

Over The Hill And Round the Bend

Southern Districts Motorsports Association
PO Box 1484
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Email: secretary@sdmahillclimb.com

February 2005

Notes

5th February - Track maintenance Day please come and help

15th February - Club meeting

27th February – 1st Hillclimb for 2005 – Kelly Edwards is Assistant Event Secretary – you can bring your entries to the club meeting on the 15th or post them. Kelly will not be available to take entries on the 24th (as shown on the entry form) or the 25th so make sure you have your entry in before the 23rd. or you will have to pay the late fee.

CONTACTS

President	John Templeton	0409 624 895
Vice President	Andrew Oldfield	0408 308 490
Secretary	David Yates	6238 2259
Assistant Secretary	Kelly Edwards	0422 760 729
Treasurer	Rae Ryan	0402 142 786
Public Officer	Paul Grelis	6299 2999
Club Captain	Terry Bennett	6288 7207
Magazine Editor	Barbara Bennett	6288 7207
Publicity Officer	Barbara Bennett	6288 7207
Membership	Terry Bennett	6288 7207
General Members	Leon Nolan, Col Merz, Tricia Charlton, Tony Charlton, Graham Charlton, Eva Firminger John Stewart	

As always if you have anything to contribute to the newsletter please send it to us at tandb@actewagl.net.au or phone us on 62887207. Reports and items of interest should be sent to us before the 25th of the month. .

Welcome to our new club members, we look forward to seeing some of you at our monthly meetings which are held at the Western Districts Rugby Union Club, the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Presidents Report:

2005 got off to a flying start (especially in Kelly's case) with the first SDMA navigation and observation event on Sunday. 20 or so hungry souls gathered at the Yacht Club for a hearty breakfast before being joined by later risers at 10.30 for a synchronised start, with David and Julie flagging the cars off at two-minute intervals. It's amazing how many things we drive past each day without really noticing--- and a lot of us continued to do the same on Sunday. After weaving round various parts of Canberra, everyone eventually arrived at Uriarra picnic area : Kelly being the first to arrive in her rocket powered Mazda well ahead of everyone else and well ahead of her scheduled time. Anthony Hyde decided to make the morning truly scenic by going to the Cotter Reserve first --- it was all planned, he insists. A good time and a good lunch was had by everyone, with many thanks (again) to David and Julie for setting the course, organising the breakfast, marking the results sheets and putting up with arguments about how many memorials there are on Anzac Parade, whether banners are flags etc etc. It was a very enjoyable and relaxing way to start what will be another good year for the club.

Eight club hillclimbs are scheduled this year, with the State Round to be held in April. We will again be asking club members to help out by being an official at events during the year, so can everyone please have a look at the calendar and let David know when you will be able to help out. For competitors in the Drivers Championship working at one event as an official will again be required of you, but the good news is that you will again get 20 championship points for doing so. Without wishing to sound boring (again!!), if we don't have officials we can't run events.

Can I recommend to everyone that they have a look at the club website (www.sdmahillclimb.com)--- some great work has been done there and it reflects really well on SDMA to have such a professional site.

While we have nine events this year, we will have eleven Track Maintenance Days. That means eleven opportunities to come along to the track and have an enjoyable day, half day or couple of hours helping out with maintenance, improvements and all the other tasks necessary to keep the track and facilities in good order. Can we please have a special effort this year to increase the numbers at Track Maintenance Days so the load doesn't keep falling on the same small group. Even if you can only turn up for a few hours, it will make a difference and will be much appreciated. Dates for the Track Maintenance Days are on the club calendar, in the club Magazine and on the club website.

Also on the club website shortly will be the revised Five Year Plan, from 2005 to 2009. In the last few years we have made enormous progress in improving the track and getting ourselves better organised, but there is still a great deal to do. Can I suggest everyone take time to have a look at the Plan, because it sets out what we want to do and how we hope to do it. The site improvement priorities for the next four years gives a very good idea of what's still to do, but it isn't all gloomy: think of how much we've already done!

