

Fast Times

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2000

The Next Meeting is March 1st, 7:30 PM @ Bruno's

Notes from the RE

Meeting of February 2, 2000

Meeting called to order by Kurt Schultz.

Motion to accept minutes as in Newsletter with one correction: Dave Eberts pointed out that the "Spirit of the Sport" award presented to Randy Devitt is the "Dick" Hager Memorial, not the "Dave" Hager... as reported. Thank you Dave E. Motion seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report:

Checks cut to pay three bills: Newsletter-\$33.90; Heavy Duty Awards-\$5.00; Secretary of State-\$10.00 (for corp.); and \$65.00 for helmet (see below). A check from the National Office was presented to the treasurer for \$35.00 which is our share of some dues renewals. Balance is \$2,019.25.

Old Business:

Committee reports:

Billings Motorsports Park. From Kurt and John Hailstone: the corporation is formed. The drag strip is the priority and anything that we may get is a tag along. It is good that things are going along for BMP and it is hoped that somehow we may autocross there on the drag strip or the return road. \$25,000-\$30,000 is needed to pave a return road that is suitable for autocross. The parking lot, as reported last Fast Times, is not going to be paved. A road course is not high on the list or on the list at all. Still, some optimism is there, though not in the majority.

Car Show committee: Cary Devitt reported that the show will be shared with Magic City Speedway show at Bumper to Bumper. A concern for enough space for our part of the show was voiced, but Jim Arnett assured all that there is enough space for everybody and that if someone shows up with a car to show, space will be provided for it. The sharing is viewed to be ok because we may get some radio time to help get more people out to see the cars, etc. The car show and race is a benefit and Judy Iams at Lockwood wishes that the funds from it are given to the Lockwood Educational Fund. General agreement was evident. Cary brought up the possible disposition of our booth. With discussion, it appears that a canopy belonging to Kurt Schultz may be used. There are banners in the club's possession that are suitable as well. This will save the club money. It is again mentioned that a prominent display of the Speed Freakz information is important.

Autocross Committee: No report at this time, but they say they will be meeting soon.

Bobby Arnett reported that of the two helmets he was looking into for the club, one is a Snell 85, which is no longer legal, and the other was a 95 for \$65.00. A check for that amount was given to Bobby to procure said helmet upon his close inspection.

The charter will be renewed by Friday p.m. says Kurt, who will be going to the National Convention Feb. 4-6. He will represent us, and among other things, will clarify how helmets need to be marked.

The Annual National Convention of the Sports Car Club of America was Feb 4-6 in Denver. Almost 300 members attended. I hate to say it, but most of the people there were disappointed with this convention. The only good block was one on Event. I came back with a very useful checklist for putting on Solo IIs that we can modify to meet our needs. I will have copies of this at the next meeting.

On the good side of the news, Solo II was projected to have a profit of \$981 for the year. (in 1998 solo lost \$55,000) Roger Johnson donated \$20 so solo had a 4 figure profit. Ask Dave about Roger. He's always the M.C. at all the meetings and a lot of fun to know. On the bad side of the news, Pro Racing is losing more than a half million. It is expected to turn around in the next 3 years and go back in the black.

All of the RE's from RMD were there except Utah. When we had the team building class and broke into divisions, Rocky Mountain came away the winner (even if we did have Howard Duncan on our team) The convention will be in Denver for the next 4 years and I think I can promise they will be a lot better than this one was. If anyone gets a chance to attend one of these conventions, do it! The people you meet are just great. I now feel I can go almost anywhere in the country and find a friend from one of the conventions there.

Kurt Ritt

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Race dates are solidifying. See elsewhere in Newsletter.

Dave Eberts will attempt to see about a race in the lower lot of the Metra.

Dwight Gilliland would like to see about moving Top Gun to Lewistown, if not permanently at least a sharing of location with Helena. Many present find this to be desirable. The biggest problem is that it is hard to get two days in a row at Lewistown. It would be possible to do the events at Top Gun on two separate days, so Dwight will contact the necessary people and see about it. At this time, Jim says that about any Sunday is available at Lewistown.

We discussed the Falcon Finale and the idea that we should make the funds available to them sooner than the event, since the Finale is only one week later than our race. General agreement.

New Business:

Motion to buy GCR and Solo II rule books with binder seconded and passed. These are necessary to have in the trailer at events. Kurt will purchase these at the convention.

It was motioned to pay Kurt's registration at the convention in the amount of \$200.00. Seconded and passed. There are considerable expenses involved with going to the convention and it is believed by those present that it is a good thing for our region to be represented at the national convention. Payment will be made at the next meeting.

Jim needed at least five event chairmen and of those present, his request was satisfied.

We discussed the problem of Safety Stewards, basically that we need more. At each race it is necessary for there to be an assistant Steward, as well so that the Safety Steward may also race. This is very important. Dwight offered to talk to Dale Dinsmore about Safety Steward school and it will be reported in the Fast Times at some point before the season about times and procedures necessary for interested members to become stewards. This is the type of thing that will not be taken care of at an event. Motion for adjournment seconded and passed.

Thank you to those who attended (in no particular order): Jim, Marcy, and Amy Arnett; Bobby Arnett; Jim and Barbara Hailstone; Dave Eberts; Randy Devitt; Cary Devitt; Kurt Schultz; Ken Decker; and Dwight and Kristi Gilliland.

