

DRIVERS MEETING

Official Publication of the Racing Drivers Club, Inc.
And the Underground Road Racer's Newsletter from the Left Coast

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 3, APRIL 2005

Ott's Thoughts

Ramblings from the Racing Drivers Club
President

by George Ott

Well, this may be the last time this year that I get to send you my thoughts in the newsletter. We have been sending the newsletter out to folks who were members in 2004, but have not renewed for 2005. That ends with this issue. If you can't recall if you have rejoined for 2005, just look at your mailing address sticker. If it has 2004 above your name, you haven't renewed. Remember, you can only take advantage of our substantial discount for testing on the Thursday before the Enduro this year if you join or renew before May 15. That's like right around the corner. You also cannot participate in our regional points championship until you join. Some of you have already missed the points for the first race. Don't delay, renew today.

Are we stubborn? We did not have any takers at Laguna for our driver orientation program due to a variety of circumstances. But we are not ones to give up easily. So, for the second race meeting in a row ... : Have we got a deal for you! Are you a new graduate of Drivers' School? Do you have limited experience at Thunderhill? Has it been a while since you raced there? How would you like to get a few pointers from experienced Racing Drivers Club members? RDC is putting together a driver orientation program at Thunderhill. There will be two parts. In Part 1 you can ride around the track in a street car driven by an experienced RDC member who will show you what line really works and give other racing & car control tips. You may have to sign up beforehand for these rides. In Part 2 you can be paired with an RDC member in your run group who will do some "lead & follow" with you during the practice session. See Dave Allen (RX7 #14) or

me or Lois (ITA #93 or ITB #39) at the track to get paired up for the practice segment.

We have a new member of the Board of Directors. He is John Schmale. I'm sure many of you know John as he has spent the last several years making himself useful to all of us in the SCCA road racing community. He was and is a member of the pit fire crew. He races in groups 1 & 5. He helps repair anyone's car, rival or not. He supplied the cars for the winners of the RDC Will Pool Memorial Scholarship. And now he is going to help run RDC. Welcome aboard, John.

By the way, if you are at all interested in participating in the rewarding work of running the RDC, we'll find a job that fits your talents and available time. See me at the track or send an E-mail or give me a call. You don't have to be a current racer to participate.

Did you go to Laguna? Did you notice the coffee and pastries at Registration? Coffee Chair Judy John had one small snag because of the time needed for the coffee to brew in the morning, but better late than never and the pastries were there and delicious. She has taken on a job that requires a lot of work and strange hours. Thanks again, Judy. See you at Thunderhill.

We came that close! Group one almost got the \$500.00 from the No-Contact Challenge. They were in the game until Sunday afternoon when one little incident snatched the cash from their eager hands. Great try group 1. Group 2 is up at Thunderhill; let's hope we can give away our money then. Remember, all the group has to do is to demonstrate that they (you) are skilled and safe enough as drivers to avoid making car-to-car contact for one full weekend. Incidentally, the schedule of groups eligible has now been determined. The

order for the rest of the year will be 2, 4, 5, 3, 7, 6. Look for your group's shot at the bucks in your acceptance letter from SF Region for individual race weekends.

Tim Linerud continues to improve the web site. If you get a chance, drop by at [HTTP:// racer.net/rdc](http://racer.net/rdc) and take a peek. I'm sure Tim would be happy to hear any comments regarding his progress.

Speaking of comments, Vice President Bruce John is still looking for comments from anyone interested in participating in a Vintage Enduro. He'll be at Thunderhill or on his E-mail. I'm also interested in getting comments from our members who have not been attending the awards banquet at the end of the year. Some of the reasons I have heard are: "Too far away", "Too expensive", "The old banquet style was better", "I don't like the date". What do you have to say? Would you be more inclined to come to the banquet if we changed something or the other? See one of the Board members at the track & let us know.

Talk of the banquet reminds me that this is really the only time we get to publicly display the beautiful RDC perpetual trophies. I'll bet many of you have never even seen them. Well, you'll get your chance soon. We have arranged to purchase two trophy cases which should allow us to safely display these trophies at Thunderhill. They should be there by May. Look for them. Oh yeah, Dave Allen still has some trophies from last year. Be sure to check with him to arrange pickup.

