

Cal Club F&C News

November 2015

e: race.flaggers@verizon.net

Smith's - 562-421-3468

This is my last edition...

This being my 200th consecutive edition of the Cal Club F&C News (since 1999), I thought it be an appropriate time to step aside. For 200 straight months I have enjoyed putting this little document together in hopes of training the F&C Team, and pulling the "family" together to show the world the hard work and fun we are exposed to each race weekend. As I move on to new things in 2016 I have faith that the Team will continue to grow and execute as the top group of F&C'ers in the Nation!

- Mark Smith



Notes from the Chief

Thank you to all that came out for the PCRRC at Auto Club Speedway in October! Lots of cars meant lots of great racing!

That was officially my last race as chief, although Jeff White won't officially take the keys until Jan 1st! I want to thank everyone who has come out and supported me over the years. Couldn't have done it without you and you made my job easy! I hope you give the new chief Jeff the same support! I want to thank Mark Smith for the training lessons in the morning meetings. Also to Bill Haneline for his help over the years! I'm not going away! I still plan on being in race control and Jeff asked me to be his co-chief for next year. And, I will be the chief for the 2016 LBGP and support weekends.

Doug Miller has moved back to Ohio so we won't be seeing him any more at our club races, although he plans to do LBGP again sometime in the future! Good luck to you Doug!

And thanks to Al Woodward who joined us from Colorado and Bob Crenshaw and Carol Anderson who came from Arizona.

Speaking of LBGP. The dates are set for April 15 - 17 for the Indy Cars. Plus Formula E is back again on April 1 -2. As well as the usual Formula Drift the 8th & 9th and Press Day the 5th. I will be sending the 1st emails out in mid to late January and you will be able to sign up online.

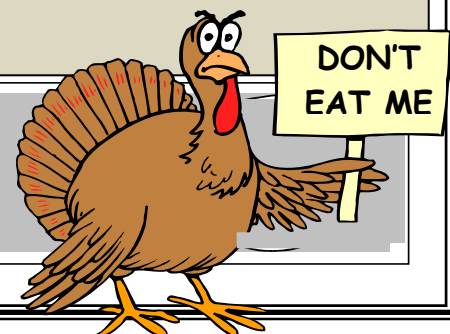
Cal Club will be having a Driver School/Time Trial on January 9-10 at Buttonwillow. This will be a minimum staffed event. More details later from new chief on how that will work. The 1st big race of 2016 is at Auto Club Speedway on Jan 29 - 31 with the 1st Western Conference Majors. Should be a big event.

That's all for this time! Hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving! All for this time! Have a great Thanksgiving!

Linda

Next Event:

January 9-10, 2016
Driver's School/Time Trials - Buttonwillow
January 29-31, 2016
US Majors - Auto Club Speedway





PCRRRC®

Report
Card

A+

Well, we started the idea a few years ago to resurrect the Pacific Coast Road Racing Championships. It was a pretty prestigious event back in the 70s, and I had a vision of trying to give all the racing groups in SoCal an opportunity to come together and race each other to see who truly was the fastest in the West, independent of Sanctioning Body..... Well that idea did not go over very well, so in 2015, armed with an SCCA Sanction, the event picked up some momentum. Car counts were up and the racing was tremendous. Still did not get the support or Racers from the San Francisco area, too bad as they missed an awesome event!

So with the dry Southern California climate, who'd a thought the event would be impacted by Freeway closing mud slides? Still, the weather for the event turned out fabulous, and although many were delayed in their arrival, the roads opened up and a large group of Racers, Workers, and overall fans attended the event.

Squeezing in 2 Pro Series in and amongst the normal race groupings provided for a very full schedule, but with all the cars, time went by quickly. And amazingly, with all those cars, the carnage was minimal, and the racing close and exciting throughout the deep fields.

Close racing in Spec Miata, the Pro Formula Mazda race was spectacular, Spec Racer Ford Gen 3 was nose to tail the entire race, Formula Vee, P1 had some rocket ships, Couple hot rods new to me - Guy Drier in an ITE Mustang, New AS cars, Formula Mazdas putting on a show... it goes on and on.

Over 135 entries, much thanks to Joe Moran and the S2 CUP guys for the Sponsorship. I(t takes every penny that we charge to break even on an event at Auto Club due to the high track rental fee, so Sponsorship helps tremendously!

