

DRIVERS MEETING

Official Publication of the Racing Drivers Club, Inc.

Dedicated to the safety, quality, and enhancement of the SF Region racing experience.

"Your advocate for safe & sane racing in legal cars"

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4, May 2007

Ott's Thoughts Ramblings from the Racing Drivers Club President

Middle of May already, two regional race weekends gone and I still don't have the car ready. Luckily Lois is kind enough to lend me her car for one of the races next weekend at Thunderhill. That's after she uses it first of course. Neither car was ready for Regional #2 at Laguna. So we both worked the course as Driver Observers. Speaking of DO's, did you notice the article by Art Muncheryan in the May issue of "The Wheel"? He made some very good points about why we need more observers on the corners and even mentioned that RDC has been harping about this for years. Consider this another incidence of harping. My experience on the corners for two weekends this spring has greatly reinforced my opinion that we need active drivers out there giving advice and opinions to the regular corner workers. We do have several of our members who are regular corner workers and also part time drivers because of RDC sponsorship of the Will Pool Memorial Scholarship to SCCA Drivers' School. But they are far too few. Give us all a break and come on out to help give the driver's perspective of the actions & occurrences on the track. Call Lois.

This subject reminds me of another which has been on my mind a lot lately, communication. I work as both a DO and as a flag-

ger, and a flagger's main responsibility is to communicate with the drivers. As I studied in college years ago and as I have learned from life, communication is a very complicated subject. It is often done poorly (especially by me) and is rarely perfect. It takes at least two persons and there is a whole lot of background information that must be known and acknowledged by all involved. As regards the Flagger & the Driver, it is done without speaking, in a split second while both of the persons involved are thinking mainly of other things. It's amazing that anything is communicated at all. Why am I going on about this? Because of a problem that becomes prevalent every few years in our sport. Ignoring or overdriving flags. What do I mean? When flaggers display a standing or even a waving yellow flag, they are often ignored by the drivers on track. Why is this? Many reasons I'm sure, but I think a major one is communication failure. What one person is trying to communicate is being interpreted as something else by the other person.

Let me explain. First, many drivers and flaggers never even see each other face to face, let alone talk about what they are trying to communicate. How many of you drivers ever review the GCR definition of what a waving yellow flag means? Does this correspond to what the Flaggers Manual for SF Region says? Do you know what the Flagger's newsletter has stated as the rules

for when and why a waving yellow is to be displayed? By the book in SF Region, a waving yellow means that there is a car or other major hazard on the racing surface between the flagger displaying the flag and the next manned turn at that track. For example, a waving flag at the lead flag station at turn three at Thunderhill means there is something dangerous before turn five.

Let me use that same turn 3 at the T'hill as an example. Say a car spins in turn four (4) and kills the engine. It's in the middle of the track. The Communicator in the box at 3 sees the incident and signals the lead flagger (who's on the hill at driver's right) to throw the waving yellow flag. The flagger doesn't know for sure what is happening, but thinks he is communicating the message "there is something dangerous on the track between turns 3 & 5". The Driver of car 93 coming out of turn 2 sees the flagger waving the yellow. He has just read the GCR and interprets the message as "there is great danger". He slows and starts looking for the danger. In the meantime, the car in turn 4 has gotten the car started and is moving again. But the Communicator has not been able to get the flagger's attention to signal him to lower the flag before the driver of car 93 stops looking at the flagger and starts looking for the danger. Car 93 comes around the corner and sees no danger in between turns 3 & 5. What has been communicated?

The driver thinks “the flaggers are just throwing the waving yellow for the hell of it” or “the corner workers aren’t paying attention to what they are doing”. He thinks that next time he’ll wait until he sees that there really is something wrong before he actually lifts off the throttle. The message sent was: “There’s danger on the track surface”. The message received was: “There’s great danger”. The interpretation was: “The waving yellow doesn’t really mean anything.” or “What an idiot”. No effective communication occurred. Sad to say, this is what is happening too many times in our races. No one person or group is totally at fault. Nevertheless, we need to find an effective way to solve this problem before some real serious injuries occur. More later. Your comments and opinions are very welcome.

