

## SSSCC November Club Meeting Minutes

Nov.8, 2006

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm by Lynn Rogers, President. 11 members present.

### Old Business

- The October Enduro event was a great success. The course was fast but there were not as many drivers going off course as previous events. The event rolled out smoothly thanks to the enormous effort from all the chiefs and workers. Sundays event was not as well executed. Early morning rain forced the safety team to severely change the course. The first run group had good weather and the second group had rain. The new scanner could not read the labels well once they got damp coupled with networking problems making announcing a problem. New people at critical positions struggled to learn their job and deal with the adverse conditions. The track got so slick that cars were sliding sideways down turn number one banking if they were not moving forward. The day was cancelled at a very late lunch break due to difficulties with equipment and personnel issues with the inclement weather.
- Treasurer's Report- The check book total is \$11,000 . Fixed assets remains at \$20,000. The next insurance payment will be due in January 2007. The club made \$1,000 at October events. Bob ran year to date comparisons of 2004, 2005 and 2006. The clubs net worth in 2004 was \$16,000 and increased in 2005 to \$24,900 and jumped to \$33,200 in 2006. Our capital investment was \$12,000 in 2004, \$2,500 in 2005 and \$4,000 in 2006. For net income the club started at \$5,000 in 2004, increased to \$9,000 in 2005 and stayed close at \$8,900 in 2006. See attached report for complete listing of comparisons. Thanks Bob for all the info. The question was raised about depreciating our fixed assets, something that is not being done at this time. This will be investigated and reported at later time.
- VP Report-Mark has been working on filling all the chief positions for next year. There are still a few open positions including Novice Chief. Mark will post the openings on the forum. Anyone interested in making a small commitment to the club should contact Mark for more information.

### New Business

- Upcoming
  - ❖ Season ending Awards Banquet. The annual Awards Banquet is right around the corner. This year the date is November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel in Richland (formerly the Tower Inn). There will be a buffet style dinner, kids can order off a kids menu if desired. Award presentation will follow dinner. The hotel has a dance going that night that anyone interested is welcomed to join. Please pre-register with MAE (My Auto Events), we need an accurate head count for the hotel. The hotel is offering a good room rate for anyone interested in staying the night. Contact the hotel for details.
  - ❖ Kart program for 2007- We will be starting a kart class for the 2007 season. Much discussion on the topic of whether to have two separate classes between adults and children. One suggestion was to put adults into NS3 with the Prepared and Mods and leave children in kart class alone. Final word was to have two kart classes, one for adults and one for children.
- Looking ahead

- ❖ Jim Walker has provided the club with an opportunity to purchase new radios at an incredibly reduced price. They are one channel, one watt handheld radios and are capable of "real" headsets and microphones. They are not susceptible to outside radio interference. We would need to purchase 15-20 as they would not be compatible with current radios. Normal price for these is \$200 each and Jim can get them for \$35 each. Unanimous vote to make this purchase. Lynn will make it so.
- ❖ New Online Race Management Solution: Axware systems has released an online module that integrates fully with our event management software. It is available for an annual fee based on the number of events the club has. The estimated cost is \$400 per year. There are a couple huge benefits of this module. Drivers will have better pre-registration abilities. Each driver will be able to chose a car from their garage which will have a list of cars they have driven before or they can add a new one. This online information directly integrates with current database allowing seamless updating between events. This should eliminate the Saturday/Sunday problem currently faced by registration. This module will also increase the control of information at the administrative level. Chiefs of Membership, Workers, Registration and club officers will have access to the membership file from home as needed. Final vote was unanimous to acquire this module for 2007 season.
- ❖ The van is currently not insured and is an issue that needs to be resolved. Technically, if you are an insured driver, most policies allow coverage of whatever you drive. However, if someone is driving the van and gets in an accident that was not their fault, their insurance rates may be affected. Lynn will obtain quotes and resolve this issue before next event.
- ❖ The varied electronic devices and other equipment are currently not insured and also needs to be resolved. Lynn will obtain quote from K&K to include with auto coverage.
- ❖ Lynn proposed that the club purchase at least 10 additional loaner helmets as this is an issue at almost every event. They need to be Snell M2000 certified or better and would be beneficial if they were a very conspicuous color. Lynn will proceed with this purchase before next event.
- ❖ There will be a new chief position for the 2007 season whose primary function will be to issue and distribute membership cards and keep track of paid members. Cards will be issued to all club members at the time of payment of dues. The cards will display the driver name, car, class, number, bar code, car color. A new card will be issued for each vehicle a driver competes in. If a driver is just co-driving a different car for a rare occasion, a new card is not issued. Any changes made to a car which changes its class or number will require a new card. Members will present their card at registration where the bar code will register them at each event. The card presented must be for the car they intend to drive at that event. Visitor cards will be issued to any non-member participating in an event. These cards will show same information as member cards. Returning non-members can register via bar code same as members but they still pay non-member event fee. Mark has offered to explore the possibility of using an ID card maker from work for the cards which would broaden the design options for the cards. Kathy suggested the club schedule be on one side so all the club info is in one place for members.
- ❖ The greatest issue before the club is the consideration of purchasing a new timing and event

