) All volunteers attend the morning meetings. E-crew can attend on Saturday If practical. The morning meeting is part of the social atmosphere at the track. Information pertinent to all volunteers regarding BBQ's, draws, other race announcement, Indy, etc is often discussed.

### **Implementation**

- A) Gain approval in general from chiefs (course marshal, E-Crew, race control). Seek input, additions or changes
- B) Advise all volunteers.
- C) All points can be initiated immediately.
- A) Purchase large coffee maker. Arrange for someone to start the coffee so it is ready for meeting on Sat-



# BRIAN'S BLABBER



First off, let me start by saying to one and all that the opinions expressed in this column are mine and do not necessarily reflect those of the club. I understand that some people took offense when I said that, “the race track is no place for egos and power trips”, maybe I was wrong. I know that I can not be right all the time, someone must have another view, so why not tell everyone, this is your newsletter too. I invite anyone with an opposing view to have their voice heard here, I promise to publish any material submitted. Do not be another voice in the crowd, speak up and be heard.

At the first conference race I questioned Paul Whitworth regarding the Vancouver Island race track. Paul Whitworth is the president of I.C.S.C.C., and a member of the Victoria Motor Sports Club. He informed me that Cassidy Speedway is, “back on track”, after more than a few very difficult years. The city council has now ask V.M.S.C. to submit their plans for approval, with luck this will go ahead soon.

I also questioned Marty Knoll regarding the Okanagan race track. Marty is an active member of the Okanagan Auto Sports Club. He informed me that the track at Thunder Mountain is closer to reality than most people believe. The site is situated near the Big White ski resort, just out side of Kelowna. This is a very picturesque area, and I look forward to its opening.

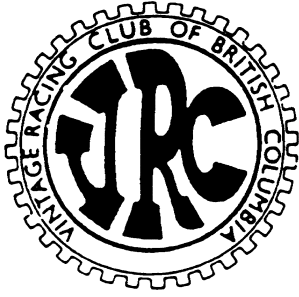
The Sports Car Club of British Columbia is close to starting the construction on phase one of the Mission Raceway expansion. Vice-President Terry Ward presented the members with a map showing the four phase plan. When this multi year plan is completed it will see the track almost double in size. Work should begin once the threat of spring flooding passes.

For those of you who think we will never flood, you should remember the town of Vanport, Oregon. This scenic town was once on the banks of Columbia river, between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon. What happened to this town you ask? In 1948 it was wiped out by the rising waters caused by the spring run off. Part of the old town site is now the Portland International Raceway, the original layout of the track used the old streets. Next time you are at turn one, look at the run off area, you can still see some old pavement.

I am still waiting for more replies for my list of META’s years of experience. At the last META meeting, which was rather small, there was more than 362 years of experience in the room.

OLD NEWS  
FROMTHEMAYDAY ARCHIVES

Roger Salomon starts his new job as course marshall the weekend of May 14/15, 1977.



... to restore, race, and exchange information concerning vintage sports and racing automobiles

Meetings held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Officer's Mess at Jericho Barracks

Information contact Evan Williams (604) 531-4806

## \$25,000 REWARD!!!

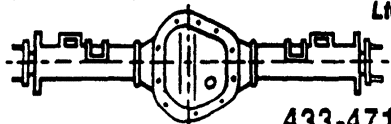
META needs your help. The club just received our \$25,000 hold back from the gaming commission (as a result of all our hard work at last year's casino fund raiser). We need ideas fast on how to spend the money. Please contact Ann Peters with your great ideas.

## KNOX MOUNTAIN HILLCLIMB

The Knox Mountain Hill climb in Kelowna is coming on May22/23. As always, they are looking for experienced workers to help out their own volunteers. While they are long on enthusiasm, they are short on experience. The assistance that META has provided in the past has been greatly appreciated. If we can have a META worker on each turn to oversee the local people, it will help. If you are going to stay in a motel you had better reserve early, or you can camp at the bottom of the hill. So far there are 4 of us going up, and maybe 2 from Prince George. Did I mention that there is a Malibu Grand Prix in Kelowna? Any questions you have about the event or your duties there, I can be contacted at 876-5981 most evenings.