Speaking of opinions, word is that the Spec Racer Ford drivers may not be able to give their opinions on the new proposed spec tire for their class. Dave Jalen informs me that a strike at the Goodyear plant delayed production of the tires so they most likely weren’t available for testing at T’hill on the scheduled special test day. New is not always better or more convenient.

New driver members of RDC are good though. Four of them took advantage of the RDC track familiarization session at Laguna. Hopefully more will contact Dave Allen for the more extensive Driver Development Program offered by RDC. We are justifiably proud of the drivers who have taken advantage of this program in the past. By the way

it is open to all members of RDC, not just new drivers. Check with Dave to participate as a student, an instructor, or both.

Elsewhere in Drivers Meeting is a list of the new drivers who have joined RDC this spring. If you see them in the pits, give them a hearty welcome to RDC & SCCA and help them out if you can. A friend in the pits can be an ally on the track and the sooner we get them up to speed, the sooner they can be true competitors and make our racing a whole lot more fun and exciting in a safe manner.

In other news, we are still in the dark as to the past presidents of RDC for the years ‘81, ‘86, ‘87, ‘89, ‘90, & ‘91. We do know Jerry Casini fits in there somewhere. If you know, send an e-mail or give us a call.

Our regional points race is already starting to heat up. Several of the new drivers are already showing promise. Remember, you don’t earn points until you have actually paid your dues, so for many of you the first race didn’t count. Just do better for the rest of the year and you’ll have more bragging rights when you win because you will have “dropped a race”. It’s also time to ask your competitors why they haven’t joined yet so that you can beat them fair & square.

Plans are proceeding for fifty year awards, mementos and celebrations. If anyone has an award or memento suggestion for the Board, let any one of us know. We’re usually at the track and our contact info is listed in this newsletter. We would also welcome help planning and/or executing the celebration/

presentation.

We’re also still looking for articles for Drivers Meeting to celebrate our first fifty. Any one interested should contact Lois, our Editor.

Well, I guess I’ve probably rambled on too much this month, so I’ll quit. See you at Thunderhill. George.

2007 Board of Directors

George Ott, President

H: 916-441-6356

Email: lloracer@pacbell.net

Bruce John, Vice-President

H: 510-530-0614

Email: Bjohn@bart.gov

Lois Leijdecker-Ott, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor/
Membership

W/Fax: 916-447-3698

Email: lloracer@pacbell.net

Dave Allen, Driver Rep Fendered/
Region Board Liaison

Home: 408-996-1356

Email: davidallen14@comcast.net

Dave Jalen, Member-at-Large

H: 510-749-7742

Email: dkjx@alamedanet.net

Fred Peterson, Member-at-Large

H: 925-280-0730

Email: peterson@astound.net

John Schmale, Member-at-Large

H: 510-205-5724

Email: john.schmale@comcast.net

RDC website: www.racer.net/rdc

Minutes of Meeting,
Racing Drivers Club
Board of Directors
March 31, 2007
at Infineon Raceway

Present: George Ott, President,
Acting Secretary
Bruce John, Vice President
Lois Leijdecker-Ott, Treasurer,
Membership Chair, Newsletter
Editor
Dave Allen, Driver Develop-
ment Director, SCCA Liaison
Fred Peterson, Member at
Large
John Schmale, Member at
Large
Absent: Dave Jalen

1. Minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.
2. Lois Leijdecker-Ott gave a membership report. We have 113 members, 22 of them new drivers school graduates.
3. Lois Leijdecker-Ott gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$23,577.57 in funds.
4. Dave Allen gave a report on driver development. We had four persons take advantage of the track familiarization runs at Infineon. Dave will arrange for the ones for Laguna Seca to be advertised in the acceptance letter.
5. Dave Allen gave a report on SCCA matters. Thunderhill has



modified the course at Thunderhill by marking it with flexible posts in an attempt to discourage driving out of bounds in turn 14/15. They have also changed 11/12 slightly.