administration trailer. The final designs are nearly complete thanks to a lot of time and effort from Lynn. The design is for a Pace 8.5' X 18' tandem axle cargo trailer. Four 7' awning windows on each side with glass behind, ramp rear door, roof mounted A/C and heat, ceiling mounted fluorescent lighting, pre-wired 110 volt outlets and circuit panel, integrated rear corner stabilizer jacks, white vinyl finished walls and ceiling, insulated walls and ceiling, black and white checkerboard vinyl floor. The quote from Pace is approximately \$17,000 and would be available for pickup in Walla Walla. The trailer would be functional but not optimized upon delivery. This means we could set up our tables and chairs inside and run an event with ease for as long as we needed. Optimization to fully realize the benefit of the trailer is estimated to cost between \$4000-\$5000 and would include:

- Sliding glass door installed behind ramp door at rear which would seal interior for A/c and heat efficiency and turns entire rear of trailer into window for additional visibility.
- Glass side window and sliding glass door tinting to reduce glare and heat.
- Interior workstations design. Timing workstation to be 7' surface at rear of trailer with 15' of unobstructed view and another 14' of partially obstructed view. Announcing workstation to be 7' surface at front of trailer with 7' of unobstructed view and another 22' of partially obstructed view. Registration will have 7' surface at rear and membership another 7' surface at front to share with Chief of Workers.
- Interior shelving of 40 linear feet above the floor, nearly 8.5' X 18' floor space available for between event storage. In the event of a van breakdown the trailer can accommodate all cones and related items and another vehicle can tow the trailer to an event.
- Electrical requirements to utilize ceiling lights, A/C unit and outlets simultaneously, we will require a generator. None of our event sites provide us with enough power to do this but until the club purchases a generator we can simply turn off the breakers that feed the lights and A/C and we should have plenty of power to run the rest as we do currently. Once we have the trailer we can measure how much wattage we draw and can purchase a generator capable of that demand. We probably need a Honda EU2000I which is a 2000 watt inverter style generator capable of supplying constant voltage power required for electronic devices. Can hook two generators together for 4000 watts if needed. Allows for future demands without discarding generator.

Assume there to be additional cost for graphics but further discussion required on that subject.

Lynn proposed a couple payment options the first being to hold purchase for a few years while saving money until we acquire needed amount and buying outright. Another option is to make \$1000 down payment and order the trailer and obtain bank financing for 36 months not including the optimization piece so club could realize the benefits of the trailer sooner rather than later. With this option it is proposed the club pay off the loan in less than 24 months to minimize finance charges. The optimization process could be processed as budget allows proceeding with one feature at a time. One reason this option is appealing is because Pace has issued at least three price increases of between 3%-4% over the course of 2006. These increases are normal and expected to continue at this rate over 2007.

The purchase of a trailer greatly minimizes set up time. Currently it takes several people close to an hour to set up the tables, canopies, PA system, display board, FM transmitter, computers, network router, power cords, timing lights, etc. With the new trailer fully optimized, the set up process will be reduced to setting up the PA speakers, computers, display board, transmitter antenna and timing lights. There will be less troubleshooting and will require less effort from club members. This also reduces the amount of tear down time making it much smoother and faster. With better visibility, timing can see the course, grid and course control more easily which reduces timing issues. A hardwired network will reduce loss of signal issues and greatly improve the ability of registration, timing and announcing to work together as designed. The club trailer portrays our public image and our current trailer does not portray us as we want to be seen. The new trailer also will provide better security for our valuable equipment. No exposed glass, the only entry or exit being through the rear ramp door, ramp door being secured with bar locks and tamper resistant locks will protect

our assets from break ins. This trailer set up will also allow growth for the club enabling half day entries as it can accommodate registration to be on-going while the course is already hot. The improved and added storage will keep everything organized and in its place making retrieving needed items much more efficient. Currently no one wants to tow the existing trailer out of the Tri-Cities due to concerns of its road worthiness. The new trailer will not only be safe and stable but with tandem axles, will probably tow easier than old trailer making a trip to Packwood a possibility.

Members agreed to proceed with investigating the feasibility of securing a business loan for the trailer purchase, checking out the interest rate and then making an informed decision about taking out the loan and purchasing the trailer now versus waiting until the club has the cash for purchase. Lynn will contact the bank and report at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.