The 2016 version is back on the Schedule. Maybe the Board will try again to engage the San Francisco Board to work together, but regardless, I think Cal Club has found a jewel that can only grow in the future! Outstanding job by Ceci in making things look seamless..



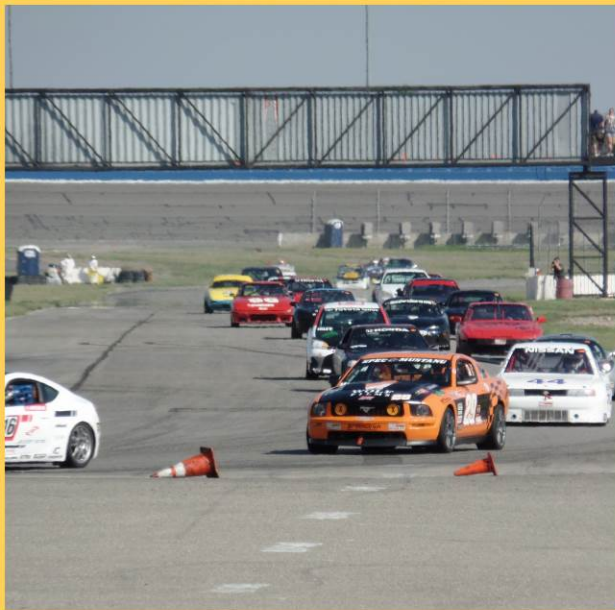
Volunteers from the 2015 Pacific Coast Road Racing Championships

Mark Smith, Linda & Bill Haneline, Ron Branam, Dan Cain, Brad Coffman, Doug Fetrow, Paul Parsons, Chip Parkhurst, Chuck Phillips, Jeff White, Al Woodward, Bil Baldwin, David Fyffe, Bob Crenshaw, Carol Anderson, Candy Rucker, Jim & Diane Cuyler, Bob Jardine, Doug Miller, Don Shreyer, Nelda Snow Dan Edmunds, & Karen Stewart

Pictures from the PCRRC



Still more PCRRC Pictures



Still more PCRRC photos

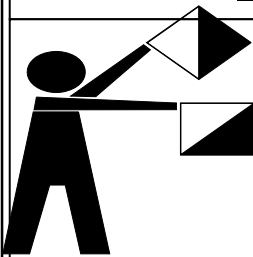


Final pictures from the 2015 PCRRRC



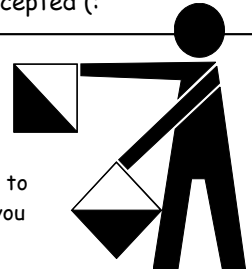
BREAKING NEWS

- Do you know that this is the **200th edition** of the F&C News, published uninterrupted monthly since 1999.
- Looks like the yearly **Awards Banquet** will be held at Auto Club Speedway Saturday night after the racing activities during the Majors event January 29-31. It seemed to work well last year, so let's try it again!
- Still think the **Runoffs** will be at Sears Point in 2018... only a short 3 year wait!
- So heard a rumor about the fact that since there is no longer a National Administrator for each Specialty, look for the National Office to select one of the **Divisional Administrators** to be the "figure head" for the Specialty, but not hold a special title. They believe this may help the inter-communication between the leadership of the people executing the events.
- Wonder how messed up **Spec Miata** would be if it had been run with sealed motors just like Spec Racer Ford? Never hear the SRF guys getting beaten up in Tech. Too many people with their fingers in the Miata pie to institute that now, as many are making good money prepping Miatas and building mostly legal motors.
- Look for a new **Cal Club Race Chairman** next year. Applications for Race Chair **Assistant** are being accepted (:



Training Refresher

Per the GCR and the National F&C Manual, the **BLUE FLAG** means: "Another competitor is following you very closely or is trying to overtake you." Check your mirrors. Note - according to the 2002 GCR, the flag can be displayed either standing or waving, depending upon the speed you are being overtaken.



It is an advisory flag, it does not require any mandatory action. It is meant to advise the driver he should probably look in his mirror because a faster car is coming up and may want to pass. It does not require the driver to pull over immediately and let the quicker guy through, it is still the faster guy's responsibility to make a safe pass.