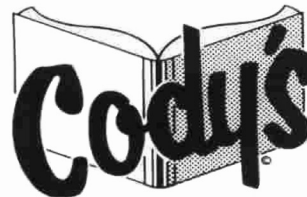
Victor Kennedy

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**M.E.T.A. BANQUET SURVEY**

This Survey is to get the Membership's views on the Banquet held in January of this year, so that I can make next year's Banquet more enjoyable for YOU. Please don't be afraid to be totally honest; it is an anonymous survey, so no names are required. When you have completed the survey, please mail it, or give it to me at one of the Club meetings. All mail-in's can be sent to . . .

CHARMAINE MEAKINGS  
#23 - 21668 LOUGHEED HWY.  
MAPLE RIDGE, B.C. V2X 281

Thank you for your participation.

1.) What did you like about the Banquet?

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2.) what would you like to see changed for the next Banquet?

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3.) What do you think of the location (Re: Royal Towers Hotel), or do you have an alternate suggestion?

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4.) Was the cost reasonable for the Food & Entertainment you recieved?

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5.) If you chose not attend Banquet, what was your reason? (Cost, Other Personal Commitment, Past Banquets a disappointment, Etc.)

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6.) Other Suggestions:

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***MEMBERSHIP  
E-MAIL  
list***

Would you like your e-mail address added to this list?  
All you have to do is e-mail mayday.

**From the Files of the META Mayday**

Volume 1, No 1, April 1976

**ANNUAL M.E.T.A. BANQUET**

Back on January 24th, the annual M.E.T.A. banquet was held at the Elk's Hall in New Westminster.

The evening started with a catered roast beef dinner, followed with music, supplied by a disk jockey. The large selection of taped music provided everything from waltzes to watusies, the bump, the hustel, and even a few polkas. Throughout the evening spot dances provided a few lucky people with extra "refreshments". For those with the right number on their tickets, door prizes, consisting of rally headlamps, a Pirelli carry case and a Castrol jacket, were given out.

A good time was had by everyone there and I am sure we will all be looking forward to our next banquet

## **Who Are Those Crazy People?**

**Okay, time to assign homework for this weekend. While you're watching the CART champ car race at Motegi, can you see small groups of people at various points around the track, mostly on the outside, just the other side of the fence? This can be difficult, since the cameras seem to avoid them, but every once in awhile you might catch a glimpse of white uniform shirts and dark pants, huddled together wearing headsets. Ever wondered who they might be?**

**They're not media darlings like the pit crews or the CART Safety Team, but these people are professionals in their own right. They're the CART Course Observers, a volunteer group that works some of the longest and most stressful hours in the series. Observers must be in position before the first session every day and stay there until after the last checker has flown. They must have fast reflexes, sharp observation skills and a good grasp of the CART rulebook, while retaining the ability to identify cars at speed almost instantly and hundreds of yards upstream.. It is the observer's responsibility to correctly identify potential mechanical problems, debris or fluids on their section of track, and request the yellow in the case of an incident - preferably even before the car has hit the wall. And after it all, they must be able to accurately describe events leading up to and during an incident, including surrounding car numbers. This hobby often takes up all their vacation days and all their disposable income. Why would anyone want to do this? Who are these crazy people?**

**CART is one of the few professional series that uses observers stationed around oval tracks to be the eyes and ears of Race Control. NASCAR's spotters focus on individual teams and work mainly from the top of the main grandstands. Even the IRL has moved to a more NASCAR.-like system of only a few observers, with most of the observations coming from Race Control. CART still feels that on-the-spot professional knowledge and intuition contribute more to the overall safety of the event. Especially when an almost-invisible 1/2 inch screw lying in the groove can cut a tire and cause a catastrophic accident.**

**How does an observer learn what's important? As the old cliché goes about getting to Carnegie Hall, practice, practice, practice! New observers often come from the ranks of volunteer road racing flaggers and communicators, and have some experience in the observation process and how cars react on-track. Newbies pair with more experienced observers and, over a number of events, learn on the job. They listen in on how calls are made, learn how to tell a tiny piece of paper on the track from a stone or bolt or a taped-up wheel weight, and how to distinguish car 71 from 19 or 34 just by a glance at the nose. It's a lot to remember especially while staying alert to a possible incident that might be coming towards you at 230 mph. One of the first things observers learn is when and how to duck and cover behind the track wall. Champ cars throw debris a surprisingly long way at speed.**