Well here we are on our way into March and of course everyone is ready to start racing. Now one sixth of

**A Veiw
From The
Blind Eye**

a year seems like quite a long time. Two months, on the other hand, you are starting to wonder where the parts are that you ordered last fall. Sixty



days and I sure hope Cary (the Matco Man) is making headway with the car. I kind of like this co-driving thing and I don't even feel quilty. See, I offered him my car eons ago and he declined. Hence, he offered me his car last year and I am now the monkey on his back. But then that's what Dads are for.

▲ DEADCONE ▲

**SCEDULE
OF
EVENTS**

Yellowstone Region's
Own Unofficial
Schedule of Events

- March 1 General Meeting
 @ Brunos
- May 6 Car Show @
 Bumper-to-Bumper
- May 7 **Autocross-Benifit**
 @ Lockwood Sch
- May 21 **Autocross - Falcon**
 Finale @ Skyveiv
- June 4 **Autocross @**
 Eagle Parking Lot
- June 18 **Autocross**
 Lewistown, MT
 @ MT Drivers Ed
- June 24/25 **Freezeout Hillclimb**
 Emmett, ID
- July 2 **Autocross**
 Columbus Airport
- July 16 **Autocross**
 @ Skyveiv
- July **Autocross-TopGun**
 Helena, MT
- July 29/30 **Billings Air Show**
- Aug. 15 **World of Outlaws**
- Aug. 19/20 **Black Otter Hill**
 climb
- Aug 27 **Autocross @**
 Columbus Airport
- Sept 10 **Autocross**
 Lewistown, MT
 @ MT Drivers Ed
- Sept. 16/17 **Bogus Basin Hill-**
 climb Boise, ID

If you know of any automotive related event or major event that could have an effect on the clubs scheduling, please let the Editor know.

"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing. "

- Wernher Von Braun (1912-1977)

At our last meeting John Hailstone said that he would like to write something for the Newsletter and asked for some ideas of what to write about. Well, I was somewhat speechless (for about the next two days). Sorry it took me so long to respond, John, but I was somewhat at a loss. I have been asking folks to submit anything that's fit to print (me being the editor that doesn't exclude much). I have been trying to guilt some of the officers into it – you know like it's yer job and that's why you make the big bucks. Ken Decker thinks that if he doesn't get the minutes back to me on time he will start having flat tires. Oh, the power I wield!

"Copy from one, it's plagiarism; copy from two, it's research. "

- Wilson Mizner (1876-1933)

Well John, after about three weeks of thought, I am sitting here wondering – how do I come up with this drivel? The main thing is to come up with a topic. This could be something you know, think you know, or don't know at all because according to one club member – **"Nobody reads the Newsletter anyway"**. I try to come up with a title. Generally, the title should have something to do with the article and you build from there. Such as:

"Tire Pressures: Front Wheel Drive vs. Rear Wheel Drive"

"The Lost Art of Shoe Polish and Tires"

"The Lance Hogan Approach To Marathon Slaloming"

Or, go the personal route, like your most memorable autocross. Like:

"Thunder Jug (a.k.a. Dave Eberts) SLIMES Top Gun"

or "What's a Little ATF Among Friends"

Actually, often times I just sit in my office and wait until I can focus on something and that's what I start rattling on about. So, not only for John, but anyone else in the "club."

Club (klub) n. a group of people associated for a common purpose or mutual advantage, usually in an organization that meets regularly – New World Dictionary

If there is anything any of you would like to see in the Newsletter, let me know. What better format to try out your writing skills. Just think, if you come up with a good article, you could submit it to Grassroots Motorsports (www.grmotorsports.com) and make as much as \$600. As one of our founding fathers said:

"Whether you think that you can, or that you can't, you are usually right."

- Henry Ford (1863-1947)

The Newsletter is, like the Club, what you, the members, make of it. As one of the members said "we pay our dues and fees to be affiliated with the SCCA, but we have to work the events so we can race." Someone else once said

"The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' - the pig was 'committed'."

Now committed sounds too much like what will happen to Jim Arnett if he has to single-handedly schedule all of the events again, but the club could use a little involvement.

Well, I just realized I am starting to drivel on my self, but just remember:

"A witty saying proves nothing."

- Voltaire (1694-1778)

And, as Tom Masterson, of Great Falls, always says **"Yours for the Sport."**

▲ DEADCONE ▲

Yellowstone Region Board Members

Notes from the Editor

Region Executive
Kurt Schultz
406-259-2621
kurtrbtt@aol.com

Competition Chairman
Jim Arnett
406-652-9262

Assistant R. E.
John Hailstone
406-245-2745
bjs@mcn.net

Secretary/Treasurer
Ken Decker
406-256-1661
dmsoboe1@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Randy Devitt
P.O. Box 22013
Billings, MT 59104
406-656-8367
rdevitt@aol.com

HELMET UPDATE:

Snell certification for 2000 will not get to the helmet manufacturers until around October/November. So, those of you with Snell85 helmets (like me) have a reprieve for this year. If you would like more info on Snell, their web site is www.smf.org.

The opinions expressed in this edition of Fast Times do not necessarily reflect those of the Yellowstone Region or of the Sports Car Club of America.

Fast Times

Yellowstone Region
Sports Car Club of America
P.O. Box 30956
Billings, MT 59107

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New Improved Schedule