(cont'd on page 2)

(cont'd from Page 1)

Ott's Thoughts

One last item of note; RDC has sent a letter to the SCCA Board of Directors asking that those groups who are not Enduro eligible (mainly formula cars) be scheduled before the Enduro such that they can do their practice/qualify/race on Saturday & Sunday. Then they would not have to give up a work day on Friday. The RDC speaks for all of our members, not just those who run the Enduro.

Well, enough rambling for now. Rubber side down. More next issue. (if you renew)

WHAT A DEAL!!

Have we got a deal for you!
Get a huge discount
on testing!

The Board voted in our February meeting to give a substantial discount for testing on the Thursday before the Enduro this year. It will go **ONLY** to members of record as of May 15. The exact amount will be published later this year, but it will be substantial. So renew **NOW** to be sure that you are in on the benefits

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Allow 4 weeks for change of address and include your old address label, if possible. Subscription is free to all members, included in the annual dues, or \$15.00 per year to nonmembers.

Send articles, letters, ads, etc. to:
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Stay tuned for additions to the Board!

Why join the RDC?

Want Ads: Want ads are free to RDC members. Please send ads to the editor before the 15th of the month preceding the issue. Ads run one month unless otherwise requested.

By Dave Allen

The San Francisco Region's racing sea-

son is in full swing. We are soon to have the second race of the season. Since RDC membership is based on the calendar year, your membership expired on 12/31/04. We'd like for you to continue your membership into 2005 by sending in your \$30 with the form located elsewhere in the newsletter. Remember that the due date is May 15. If your envelope is dated after May 15, you need to include the late fee – total due is \$40.

Why should you join? Because the RDC is far more than just 45 years of putting on the only SCCA Enduro in the SF Region. We act as a clearinghouse for driver concerns, complaints and suggestions. Some issues are acted upon directly by the RDC; others are addressed with individuals, chiefs or the SFR Board of Directors. There is an RDC Driver Representative assigned to either fendered or formula cars who is there with you at grid and impound. The Driver Rep can help you with protests and other problems. The RDC has developed a Driver Mentor Program to help any of our members become better drivers.

The RDC administers a separate season points championship with awards presented at a season-end banquet. Also awarded at the banquet are a collection of giant perpetual trophies to outstanding drivers, cherished workers and the fast and/or lucky Enduro winners. We publish "Drivers Meeting", a monthly newsletter of articles and information of interest to drivers.

If you joined the RDC at the end of the year so you could run the Enduro, join now for this year and enjoy all of the benefits of RDC membership throughout the entire year. And, if you join at the beginning of the year, membership costs only \$30 (it will soon be \$40) rather than \$50 at the end of the year. Why is that? Because we want you as a participating member all year long!

Racing Driver's Club 2005 points

As of April 4, 2005

		Class	Total
Group 1			
Bob	Bradfield	ITE	200
Steve	Borlik	ITE	180
David	Allen	ITE	160
Tim	Bringman	ITE	0
Ryan	Carl	ITE	0
Ron	Carroll	ITX	200
Rod	Nelson	ITX	180
John	Schmale	ITX	160
Mike	Lingsch	ITX	140
Ed	Koop	ITX	130
Peter	Carlotto	ITX	120
Daniel	Banta	ITX	110
Bob	Bradfield	ITX	0
George	Day	ITX	0
David	Vodden	ITX	0
Daryl	Witbeck	ITX	0
Kirk	Haag	RX7	0
Tony	Lopez	T3	200
Group 2			
Garrett	Smith	FM	200
Group 3			
Bruce	Ackerman	EP	200
Bernie	Storc	EP	180
Bob	Bradfield	EP	160
Bob	Stephan	EP	140
Jim	Thompson	GT1	0
Ryan	Carl	GT2	0
Art	Muncheryan	GTA	0
Rudy	Revak	GTA	0
Bruce	John	GTL	200
Chad	Gravelle	SP	200
Ardie	Oji	SP	0
Tom	Fewell	T1	200
Group 4			
Robert	Morley	CF	200
Todd	Butler	CF	0
Peter	Nosler	FF	400
Dave	Jalen	FF	360
Ken	Richter	FF	320
Dale	Westfall	FF	280
Eric	Costa	FF	260

