

SPEED TIMES

ISSUE 16 - January 2003



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Presidents Report

Rob Carroll

Greetings and a happy New Year to all members. Speed Week is almost upon us again and most arrangements are coming together. The lake is booked, fire and first aid personnel are ready to go and some water has been delivered, with more to come. (Thanks Trevor) As of writing this, Public Liability Insurance is still not finalised, but it is definitely not for the lack of trying. These people are so hard to get to commit themselves.

Speed Week this year, as you know, will be March 10-14. The Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and possibly Thursday morning will be for speed trials. Thursday and Friday will be for moving our camp to its new location. A large tilt tray truck and a backhoe has been organised to go to the lake Thursday morning to move the buildings. We also have the use of Len Newton's loader (with forks) to put them on the tilt tray for transport to the new campsite. The backhoe will be used to install the septic tank and plumbing underground, as well as help position each building as they are brought in. Also we have 2 x 5000-gallon water tanks which need to be positioned and plumbed into the shearing Shed. Obviously this is going to be a lot of work, so we need as many members as possible to help. The quicker we get this done, the less the hire charge for the truck and backhoe.

We also need some submissions for camp layout. If anyone has a better plan than the current camp, please contact us.

As in previous years each person going to speed week is asked to bring 20 litres of diesel for the generator and the Dodge truck. Even better if you can bring 40 litres as we will need some extra for the tilt-tray, backhoe and Len Newton's loader. Also as yet we have not had confirmation of a 200-litre donation from Shell that we normally get.

OIL SPILL CLEANUP

The possibility of oil spill from a blown engine or other causes is always present. As we do not want a repeat of last years mess, the club is buying 2 oil spill kits to be carried on the truck, along with shovels, brooms and water. If a spill occurs the meeting will be stopped until it is cleaned up properly. Please report any spills to the meeting director or timer by radio or other means. IF a spill kit is used, the onus is on the owner of the vehicle to pay for another kit. These are costing the club approx \$110 - \$120 each and once used can be disposed of in any rubbish bin. You are also encouraged to carry oil spill cleanup equipment in your own push vehicle.

UNREGISTERED VEHICLES

As Lake Gairdner is a national park it is regarded by law as a public road. Therefore all vehicles (including two, three and four wheel motorcycles) need to be registered or at least insured for the purpose in South Australia. This request has been made by Parks Ranger Craig Nixon, to cover ourselves against personal injury claims.

WOOLPACK RUBBISH BAGS

Anyone, who took his or her rubbish away in a wool pack last year, is reminded to bring it back for reuse this year, please.

TIMING EQUIPMENT

Our all-important timing equipment has arrived from the USA in good condition. This is in Adelaide not to make sure all plugs etc are compatible with the batteries that were repaired. Thanks once again to Gail Phillips and team for helping us there. They have saved us more than \$1000.00, which is excellent, especially when we have so many other costs involved with moving camp. Thanks also must go to Peter Noy for arranging the timing equipment with Gail and Dave Dooley.

SPEEDWEEK AUCTION

It goes without saying that we need heaps of items for the auction this year and also plenty of spirited bidding to go with it. Bring your items with you or give them to someone who is going if you can't make it. Animal will again be out auctioneer, so get set for a few laughs. We may even be able to get him to dress properly!!

CAMP RELOCATION

No doubt you will be asking yourself why our camp needs relocating. The main reason is Len and Joy Newton (Mt Ive Station owners) want the camp moved to a location more away from the general tourist's eyesight. This will be beneficial to us as the camp will be more secure. We will also have the use of the old shearing sheds and shearers' hut. These do need some repair but this can be done as we get time and money. There are several sheets of plasterboard that can be installed on the walls and ceiling of the shearers' hut, if someone has experience and equipment for such. Please let us know if you are prepared to do this job. Some laborers could also be used.

Rod's Ramblings

Rod Hadfield

I am writing this column in the hope that the newsletter will be out in time to get some more of the special fundraising tickets back in before the draw on Saturday night lotto the 1st of February. There has been a lot of work put in to get this happening, but alas a lot of tickets have not come back in. A \$3,000.00 prize is not to be sneezed at and if a ticket is drawn out that has not been sent back, the club gets the \$3,000.00, but that is not what is supposed to happen. If we get all the tickets back in we should be able to pay all the timing gear and our bond money, I am also staggered at the amount of mail that has been returned with addresses unknown. We posted every member tickets with the addresses we have been given.

