

SSSC August Club Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2006

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm by Lynn Rogers, President. 15 members present.

Old Business

- July's events which included Ladies night, drivers school and School's Out season event all commenced with big successes largely due to the tremendous participation of all those who volunteered their time. Special thanks to Jim Walker and the YVSCC for donating their timing system for our use. It worked great. The only issue was the heat. It has been suggested that next year these big event weekends be scheduled either earlier or later in the year.
- The club was featured in a very nice article in the Tri-City Herald after the July events. Huge thanks to Paul Hobson for offering his story to the paper.
- Troubleshooting sessions held to address the on-going computer and label printer issues at registration. Long term solutions determined for identifying correct setup of label printers and set up for networking before and during events. This leads to opportunity to proceed with ordering barcode scanner as approved in last month's meeting.
- Kathy Orr brought a prototype of the new club T-shirts. Awesome design. Half of the balance due paid with order and balance due when order complete.
- Treasurer's Report- The check book total \$6,000 after purchase of van repairs and wireless barcode scanner. Fixed assets remains at \$20,000.
- Site insurance is covered through October.

New Business

- Upcoming Events
 - ❖ Lost in Paradise Gimmick Rally, Saturday August 19th - Rally starts at 10:00 at Columbia Park field of dreams parking lot. \$20 entry fee with coupon for \$6 off lunch at Club Paradise. This is a great event to invite family and friends, car clubs and enthusiasts. Registration is open on My Auto Events. Bob Bromm's instructions and clues will lead us all on a 50 mile trek through known and some unknown streets of the Tri-Cities with prizes for the drivers coming closest to exact mileage of the course. Come and have a day of fun.
 - ❖ SSSC Season Events 7 & 8, Sept. 2-3 will be held at Dust Devils parking lot. Course design is Mark Rieb. Anyone with new ideas or comments about course design are welcome to contact Mark.
 - ❖ Proposal was made to implement a student participation rate immediately instead of waiting to implement with new event fee schedule proposed for next season. This would apply to HS or College with proper ID or younger. This could benefit families with younger members wanting to get involved. Point was brought up that this could have an impact on membership as it would be more cost effective to pay student rate rather than join the club. Unanimous vote to implement immediately and will monitor how it is used to assess affect on membership.

- ❖ Issue was raised about Jr karts and whether our current insurance covers. Bob will contact the company and verify coverage.
- Looking ahead, Lynn has laid out and analyzed his vision of where the club is and where he thinks it should go in the near and not too distant future.
 - ❖ The primary goal is for a new timing and administration trailer. This would improve work flow and event smoothness from registration through timing. It would contribute greatly to a more professional public image for the club. A new trailer would provide more reliability than existing trailer and would be much more tamper resistant. The estimated cost of trailer and all components to be event ready is over \$15,000. Based on current operating costs and revenues, purchase would be feasible mid to late 2007 season.
 - ❖ Purchase of wireless timing light system which would eliminate running timing cables from trailer to lights and eliminates risk of damage to timing cables. The wireless capabilities have up to a 7 mile range with a clear line of sight. They carry the same accuracy rate of .001 seconds just like our current system. The purchase of this system would allow freedom to design more creative courses without concern for how to get the lights to work. We would also have the freedom to hold events on less accommodating sites that require unique course layouts. Enables the club to have all the necessary equipment to host hill climb or rally events if desired. Signal boosters are being developed to accommodate long distances with terrain issues. Our current wired system with JA Circuits box would become a completely functional backup system or second system for events requiring multiple timing systems such as driving school, etc. The drawbacks to this system are there are more batteries to charge between events and it makes our current system obsolete except when using as a complete second system. The estimated price for a T-LINK wireless configuration, 3 sensors, 3 long range emitters, cables, accessories is \$4,000. This has been tabled until after 2006 season.
 - ❖ Purchase of a bar code scanner and timing software upgrades was approved and has been ordered. This will benefit the club's functional ability from registration all the way through timing. Returning members and drivers have only to be scanned and make payment to be registered leaving only new drivers to be input in computer and given bar code label. Cars are scanned by grid as they pull up to the line which stages them in timing software, eliminating time card problems. Timing then adds penalties and reacts to technical difficulties. Estimated cost of industrial grade, wireless bar code scanner with key pad for manual entry of labels that won't scan is about \$1,500. This includes cost of software upgrades and related expenses. Actual cost of scanner is \$1,000. Wired versions have 20 foot coverage and wireless allows up to 100 feet of coverage. Axware, our current timing software, strongly encourages the Symbol brand scanner based on their success with those scanners and several other clubs agree.
 - ❖ The next item to be considered is season technical inspections for club members. Cars can be inspected at the beginning of the season and carry that approval through the entire season so long as they adhere to a set of guidelines. Chiefs of tech will have fewer cars to inspect on event mornings which will make their job easier, faster and smoother. Other clubs annual tech stickers will be honored at the discretion of our tech officials. Lawrence Danton, chief of safety, raised concerns that these pre-teched cars would not be looked at on event mornings. He felt at least a cursory check should be completed before getting on course to look for loose items in car or anything that could be a safety issue for the driver. This could be accomplished by grid as cars pull up to line for first runs of the morning. This subject will continue on agenda with target date to start being beginning of 2007 season.

- ❖ Another concept to be considered for 2007 season is membership cards. The cards would show membership status in SSSCC, adhered bar code for members to present at registration and Annual tech sticker to present at tech. Membership cards will provide a way to prove to our sponsors that our members support their business. To realize this goal it is proposed that a chief of membership be created. This person will be present at registration to process new memberships removing the burden from registration and creating a more reliable method for tracking membership and dues. They will also work directly with the club treasurer for accounting of membership dues.

- ❖ New membership fee structure planned for the start of 2007 season:

Single Person membership	\$20
Couples membership	\$30
Family membership	\$30 + \$10 per child
Benefactor	\$50

- ❖ New event fee structure planned for the start of 2007 season:

Event morning registration-Non-Member	\$30/ \$50
Event morning registration-Member	\$25/ \$40
Pre-Registered- Non-member	\$25/ \$40
Pre-Registered- Member	\$20/ \$35
Student with HS or College ID	\$15/ \$30

- ❖ Season Passes for 2007 season will be available for purchase along with membership by paying membership dues plus the Student rate for every event. (\$175 for a 10 event season). Membership cards will be identified as season pass. No refunds for unused events and non-transferable. This makes a great gift too for the autocross fanatic in any family.

- ❖ Proposed that if a community of drifting, rally cross, hill climb, or similar motor sports approached the SSSCC with an interest in hosting an event that we work with those communities to help it occur. Administration of the pre-event details would be done by SSSCC (site agreements, insurance, etc.). The participants would be responsible for all event management (registration, timing, event rules, etc.)

- ❖ Half day event registrations. Allow half day entries as soon as we have the new trailer and are using it as intended. People wishing to run afternoon only would have to be onsite by 10:00. Lunch breaks would have to be long enough for course walking, probably 45 minutes minimum. Half day entrants can only work corner stations, not critical worker assignments. There would be no price break for half day entrants and they would get the runs given form that half day. No allowance given to get a full days runs in just half day unless pre-approved by the officers. Topic tabled until after 2006 season.

- Schedule and event planning posted on website.
- Course Design Volunteers
 - September - Mark Rieb DD
 - September - Mike Parker TCR
 - October - Allen Hare - TCR

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