Jeffery	Palazzo	FF	0
Ken	Rozeboom	FF	0
Ron	Wake	FV	400
Group 5			
Claire	Tallman	FP	0
Henry A.	Mitchell	HP	0
James	Prior	HP	0
Bob	Bradfield	ITA	200
Ron	Carroll	ITA	180
Steve	Carbone	ITA	160
John	Schmale	ITA	140
Dean	Thomas	ITA	130
William	Haener	ITA	120
George	Ott	ITA	110
Mike	Lingsch	ITA	100
Eric	Vaughn	ITA	95
Adam	Firestone	ITA	0
Jeff	Francis	ITB	200
Peter	Carlotto	ITB	180
L. James	Ghilardi	ITB	160
Lois	Leijdecker-Ott	ITB	140
Barry	Streets	ITB	0
James E.	Thomas	ITB	0
Wayne	Shover	ITC	200
John	Hardin	ITC	180
Robert A.	Ely	ITC	160
Steve	Borlik	ITS	200
Dave	Allen	ITS	180
Group 6			
Peter	Carlotto	DSR	0
Christopher	Jackson	SRF	380
Robert	Hatcher	SRF	360
Michael	Smith	SRF	340
Morris	Goldstein	SRF	280
Jerry	Schmitt	SRF	260
Joseph	Pratt	SRF	120
Lanyll	Smith	SRF	0
Peter	Holst	SRF	0
R.J.	Gordy	SRF	0
Todd	Butler	SRF	0
Group 7			
David	Vodden	SMT	400
Eric	Vaughn	SMT	320
Steve	Carbone	SMT	320
Robert	Murillo	SMT	260
Bruce	Pendleton	SMT	260
Rod	Nelson	SMT	245
William	Haener	SMT	220
Kim	Ouye	SMT	200
Rick	Ramondo	SMT	195

Mike	Lingsch	SMT	175
Jeremy	Hittle	SMT	175
Ian	Cook	SMT	160
Laura	Thomas	SMT	150
Ed	Koop	SMT	140
Bruce	Blondin	SMT	130
Adam	Firestone	SMT	110
Daryl	Witbeck	SMT	0

Don't see your name? Think your points should be different? Please call Tim Linerud or George Ott.

Be a Driver Observer

Ever wonder how those other drivers get through that corner so fast?

Ever wonder how they got away with those blatant moves?

Ever wanted to be an Official, but didn't think you had the time?

Do you have an SCCA competition license?

Be a Driver Observer!

Watch others go through the corners and learn their racing line and braking points.

Watch for the moves that really need to be reported to the Stewards.

Help your fellow drivers and the stewards by observing at a corner and giving a driver's perspective on incidents, passes, drivers' behavior and reactions.

Work as few as one session at a time or for the whole weekend. **Work for free test time at Thunderhill** or for worker points. and, at the same time, help your fellow drivers have a safe & sane race.

Call Lois Leijdecker-Ott for details.
916-447-3698

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report that is presented at all board meetings is available for review by the membership on request. Please contact Lois to discuss.

Approved
Minutes of Meeting, RDC Board, Mar.
5, 2005, at Thunderhill Raceway
Present:
George Ott, President
Bruce John, Vice President
Lois Leijdecker-Ott, Membership Chair
David Allen, Driver Representative,
Fendered
Greg Mercurio, Driver Representative,
Formula
Judy John, Coffee Chair
Absent:
Lisa Devlin
Brad Dressen
Tim Linerud, Member at Large*

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved as revised.
2. L. Leijdecker-Ott presented copies of Treasurer's report for 2004 & through January 2005.
The three signatures on the bank account signature card must be: Secretary, Treasurer & one other officer per bank rules.
Investigation is needed as to whether we need a tax I.D. number as a corporation. We need to determine our corporate status. G. Ott & L. Leijdecker-Ott will go through stored boxes to try to determine this.
Treasurer's report will be available for member review and a note will be placed in the newsletter to that effect.
2. D. Allen reports that he may be able to obtain the display cases through a dealer in Willows. This would save delivery problems. The cases will most likely go in the third floor observation area. They must be of the locking type.
3. D. Allen reports that Thunderhill feels there is a greater need for a metal

grandstand than a new scale pad. Dave Vodden suggests that we donate the grandstand and put the RDC logo or similar on it. Greg Mercurio will follow up through SCCA regarding the need for the scale pad.