See you at the club meeting ---Tuesday 15 Feb.

John

Congratulations to club members Laurie Burton and Daniel Shead for their class win and 16th outright at the second annual Mt Buller Sprint run by the Porsche Car Club Australia. The event is held over a sixteen kilometre road section leading up to the Mount Buller ski resort in the Victorian Alps. This years event was won by Jim Richards with Alex Davidson second both driving Porsches. Cameron McConville debuted the new Elfin Clubman powered by a Gen III 5.7 Litre Chev. Richards set a new record of 8mins 45.5secs.

Beb and Joy made the trek to Victoria to official at the event – its great to see our club members helping at events other than ours.

DataVoice Communications was once again our Major sponsor Ph: 6260 1111

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For sale

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR SDMA HAT, T-SHIRT, STICKER and of course – your number plate frame - its time you did. For those of you who haven't purchased these important items the prices are shown below. Contact Col Merz if you want to purchase these items or buy them next time you are at a hillclimb

Hats	\$15.00	SDMA cloth patches	\$5.00	T-shirts	\$20.00
Number plate frames		\$8.00 pair			

Please remember if you advertise an item for sale, please let me know when you sell that item. Ads will be removed after 3 months Barb

BLAST FROM THE PAST - 1986

Presidents report CARA February 1986 - prior to the track being formed into a complete circuit.

The circuit project continues to forge ahead. Estimated price has risen by another \$10000 with necessary add-ons such as essential concrete curbing; and while the project itself is shaping up very nicely, our fund-raising task isn't being made any easier.

The meeting of 16 February was not heavily attended, but the standard was extremely high, with Duane Wilson getting well down into the 37 sec bracket, and Geoff Boyd showing what he can do with a real car. Sunday 9 March is 'open day' practice from 1.00pm so come along and have a last run on the old track and at the same time contribute to club funds.

Vice-Presidents report

For the hearty (and hardy) few who attended and participated in the first meeting of the year, the 'Farewell to the Ol'Hill, February 16 was indeed a mixture. There were some exceptional performances considering the condition of the track and on behalf of all competitors I extend congratulations to Duane Wilson for his FTD and personal best of 37.73secs.

I know Errol Richardson was delighted with, and proud of, Duane's performance which followed a fine weekend at Bathurst for the NSWHC Round 1 after which he stands in third (?) outright place. As one who also competed at Bathurst I can inform you it was a great weekend, a fabulous hill with the best return road in the world!

Terry Bennett, Les Ball, Duane Wilson and myself competed, while welcome moral and pit crew support was provided by CARA members Barbara Bennett, Ian Holden, Merik Karman and Craig Gomba. The CARA contingent participating in the NSW Hillclimb Championship will be at Silverdale on March 2nd and Club support will be welcome at this and future rounds during the season.

I know Arthur, Jim, Dave and other members of the committee share my concern with the apathy apparently pervading the membership as a whole. A high percentage of membership subscriptions remain outstanding, working bees are not supported and only 14 (of which 2 were new) CARA members participated in our last meeting. We are constantly pleading for assistance to run the events and generally speaking, the committee (YOU committee) has the onerous responsibility of also making decisions about the club's future when it must seem at times that we couldn't count on having one. Make no mistake, CARA is at the cross-roads! If there isn't significant increase in involvement from the membership, with visible, tangible, actual support forthcoming, then you tell me where's the sense in building a top club circuit and then watching it fall apart with apathetic organization. Are you doing you bit?

Gary Angel

FACILITY NEWS

Our hillclimb venue looks a little unloved and has suffered a weed infestation with the briars, blackberries and St Johns Wort growing very well – too well in fact. However the weed spraying program has been started at the front gate and we are working up the hill. We have only done about 25% of the area so the task is still ahead of us but we will get it done.

The committee has updated our 5 year development plan and I urge members to make the time to read it and give some thought to the future. What would you like to see in say 2 or 3 years from now. Will we be happy to do more of the same? Will the challenge of the hill still be there or will we be looking for new competitions? What form will club motorsport take over the next 5 years? What are your views on say drifting, match racing or supersprints? Think about it over the next couple of months and discuss it. We have a fantastic venue and a very enthusiastic club but we need to plan ahead to maintain the momentum.