You can relay a great deal of information by the way you display the **BLUE FLAG**. It is acceptable to do a gentle rocking of the Flag, i.e. get the yellow diagonal dancing. Sometimes this movement may help attract the driver's attention. Also some more exaggerated raising and lowering of the Flag may help express the urgency of the potential pass to the driver. Per the GCR (and some Pro Series), if it is going to be a big "speed differential" pass, you are permitted to WAVE the flag.

The biggest difficulty occurring during **BLUE FLAGGING** is when you have one slow car being passed by 2 or more fast cars. Many times the slow car looks in his mirror and sees only one car, moves over to let him by, then re-assumes his racing line, not knowing (or seeing) the second fast car. Many good **BLUE FLAGGERS** will attempt to signal the driver of the slow car with the **BLUE FLAG** followed by a number of fingers representing the number of fast cars approaching. **BLUE FLAG**, then lower it slightly and stick up your fingers. I am not sure if it works, some drivers say yes, others say no, but at least you are making an attempt to do something to help the situation.

Another situation, two slow cars running nose to tail and a fast car approaching the pair. You are forced to give the first slow car the **BLUE** as well as the second, but the first slow car may think (and see) only the second slow car in his mirror is the car you are **BLUEING** him for. This could cause a potential hazard. Again hand signals may help with this situation. I like to **BLUE** then point with an "up and over" type gesture to try to indicate to the lead slow car that a faster car is approaching from behind the pair. Again just make sure you are aware of the situation and try to handle it with the best interest of all three cars in mind.

What about the first couple laps of a race? Normally cars should be gridded such that cars together on the first few laps are equivalent in speed and are "racing" for position. This would not require **BLUE FLAGGING**... **NO BLUE FLAGGING during initial race laps and cars racing for position**. Another situation can happen, especially in mixed fields, when, say the lead car (a GT1) spins in turn 2 and re-enters in the back of the pack behind some slow HP cars. As the GT1 car gets back up to speed, he should shoot through the HP cars like they are standing still. Even though this may still be the first lap, the speed differential between the cars necessitates **BLUE FLAGGING** the slower cars on the first lap. Same with a GT1 car that missed qualifying and has to start in the back of the field. Again, you may be required to **BLUE FLAG** for him on the first lap.

Upcoming Events



That's it for 2015!!! The Club racing year is over, The Awards Banquet will be Saturday evening at the January Auto Club Speedway event.

January 9-10, 2016: Drivers School and Time Trials at Buttonwillow

January 16-17, 2016: West Coast Majors at Auto Club Speedway

February 20-21, 2016: West Coast Majors at Willow Springs



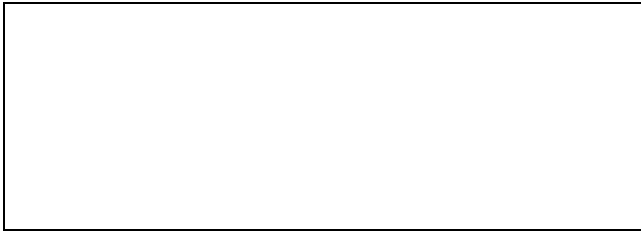


2016 Cal Club Racing Calendar



DATE	TRACK	EVENT
January 9-10, 2016	Buttonwillow	Super School, Time Trials
January 29-31, 2016	Auto Club Speedway	U.S. Majors
February 20-21, 2016	Willow Springs	U.S. Majors
March 12-13, 2016	Buttonwillow	Double Regional/Time Trials/Runoffs Qualifier
April 1-2, 2016	Long Beach	Formula E (<i>Race Officials</i>)
April 5, 2016	Long Beach	Press Day (<i>Race Officials</i>)
April 8-9, 2016	Long Beach	Formula Drift (<i>Race Officials</i>)
April 15-17, 2016	Long Beach	Indy Car - Long Beach (<i>Race Officials</i>)
April 29-May 1	Buttonwillow	U.S. Majors
June 11-12, 2016	Buttonwillow	Double Regional/Time Trials/Runoffs Qualifier
September 3-4, 2016	Buttonwillow	Double Regional/Time Trials/Runoffs Qualifier
October 29-30, 2016	Auto Club Speedway	Pacific Coast Road Racing Championships®





The last CSCC F&C News
4743 Canehill Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90713



***Happy
Thanksgiving!***



*It's been an entertaining road...
hope I made you smile once or twice
and that you continue to support the legacy
of Cal Club F&C far into the future!!!!*