

Houston SCCA Solo Committee meeting minutes 01Mar2016

Tech Report:

- 49 people did annual tech this year, 15 more than 2015
- Tech on 132 cars in the morning including 15 annual tech
- Confiscated 15 helmets
- Measured one truck for height vs width, same truck needed battery tied down
- One vehicle needed subwoofer removed

Fastrack:

- Move M3 (E36, non-LTW) (1995-1999) from STU to STR
- Looking for member feedback on moving the Fiat 500 Abarth from GS to HS.
- Looking for member comments on proposed rule wording on reruns for downed cones. Change in wording matches what we have been doing anyway. Car needs to get off course after stopping for downed cone expeditiously, DNF after stopping is ok, DNF before stopping for the downed cone does not allow a rerun.
- Looking for member comments on proposal to move Corvette Stingray (non-Z06) (2014-2016) from SS to AS.
- Mercedes GLA45 AMG in BS.
- Chevrolet Sonic (all) (2012-2016) in HS.
- BMW i3 (2014-2016) in HS.
- More versions of already classed cars added to proposed STP class.
- Pontiac Vibe (2003-2010) in HS.
- Porsche Boxster - 986 and 987.1 base model (1997-2008) Boxster S - 986 (2000-2006) Cayman - 987.1 base model (2007-2008) added to STU.

Last Month:

- Including DBs we had 209 entries, 4 runs. We had 4 heats. We started 15 minutes late which is the normal range.
- Overlap was about 25 seconds in the morning. We got behind and the cone/DNF issues were lower than last year. Fewer elements, fewer cones, which was a little more open helped with the cone carnage. So we lowered overlap closer to 20 seconds. Because of the generator stopping, we lost the exact numbers.
- Change over was more rapid because of 4 heat setup, closer to 10 minutes than 15 minutes.
- Event went smoother than last year's Grand Sport Speedway (GSS) event. Very few timing issues, changes to antennas and the tall tripods seemed to have solved the problems.
- Ricardo checked online but could not find any ordinance related to shutting down by 5:00.
- Our contract with GSS says we have to be off the site by 6 PM. Do we need to make an upper limit on entries to deal with the deadline? Expectation that we have 4 runs rather than 3 pushes us towards an entry cap. More entries grows the program. Perhaps finding some more efficiencies.
- Possibly open tech earlier.
- Start the rookie walkthrough earlier, we usually start at 9:15 but GSS took 30 minutes or so.
- Make a laminated document that has the schedule of when to announce certain things so that whoever is in the truck can make the announcements which reminds rookies what they need to do next.
- One of the limits is that tech does not open until Andy arrives with the tech box. We could keep some supplies in the trailer/truck and Andy only has to transfer some of the paperwork.

Starting Line School

- We got the check for site rental ahead of time this year.
- Two instructors from National, plus Andy and Daniel.
- Need 4-5 people from the regions.
- Helping train corner workers.
- Volunteers can run afternoon.
- Safety will be Robert. Setup starts at 7:00
- Wayne will bring truck and trailer. We decided from now on that it is easier just to bring the truck and trailer to HPA events.
- 18 students registered.

Next event

- Suggestion that we use our own cones instead of the HPA small cones. The small cones don't react the same when we brush them. The big square area is visually harder to see the course with the small cones. Contract says we can't use their cones, but we have an agreement with them that we have been using their cones. We still have to pay them for the time the officers spend to set up the course at the end of the event. That should not really change that much. They usually stop the clock after we get off the road course and they can start the assembly of the police course. We agreed to try using our cones this weekend for the school and the Sunday event.
- We will have 3 porta johns since we will be there two days.
- The food truck will be there on Sunday.
- Registration regulars will not be there. Doug, McCelvey dad, Gene, Raga, and some help from Lynn. will handle registration.
- Sober will be worker chief.
- Seth Eaton will be substitute Rookie Chief.

Site Cost

- RPR increased costs, double what we have been paying. We are scheduled for May practice and May event at RPR.
- GGP also informed us that event rental will be increased. They will sweep the lot, which picks up tire chunks and trash, not as much gravel as when we sweep it with a rental sweeper.
- Now that Jim H. is retired would he volunteer to run the gravel sweeper?
- Reed Road site is still blocked.
- We could raise entry fees to cover the site rental. At \$35 for 120-130 entries will still break even. HPA prices have not changed. We could let the cheap HPA subsidize the expensive sites.
- BMW charge \$30 an event and limits entries to maximum of 85. Our truck, etc., insurance, sanction fees cost us more.
- We will not change event cost now, and let Ricardo bring us a more detailed analysis based on the event site schedule for 2016.
- Proposal that we raise the event fee to \$35 and announce at the event. Voted down. We want to see the spreadsheet analysis (see Ricardo/Roger) action item.

Kart safety at HPA

- On courses that cross from the road course to the flat section, the course is closer than the 50' minimum from hard objects other than a curb. The yellow water barriers around the telephone pole are too close.
- Discussion via email did not arrive at a consensus.
- 4-5 people have mentioned that they were thinking about running junior karts in the near future.
- Unanimous agreement that we will no longer allow karts at HPA events. We can still run karts at RPR and GGP.

Other food trucks

- Roger has contacted some other food trucks that want to come out.

- We contact the current food truck about a week ahead to tell them about the event. He seems content to leave it to us to initiate asking for them to come out.
- We will try the other food trucks for the variety.