Now back to the present. The first track maintenance day will be this Saturday 5th Feb at 900am the main tasks will be mowing and trimming, backfilling some track edges, filling cracks in the track and making a start on shelving for one of the new containers.

The more that come to help the easier it is for everyone.

NSW Hillclimb Championship 2005

Sun 13-Feb Hillclimb Wakefield Park Hillclimb State MWSCC NSW NSWHC1
Sat 19-Mar Hillclimb Mountain Straight Hillclimb State BLCC NSW NSWHC2
Sun 20-Mar Hillclimb The Esses Hillclimb State BLCC NSW NSWHC3
Sun 10-Apr Hillclimb Fairbairn Park Hillclimb State SDMA NSW NSWHC4
Sun 15-May Hillclimb Huntly Hill Hillclimb State WSCC NSW NSWHC5
Sun 12-Jun Hillclimb Mountainview Hillclimb State GSCC NSW NSWHC6
Sat 30-Jul 31-Jul Hillclimb Ringwood Hillclimb State MG(Newc) NSW NSWHC7
Sun 17-Sep Hillclimb Bulahdelah Hillclimb State WAC NSW NSWHC8
Sat 22-Oct Hillclimb King Edward Park Hillclimb State MG(Newc) NSW NSWHC9

Navigation Event on Sunday January 30th.

When Brother Terry explained to us that a Navigation Event used to be called an Observation Trial, Cheryl and I were pleased to be invited along. We had been in three previous Observation Trials, the last one being circa 1984. They were always lots of fun, even though we had "heated discussion" on many of the finer points. We didn't have kids in 1984 but this time we brought along son Bryan as the Assistant Navigator.

None of us has Car racing experience, but as Terry takes great delight in pointing out to Col Merz, "we used to watch you in a Formula Vee at Warwick Farm in the late sixties!" We do venture out to Fairburn Park to spectate at assorted SDMA meetings, and be suitably impressed by the steady improvement in facilities (and competition). Cheryl and I have been organising motorcycle Trials in and around the ACT since 1973, and were quite involved with the MCC of Canberra when Fairburn Park first started.

We were advised to assemble at the Southern Cross Sailing Club at 10.15 as the event required an entry fee, a membership fee and a 10.30 start. Those more refined members were invited to breakfast at the club. Us riff-raff waited patiently until breakfast was over, where upon a rather disappointing number of starters swelled to a very respectable group of enthusiasts.

Our sister-in-law Barbara (some of you may know her!) was introducing us to many of you. As is nearly always the case, "old-timers" disease prevents one from correctly remembering everyone else.

Every Club relies on the efforts of a core group and we met a champion pair in Julie and David Yates. Their organisation of the entire event was an absolute credit to them, and a feather in the cap of SDMA. There is an unwritten law in this type of event, which we were reminded of at the presentation, "the organiser is always right!" A big thank you from this part of the Bennett family to Julie and David.

At the briefing I asked Terry who the young gentleman in the red shirt was. Anthony Hyde said Terry. I'm sure I know him from somewhere I said. Well Anthony and I were actually acquainted in the old MCC of Canberra back in the early seventies. It's really only a small town! We had an impromptu reunion and Anthony was kind enough to loan us a street map. Notwithstanding final placings, he really did have two.

A quick read through the instruction notes and we were pretty much aware of where we were going, and while we weren't absolutely sure of some of the answers, we did work out that we ought to finish at Uriarra Crossing.

We passed President John Templeton as he skillfully piloted, and navigated, the Lexus down Mount Pleasant, but were able to have a brief conversation with Joy and Beb Fox at the summit. It's always a pleasure to chat with folk who've been in Canberra longer than I have.

We visited the Tourist Information Centre in Dickson, and the Magna Carta memorial in Barton, two places we'd never visited before. A pleasant drive out past the remnants of Stromlo forest and on to Uriarra Crossing (West). Here we spent a very pleasant afternoon having a chat and a barby.