**Every year the course observers' professionalism becomes more vital to the success of individual races and the Champ Car series. Without accurate, timely information about on-track situations like passes under the yellow or blend line infractions, an innocent driver might lose valuable championship points. If an observer misses a piece of debris in the racing groove, someone might be hurt or killed. It's a huge responsibility to place on a relatively small team of volunteers.**

**When asked why they volunteer for vacations that involve so much hard work, answers differ. Some say, it's addictive to be so involved with the race - I wouldn't know what to do with myself up in the stands. Others originally wanted to understand oval racing better. But the most usual answer is that the adrenaline rush of standing next to the track when the pack goes by is worth the money I spend to get here, and all the sweat.**

**So the next time you see that brief glimpse of the CART Course Observers on television or see their tired faces in the paddock after a long day, consider what they do to make the races happen. Give them a good thought, a high-five. or a thanks - I guarantee they'll appreciate it!**

**submitted by Irene Chambers**



# JUNE



*Sun*

*Mon*

*Tue*

*Wed*

*Thu*

*Fri*

*Sat*

		1	2	3	4	5 ICSCC Race Portland CART Race Milwalkee
6 ICSCC Race Portland CART Race Milwalkee	7	8	9 SCCBC Meeting 7:30 PM B.W. Coquitlam	10	11 Rose Cup Race Portland	12 Rose Cup Race Portland
12 Rose Cup Race Portland	14	15	16 META Executive Meeting	17	18 CART Race Porland	19 CART Race Porland
20 CART Race Porland Father's Day	21 First Day of SUMMER	22	23 META Mrrting 7:30 PM New West	24	25	26 CART Race Cleveland
27 CART Race Cleveland	28	29	30			



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28.1999 MEETING OF M.E.T.A

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:40 P.M. ONE GUEST; JAMES DALLIMORE. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 1999 MEETING WERE ADOPTED AS READ BY BRIAN M. SECONDED BY GEO.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** CHARMAINE- GENERAL A/C: \$1,199.52, GAMING A/C: \$3,021.15, EQUIPMENT A/C: \$3,285.92. A DONATION OF \$35.00 US RECEIVED FROM STEVE TRUE. DRIVER OF CAR #55 GRAHAM M. ASKED IF GAMING A/C MONIES HAVE BEEN SPENT AND IF NOT HAS EXTENTION BEEN GRANTED, VIC: WE SHOULD GJVE MR. TRUE META DECALS AND PATCHES TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** WESTERN DRIVER.

**SOCIAL:** MANNY THANKED GEO FOR DONATION OF KEY CHAINS.

**MAYDAY:** BRIAN ASKED THAT MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES, ALSO VIC REMINDED THAT PROFILES NEEDED. BRIAN ASKED THAT WE LIST THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF CLUB MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT IN MOTORSPORT.

**MEMBERSHIP:** THOMAS. NEW MEMBERS, KARA SWANSON, STUART BUCHANAN, AND GILUAN DOWLING. 80 PAID, 9 HONORARY, TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 89.

**HISTORIAN:** JOE-ALBUMS ON FRONT TABLE, REQUEST FOR TECH AND PRE-GRID PICTURES. BRIAN TO ASK SUE AND GERRY, DON TAX TIME OVER LISE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH JOE TO START RESTORATION PROJECT.

**TRAINING:** ROGER- GOOD 1ST RACE, 2ND LETTER TO BE SENT TO NO SHOWS, SHOULD WE CONTINUE AFTER 2ND LETTER SENT, MISSION SHOULD HAVE INFO BOOTH, ON SIDE TRAINING AFTER VINTAGE RACE, THOMAS AND ROGER PLAN TO HANDLE DE-BRIEFING AT META TRAILER AFTER TRACK TRAINING IN FUTURE. VIC RACE CONTROL SHOULD BE CROSS TRAINING WITH NEW PEOPLE.