6. Fifty years of RDC: Pins or some other commemorative item should be given to current year members. Some other awards should be developed for long term members. Victory flags should be made up with the RDC helmet logo surrounded by lettering denoting our fiftieth year. These should be awarded to the first place RDC finisher in each class at each race this year. Ott to investigate purchase of flags.
7. No-Contact Challenge: Could be revised to have awards by random drawing for RDC members who did not have contact. An award idea is a set of tires (or a dollar amount of discount against same). We would work with our local tire suppliers who have track-side service.
8. Other benefits to "enhance the driving experience": We should provide more driver development both for new drivers and by monitoring select drivers in all groups and offering our coaching services. We should make the new driver members feel welcome by dividing them up by area code, car type, or other means and hav-

ing a Board member make personal contact with them by phone and/or at the track. Ott will sort members by zip code and run group.

9. There was a short discussion of the Enduro. There is still no Enduro Chair in training. We have asked for SCCA Tech's approval to eliminate the special Tech session. The drivers' meeting should be changed to one person from each team, all new drivers, and a printed handout. Still no Broken Wrench award.
10. ITE Festival: RDC should help sponsor this since it happens on the same weekend as the Enduro. Prizes to be awarded by RDC were discussed. They included free coaching session(s), gas cards, and random drawings for larger prizes like tires.
11. Web Site & Coordinator. Lois has been working with Ed Koop on this. He has made many updates. Lois will give Board members Ed's e-mail address so that they can express opinions and tell him what they would like to see on the site.
12. Next meeting to be held near the end of April at the Pizzeria.

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Leijdecker-Ott Bookkeeping & Desktop Publishing.
RDC address is: 2900 Carolyn Way, Sacramento CA 95818 for membership renewals and changes of address. 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: 2900 Carolyn Way, Sacramento CA 95818

Racing Driver's Club 2007 points as of 5/07/2007

Group 1		ITE	
Bob	Bradfield	400	
Dave	Allen	340	
Steve	Borlik	340	
Miki	Cohen	260	
Chuck	Canepa	140	
Bob	Stephan	140	

		ITX	
John	Schmale	200	
Laura	Thomas	200	
Bruce	Blondin	180	
Matt	Rose	180	

		SSB	
Gary	Hascall	200	

		T3	
Tony	Lopez	200	
David	Vodden	200	

Group 4		CF	
David	Hallum	400	

		FF	
Peter	Nosler	400	
Dave	Jalen	360	
Eric	Costa	160	
Ken	Rozeboom	160	
Ken	Richter	140	

		FV	
Ron	Wake	400	

Group 5		GP	
Patrick	Olsen	200	

		ITA	
Steve	Borlik	400	
Laura	Thomas	370	
David	Vodden	360	
Ed	Koop	320	
Kim	Henriksen	270	
Richard	Avril	245	
Brian	Schyberg	240	
Lars	Kornbrink	220	
John	Schmale	220	
Bruce	Blondin	200	
Ian	Cook	200	
Stan	Clark	190	
Michael	Niemann	180	

		ITB	
L. James	Ghilardi	600	

		ITC	
Wayne	Shover	400	
Bill	Robertson	200	

Group 2		DSR	
Andrew	Juner	400	

		FM	
John	Ertel	400	

Group 3		EP	
Bob	Stephan	360	
Bernie	Storc	360	
Bruce	Ackerman	200	
Mike	Monegan	140	

		GT2	
Bob	Bradfield	400	
Dave	Allen	360	

Group 6		SRF	
Joseph	Pratt	540	
Michael	Smith	520	
Bill	Booth	440	
Chris	Jackson	400	
Jerry	Schmitt	360	
Douglas	Johnson	330	
Todd	Butler	260	
Umberto	Millett	215	
Lisa	Askew	195	
Richard	Hatfield	140	
David	Harriman	90	
Drew	Carlson	85	