My thanks to John Stewart and Rod Noller for their technical tips on how to barbecue to the satisfaction of one's wife. Terry suggested that if the boys were picking on me, it meant that they were leaving him alone. I felt that referring to their immaculate chariot as a mobile loungeroom was decidedly unfair.

The official presentation of "non-competition" awards was very well received by all. When the event does two laps around the building in which you work, your local knowledge must come in handy. When you work with key club personnel, you must be almost unbeatable. Such was the case when Tony Smart took the outright award.

Chatting with Julie and Col Merz revealed that not only had we watched Col race at Warwick Farm, Oran Park and Fairburn Park, but we shared mutual acquaintances in the local scouting movement.

Thank you all for allowing us to be part of a truly memorable day.

Trevor, Cheryl and Bryan Bennett

Minutes of SDMA Club Meeting – 18 January 2005

Meeting opened 19: 38

Apologies: John Templeton, Bryan Fenwick, Beb Fox

**Andrew Oldfield chaired the meeting in John's absence.*

Correspondence in

- *Statements from Snowy Mountain Credit Union for working account and investment account.*
- *Email from Eva about State Round*
- *Email from Environment ACT about noise credits*
- *Calendar for noise credits*
- *Printout of noise credits used in 2004*
- *2005 NSW Motorsport calendar*
- *Email from Defence Families Australia about a function at Weston Park on 20 February*
- *Letter from Wests about room hire*
- *Flyer 'Search for a champ'*
- *Entry form and supp.regis. for NSW Hillclimb championship Wakefield Park 13 February*
- *Letter from Targa Tasmania about entries*
- *Invoice from First Aid Australia*
- *Invoice from CAMS for permit for social event*
- *Clubs NSW flyer for Carleonium 2005*
- *CAMS information on affiliation, fees, guidelines, track licence*

Correspondence out

- *CAMS affiliation and track licence application*
- *Emails to CAMS re: State Round*
- *Permit application to CAMS for social event*

President's report

Andrew welcomed all club members back for the 2005 season and reminded everyone about track maintenance days.

Secretary's report

David advised SDMA members of 30 January navigation event. David is taking entries for this event tonight.

David also called for volunteers for events in 2005.

Treasurer's report

Rae reported on SDMA's finances. The capital account has a balance of around \$23000. The account will be topped up and extended for another three months. This will leave about \$10000 in the working account.

Publicity Secretary/Magazine Editor's report:

Barbara recently updated the ACT government site.

Barbara said Michael Carstairs is publishing an online magazine on 1 February. He is seeking a President's report from SDMA. Barbara will speak to John T about this.

Barbara will be providing 'Race Pace' with a one page article on SDMA by the end of the month. Andrew suggested drafting a standard summary about the club, who we are and what we do. **This will be discussed at the committee meeting.**

Barbara said she and Terry had been responding to emails on the website seeking further information.

Barbara said the January magazine had gone out and she had posted all certificates and trophy tags out as well.

Club Captain's report:

Terry reminded club members about Dave King's hillclimb at Wakefield Park on 12 February.

General business

No general business

Meeting closed: 20.05

You might want to have a look at the following website:

www.capitalmotorsportnews.com.au

www.getoutgroup.com.au

<http://www.react.org.au>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for:

The Club has been invited to participate at the Defence Force Picnic at Weston Park for new Defence Force personel. The invitation has been extended to ACT and District clubs to show the incoming Defence staff what is available for them to do in Canberra. If you can spare some time on the **20th February** please contact Barbara on 62887207 – I don't have all the details as yet but will have them soon – e.g. start time, length of time we need to be there. If we don't get volunteers we won't be participating.

Wheels 2005 – Lawns near Old Parliament House

Sunday 13th March – we have space for 10 vehicles to be displayed, if you wish to spend some time at the event and put your car up for exhibition please contact Paul Grelis on 62992999 – leave a message if Paul doesn't answer the phone.