

If you are reading this you likely know the new Great Lakes Division web site is up and running. I am sending this to all the Area 4 editors to hopefully get the word out and just to say Hello and assure all my constituents that I am alive and mostly well.

Dayle asked for a note for the new site saying I had not sent anything out for a while, and this is true. The main reason being that the club office does such an outstanding job each month with FasTrack that almost everything is covered. I then get bombarded with the e-mails asking why, and I do answer all that are addressed to me personally. Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of the communication job, I presently have 6,137 e mails in a folder where I keep important SCCA E Mails that I may want to refer back to at some time. I delete all the Viagra, Stock tips, personal and not important SCCA stuff. All this from March 24, 2006, the day my computer crashed and I lost the 6,000 plus that I had accumulated starting last fall when I was elected. BELIEVE ME FOLKS, THESE NUMBERS ARE REAL! NO JOKE.

Let me give you an idea of the job if you are to do it properly. I serve on the follow boards and/or committees.

1. The BoD of course, and we meet 4 times a year in our face-to-face meetings in Topeka. I usually fly in on Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on workload, and fly back out Sunday afternoon. We also have a conference call on the first Monday of each month to discuss items that will not wait for the face-to-face meetings. We also have special conference calls several times a year on specific subjects such as pro, Enterprises, etc. These meetings start at 8 PM my time and last until around 10:30 or so. I also receive, answer and send something like 20 e-mails a day concerning BoD affairs.
2. I serve as one of two BoD liaison representatives to the CRB, or Competition Board as some of us still call it. The Comp. Board meets 3 times a year in a face to face, twice in Topeka, once at the PRI convention, with informal meetings at convention and the runoffs. We also hold a conference call, the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 8 PM and lasting until well after midnight. Every single letter, request for car change's, etc, are consider, one by one and a recommendation made to the BoD for action or not. I receive and send another 10 to 20 e-mails a day concerning CRB matters. While I do not have a vote on the CRB I am expected to make comments, offer advice, report back to the BoD on matters under consideration and try and make sure the CRB and the BoD are on the same page well before anything comes to a vote. Harry Sauce is the other director assigned this task and we work very closely in all matters. It is a very difficult position to try and interface between the 12 other Directors and the members of the CRB.
3. I also am the Chairman of the SCCA Foundation. This is the 501 (c) 3 not for profit arm of the SCCA. With our recent staff reductions some projects have been put on the back burner, but at the RunOffs we are hoping to jump start at least one very important "Youth Driving Program" that we hope will give the individual regions something to work with that will be a money maker and serve the local community at the same time.

4. I have tried to be pro-active in the solo community. I know they have felt like the poor stepchild in the past and they really form the backbone of the club in terms of grass roots activities. Perhaps the "Youth Driving Program" discussed in item 3 will work in with the solo folks needs and wants. In the past year I have likely been involved in 40 or 50 or so e-mails with solo folks.

For all these meetings I receive a per deum of \$125 per day, plus airfare up to \$300. Car rental, food and lodging come out of that per deum, as do phone bills, office supplies, etc. I don't keep track of my share. If you have to count you can't afford it. It could be worse. Andy Porterfield travels first class and rents a Cadillac, all on that same per deum. But then my friend Andy is in a class by himself.

A few words about my philosophy of the job:

First, I try very hard NOT to be political or bow to political pressure. I look at the issues, consider all sides and vote for what I feel are the best interests of the members of this club. Sometimes that puts me at odds with the majority, and you all know when that happens because all dissenting votes are recorded by name in FasTrack. You all know I voted against the present plan for determining classes for the RunOffs. Having said that, I try to be a team player. When out voted I feel strongly that it is a majority decision and should be supported by everyone and get on down the road.

Those drivers out there who have come face to face with me as a Chief Steward likely know that I try to be fair, look at all sides, make a decision, be firm and book no nonsense.

I can also ramble on and on, so I'll just say, SEE YOU AT THE RUNOFFS?

Larry Dent, Director, Area 4