

Good morning Great Lakes Members. Hard to believe that it is spring, yet it is snowing in Fort Wayne as I write this update.

The new FasTrack is out and contains many interesting items, and I will not re-hash them except to mention that a recommendation has been made to the BOD, by the SEB, that A Mod be exempted from the minimum participation requirements for the solo championship in Topeka. This will be voted upon soon so I would suggest that all you A Mod people that complained to me about the situation e mail the BOD in support of the SEB recommendation.

The second very important thing is to make sure you all realize that an incorrect press release and item in Sports Car both indicated that the new classes created last year would be invited to the RunOffs this year. **THIS IS NOT CORRECT.** This years RunOffs will consist of the 24 classes that have qualified in the old fashioned way of being the top classes in participation nation wide, plus a one-year addition of GT 3, making a total of 25 classes. My own personal belief is that all National Classes should have a National Championship race, but that is a minority view at present on the BOD.

NOW, a committee has been formed with the urgent task of looking at the RunOffs and making recommendations as to what needs to be done to improve upon the RunOffs. Everything is on the table for them to consider, including worker facilities, class participation, location, cost and anything else that they consider important to the future growth of the RunOffs. I can say unequivocally that the RunOffs are the prime focus of the BOD at present and we are determined to do what is necessary to insure the growth of the RunOffs and the pleasurable experience of spectators, workers and drivers.

The club is solvent. Enterprises paid back a substantial portion of the debt it owes SCCA inc, Pro did the same and the club would up with a profit in 07 of somewhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000. This is really good news.

You are likely aware of the big bru-ha-ha over the Formula C engines, just resolved. What you likely do not know is that it generated more e-mails than any subject in the past several years. At one time during the height of the discussion I was receiving and/or sending some 20 e-mails a day on the subject. Thanks to the very public discussion and comments sanity prevailed and the matter was solved to the satisfaction of ALMOST everyone.

The next face-to-face meeting of the BOD is May 7 to 11 so anything you wish to comment upon should reach me and the BOD before that time frame. Incidentally, we do a face-to-face 4 times a year and meet by conference call the first Monday of every month.

We have printed a very nice brochure promoting the Street Survival program. These are available from Topeka upon request. If you are planning an event please contact Mike Dickerson and he will send you them.

Now, I have had a lot of folks question me about my decision to not run for a second 3 year term as your Director. In some ways I feel that I am letting you all down, because the first year is a learning experience, the second is time to get with the programs and the third, and three more if re-elected, are the years to become a real influence on the direction the club is being taken. I was fortunate to be appointed Chairman of the SCCA Foundation BOD and we have made great progress in re-formulating the Foundation after several years of stagnation. But, having said that, I must say that I have been very frustrated at the demands on my time, the effects on my health (major heart surgery last summer, NOT caused by the work, but certainly a factor) and a general unhappiness with many of the actions of the BOD itself. And so I again say that due to my age (74 and counting) and the strain that being a Director places upon one, I will not be a candidate for re-election. One very good person has already stated he wants my job (I offered it to him on the spot) and I hope to see several other qualified persons step up to the plate and take a swing.

I hope to see you all at the Nelson Ledges Drivers School April 19/20.

Larry Dent, Area 4 Director