**RACE CHAIRMAN:** PERRIN- THANKS FOR TURN OUT AT LAST RACE, GOOD JOB BY ALL.

**COURSE MARSHALL:** THOMAS- 2 RACES COMPLETED, 2 INCIDENTS AT LAST RACE HANDLED WELL (JO WILL BE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DO A BACK 1½ GAINER FROM THE WORKER STATION TO SAFETY DEMONSTRATION DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.) SIGN IN/OUT SHEETS MUST BE COMPLETED AT ALL EVENTS, THIS IS NEEDED FOR ASSIGNMENTS, THIS ALSO MUST INCLUDE DRIVERS NOVICE OR OTHER.

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE.

**VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT:** ANN- READ LETTER FROM GOVERNMENT, WE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER FINANCIAL GRANTS, ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS TO SPEND THE MONEY, A LIST TO BE SUBMITTED.

**NEW BUSINESS:** GEO. REQUESTED IDEAS FOR A SEAT/STORAGE BOX FOR STARTERS STAND. TERRY WARD GAVE A QUICK REPORT ON THE PENDING DEVELOPMENTS AT MISSION, PLANS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO CUSTOM CAR CLUB AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE ON GOING, TENTATIVE COMPLETION 3 TO 5 YEARS. GAIL. OREGON WORKERS SETTING UP REFERRAL PROGRAM FOR VISITING WORKERS. MARK R:- WORKING ON WEB-SITE •BRIAN:- GOOD RESPONSE TO META TRUCK AT CUSTOM CAR SHOW. CHARMAINE:- SURVEY AND QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FUTURE AND PAST BANQUETS BEING DEVELOPED.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:-** MET WITH SCCBC (TERRY WARD) \$350.00 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR VOLUNTEERS BBQ, AND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY DONATIONS FROM DRIVERS IF COST OVRAGE OCCURS. A BLACK BOARD IS REQUIRED ROGER CAN SUPPLY FRAME MATERIAL THE PAINTED BLACKBOARD TO BE PURCHASED. DASH PLAQUES ARE AVAILABLE. WE NEED TO GIVE OUR INFORMATION TO ALL DRIVERS TO INCREASE THEIR AWARENESS OF META. ALSO DECALS AND PATCHES TO BE IN DISPLAY CASE AT MISSION. A DESIGNATED AREA ON TRACK IS BEING DISCUSSED, THAT WILL BE USED TO PUT DISABLED RACE CARS UNTIL THE RACE IS FINISHED, AND ENABLE E CREW TO RETURN QUICKLY TO THEIR STATION. DRIVERS WILL BE INFORMED AT DRIVERS MEETINGS. \$40.00 OF META MERCHANDISE WAS SOLD AT THE LAST RACE. COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT TRACK IN AM FOR THOSE WHO NEED. NEW TRUCK COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AND WILL INCLUDE DON L., BRIAN M., AND MIKE. ALL TRUCK REPAIRS INS ETC. WILL BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:-** JOE -ASKED IF LETTERS SENT TO FARMER AND JOHNSON, THIS

WILL BE ATTENDED TO BY THE SECRETARY BEFORE NEXT MEETING. JO ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND SPOKANE RACE- WORKERS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS. VIC- KNOX MOUNTAIN HILLCLIMB NEEDS WORKERS. AND CAMPING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL. BRIAN THANKED NATIONAL MUSTANG FOR THE DONATION OF THE SEAT BELTS NEEDED FOR THE TRUCK. AND FYI THE COMBINED TOTAL YEARS OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TOTALS 362 YRS. OF INVOLVEMENT IN MOTORSPORT. MARC R. DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AT MISSION AND GRAHAM COMMENTED THAT THE INSURANCE LIABILITY MAKES THIS A DIFFICULT PROJECT. MIKE- AMBER LIGHTS IN FOR TRUCK. DARREN WILL PICK UP.

**DRAW:** GEO- BEER, ANN- KEYCHAIN, DON- TEE-SHIRT, 50/50- MARK D.

MOVED BY VIC AND SECONDED BY ANN THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:40PM.

*The Smart Money People*



Need help navigating around the financial race track but you can't seem to get off the starting line? Maybe I can help. Whether it is RRSP's, debt consolidations, personal loans, mortgages or you need help getting started in the right direction. Please give me a call at work or at home before 9:00pm.

Don Liebich, financial service representative

Telephone: (604) 501-4230 (work)

Telephone: (604) 936-7838 (home)