Other things have been happening, two water tanks have been delivered to the new campsite, the new owners of the station are organising food for our event, what is planned is a different menu every day, for example, fish one day, chicken another, beef another, barbeque, Chinese etc., they are really trying to make it easier for us, so please all members support them, do

your own breakfast, but for lunch and dinner use the canteen. If we support them they will continue to help us.

Trevor Beck has been helping us out again behind the scenes, organising a truck to shift the camp and also gave our water tank a top-up after some film company needed some water, bought a truck load and used a bucket full, good one Trevor. Remember to plan to help shift the camp after this years meeting, a back hoe will be bought in along with a septic tank on the truck Trevor has organised to save bringing a special truck in with the loader. Septic lines are being bought in also and the plan is to put in the septic tank and poly lines, also needed are volunteers who know how to fit up plaster, there are plaster sheets in some of the rooms at the shearers quarters that just need to be installed, glue, tape and whatever else is needed for plaster installation is also required, can anyone help? We have the backhoe operator and knowledgeable plumbers to install the septic.

Andy Jenkins has been organising things as he always does, if you are a club member with an official position, please let us know if there are any problems in your area for this meeting, the lake is booked and water organised, dates for the meeting have been sent to magazines, the surveyors are organised as are the medics and the fire crew.

There is no necessity to try and have a general meeting before this years event as I think everything is under control, the blower for dust removal as discussed at the last meeting has been a problem but is being worked on.

An entry form is attached to this newsletter for those who need it, please enter before the event, as it is far easier to process the paperwork here rather than at the salt.

What a generous gesture our U.S.A. members Gail and Al Phillips have performed by sending a large monetary donation towards our timing equipment and also some great items for our auction, including a video of Gail conducting a tour through Jack Mendenhall's Museum of Gasoline Pumps and Automobile Memorabilia, including much Dry Lake related displays and what a display it is, she also sent some great T shirts and posters, thanks again Gail and Al. We also received some great material for the auction from Alex Curtis in the form of some early Australian Hot Rodding memorabilia. We also need to thank the following members for making monetary donations to the club recently to help get us through this fund shortage bought about by the timing gear servicing, these members are:
Tim Wilkins, Chris Hanlon, Gary Anderson, Tony Benetto and Russell Towe, thanks very much guys.

This years event T shirt and poster is under way, thanks to Norm and Vicki from Aussie Desert Cooler, showing a picture of Geoff Rea's '32 five window coupe with Mark Hadfield's and Wally James's Mustang featuring, with a list of longtime supporters on the rear of the T shirt. Mark and Wally have been putting a lot into the car this year especially in the exhaust department, John Lynch

has done a major reco of the bellytank, chasing that 300 mph crown. We have fitted steel tops to our doors with channel for the glass to lock into and painting is underway. We have installed an air intake from the front to flow air onto the driver's side floor, which should overcome the problem we had last year.

We have word of a V12 powered T Ford coming to this years event, two bikes from 400 miles out of Perth, a 540 cub. In. motor in an XD Ford and a couple of other entries from Castlemaine to run in previously uncontested classes. Norm Hardinge is fitting a full floater to his '34 Roadster (thank heavens), his motor is undergoing a rebuild, will it be the first Roadster outside the United States to run 200 mph?

I phoned John Dawson in Emerald to check on the situation up there and apparently all is on track and they will be in attendance at this year meeting. It seems Alan Murchison will not be running this year according to one of his team members, Greg Butler. Greg recently lost his father who took an great interest in all forms of motor sport including bikes, often calling into our workshop to inspect the goings on, he will be sadly missed. Chuck Salmen has been pushing his speed up a bit lately with pictures and text in the Bonneville Racing News that reports their salt is back to as good as it has ever been which could spell the end of teams from the U.S.A. visiting us.

That's all, see you at the lakeRod



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