4. Jim Molinari has indicated that he will not be continuing participation on the Board. Office of Secretary thus becomes open.
5. A motion was passed that the RDC Board will send a letter to the SCCA Board regarding the scheduling of open wheel cars prior to the Enduro. We will indicate that we want them to have a two-day-only schedule rather than making them be there for three days to participate on only two. G. Ott will draft letter for Board review.
6. The survey to be developed by L. Devlin regarding member preference for the type and location of the Annual Banquet needs to be developed rather quickly to allow time for Board review and possible revisions.
7. Certificates will be issued to Drivers' School instructors for their dues reduction. This will allow for better tracking of expenses.
8. Open positions are: Secretary, Treasurer, No-Contact Program Chair, Driver Training Coordinator and Enduro Chair.
9. The Justin Hall team has not returned the trophies they were presented before the results were official from last year's Enduro. G. Ott will draft a letter asking for their return.

10. Membership cards are probably not a good idea at this time.

11. D. Allen has not found decals yet.

12. The possibility of having Vintage cars at the Illgen Enduro or of having a separate Enduro for Vintage cars was discussed. A big problem is that they don't meet current GCR specifications. B. John will follow up.

13. D. Allen, acting on behalf of SCCA Board asked what would make the WSC (PCRRC) be a better draw. Several ideas were advanced including making it invitational only based on track lap times not class finishing position.

14. Current membership was reported as 49 with 169 not having renewed yet from 2004.

15. *T. Linerud was unable to stay for meeting. He reported through G. Ott that:
He has access to the web site from A. Banta and will begin updating it. He has not yet contacted SCCA to create a link on an Issues type forum until he has created one for RDC first.

22. Next meeting will be Saturday night April 2 at or near Laguna Seca. Time and exact location TBD.

Submitted by George D. Ott, acting Secretary.

From the Enduro weekend:

Pictured are children of Marty
& Margaret Illgen:

from left:
Barbara, Charles, and Sue

All Memberships expire on December 31st each year.

Be sure to renew early so that you receive all of your racing points toward the RDC trophies!
Fill out the application below and send it in today! Be sure to list any changes in your information.

RACING DRIVERS CLUB - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Driver and Spouse-Driver membership is open to licensed competition drivers, past or present including novice permit holders. Associate membership is open to anyone. All members, except Spouse-Drivers, receive the newsletter. Only Driver and Spouse-Driver members are eligible to compete in RDC events (i.e. Illgen Enduro) or to earn RDC Championship Series racing points. No points will be awarded retroactively. **All memberships expire on December 31st each year.**

Note that dues increase depending upon the date of renewal.

Check appropriate box (es) and circle Renewal or New Member.

☐ Driver (\$30 before May 15, \$40 May 15 to Sept. 15, \$50 after Sept. 15)

Renewal New Member (circle one)

☐ Spouse-Driver (\$10 before May 15, \$20 after May 15)

Renewal New Member (circle one)

☐ Drivers School Graduate (FREE before May 15, \$40 May 15 to Sept. 15, \$50 after Sept. 15)

☐ Associate (\$20 anytime) Renewal New Member (circle one)

Please complete appropriate section(s) below. Renewing members need to include only their name, any information that has changed, and the appropriate dues.

Associate or Driver (includes School Graduate) Member:

Name: _____ Race Class(es): _____

Address: Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone #s to be published in directory:

Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Alternate phone #s (won't be published)

Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Spouse-Driver Member:

Name: _____ Race Class(es): _____

Address: Same as above.

Phone #s to be published in directory:

Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Alternate phone #s (won't be published)

Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make your check payable to Racing Drivers Club and mail it to:
Lois Leijdecker-Ott, 2900 Carolyn Way, Sacramento, CA, 95818-3308

**Racing Drivers Club
2900 Carolyn Way
Sacramento CA 95818**

DRIVERS MEETING

FIRST CLASS MAIL

RACE CALENDAR 2005

April 23-24 Regional at Thunderhill
April 30-May 1 Rolex/Grand Am Series at Laguna Seca
May 6 **DEADLINE** for entering Regional
 at Thunderhill.
May 21/22 Regional at Thunderhill

May 27

June 4-5

June 11-12

June 24

July 8-10

DEADLINE for entering Regional at
Thunderhill

Wine Country Vintage at Infineon

Regional at Thunderhill

DEADLINE for entering Double Regional
at Thunderhill

Double Regional at Thunderhill