Group 7		SMT	
Alan	Fudge	225	
Richard	Avril	215	
Eric	Vaughn	200	
David	Vodden	200	
Dean	Thomas	180	
Laura	Thomas	180	
Ed	Koop	160	
Michael	Niemann	160	
Kim	Henriksen	140	
William	Haener	130	
Stephen	Harris-Smith	130	
Brian	Schyberg	120	
Jeff	Annison	110	
Steve	Holifield	100	
George	Day	90	

		SSM	
Fred	Peterson	380	
Matt	Rose	340	
Steve	Torrence	200	

New Members from Drivers' School				
First Name	Last Name	City	Car Class(es)	Grp.
Stan	Clark	Burlingame		unk.
Jay	Streets	San Francisco		unk.
Richard	O'Connell	Walnut Creek		unk.
Joe	Gaffney	Rohnert Park		unk.
Miki	Cohen	Coloma	ITE	1
Gary	Hascall	Salinas	SSB	1
Lars	Kornbrink	San Rafael	SMT,ITA,X	7,5,1
Viet-Tam	Luu	San Jose	SMT, ITE	7,1
Greg	Lindahl	Fairfield	DSR	2
Richard	Fuller	Reno	EP	3
Rich	Bergin	Morgan Hill	FV	4
Craig	Hickox	San Francisco	ITB, SMT	5,7
Nick	Hansen	Paradise	SMT, ITA	7,5
William	Kirkwood	Carmel	ITA	5
Lars	Kornbrink	San Rafael	SMT,ITA,X	7,5,1
Lisa	Askew	Oakland	SRF	6
Drew	Carlson	Davis	SRF	6
David	Anderson	San Jose	SMT	7
Douglas	Clark	Los Altos	SMT	7
Florian	Defalco(?)	San Francisco	SMT	7
Laura	Douglas	Chico	SMT	7
Alan	Fudge	San Francisco	SMT	7
Nick	Hansen	Paradise	SMT, ITA	7,5
Stephen	Harris-Smith	San Francisco	SMT	7
Craig	Hickox	San Francisco	ITB, SMT	5,7
Steve	Holifield	Sonoma	SMT	7
Hugh	Lam	Hayward	SMT	7
Matt	Rose	Concord	SSM	7
Brian	Schyberg	Sacramento	SMT	7

Earn free test time at Thunderhill

And, at the same time, help your fellow drivers have a safe & sane race weekend. How? Become a Driver Observer! Help out at a corner for a session or two, 1/2 a day, a whole day, or the entire weekend.

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.

Interested? Please call me:

**Lois Leijdecker-Ott
Chief Driver Observer**

**Phone/Fax:
916-447-3698**

Email:

lloracer@pacbell.net

**OR See me at the track
– Look for a Silver/
White Honda #39 ITB.**

NEW & IMPROVED!!!

Take a look at our updated website to get a member application, read past newsletters, and see the race calendar. Thanks to Ed Koop for all of your work.

Cotati Raceway

The RDC was quite active at Cotati Raceway. Gary Horstkorta, the SFR archivist, is working on an article about the history of the raceway and needs your input. If you have any information to share, Gary would be glad to hear from you! Contact him at: Sfrarchivist@comcast.net

RACING DRIVERS CLUB - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full (Driver and Spouse-Driver) membership is open to licensed competition drivers, past or present including novices. Associate membership is open to anyone. All member households receive the newsletter. Only Full members are eligible to compete in RDC events (Illgen Enduro) or to earn RDC Championship Series 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)
- Current Year 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 name, changed information, and dues. **Driver** (includes School Graduate) or **Associate** 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 check payable to Racing Drivers Club. Mail to: Lois Leijdecker-Ott, 2900 Carolyn Way, Sacramento, CA, 95818-3308

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

**DRIVERS
MEETING**

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