

## HouSCCA 13Jan2021 meeting minutes

**Solo** January event 109 entries so we should have made profit. We used the Farmtek timing system for the first time. Everything worked well except for the live timing, which crashed the houscca.com website a few times. Timing and Website chiefs are working on a bug with Farmtek.

**Rallye** The air park that we are using as the location is underwater again. It is a struggle to have events when it is too wet. Some comments from users that they want a more stable schedule but the weather has not been cooperative. People want that stable schedule before they buy a beater car. Later in the year it will dry out. Currently we are shooting for event every 2 months. February event will get cancelled because of how wet it is right now.

**Road Race.** Marshall training at COTA was very successful last weekend. We had 117 registrations, due to COVID. We ended up with 65 students. We covered flagging, equipment, radio protocol. We had a advanced F&C class also. We did a hands-on fire training on the track led by the safety team at COTA. We also had track car spinouts to practice communications.

The marshall training was an SCCA sanctioned event and there was a slip/fall in one of the buildings, which we reported to safety and sent in insurance forms.

For RR the proposal is to present the trophies at the weighing station where all the drivers gather in case of protests and for the top 3 cars in each class to get weighed. This is roughly the method used in some prior years. Kelly volunteered to assist in organizing this. We also used to post the photos on the website.

We have a bit of challenge with the year end trophies this year. We are breaking in a new team to handle the trophies. We decided due to COVID not to have the awards banquet this year. Richard would like us to step up our game for the next time and inputs are being sought out.

**Time Trials.** The committee is working on the rules that we will use for the Houston region events. We are going to work on setting up a Dyno Day. Track Casual has said they can host events, schedule is pretty flexible. Hit a brick wall trying to get an event scheduled at MSRH. We will be calling Grand Sport Speedway.

The RFID system is a project we should work towards. We could continue using the autocross type timing system. We could RFID for track sprint and time trial and it eliminates the need for transponders and associated rental costs. It is an estimated \$7700 investment. Last years 2020 events brought in last year by TT was \$37K before expenses. Proposed and seconded to move forward on RFID timing system. The system could in theory be used in Time Trial, Track Sprint, Autocross, and Rallye events. The cost of the RFID tags is pretty minimal and there are a variety of choices. We would probably not charge for the tags. The local vendor didn't want to demo due to COVID. \$7K includes the timing system, computers, displays, an estimated \$1K for the

start and aluminum truss system that holds the antennas. After discussion we decided to hold the vote after the board has a look at the proposal sent in the email.

**Website.** The proposal is to move to a different internet host that has better bandwidth, storage, etc. See the attached proposal on the emails. This is primarily due to the live timing for Solo crashing the website several times.

**Membership.** We have the fastest growing region in the country. There was discussion on whether this is the time to have a pure membership event, an outdoor food and drink event or a shop tour and mingle. A shop contacted us about setting up a visit. We should pursue that. Committee decided in a few months when more people have the vaccine we can set up an event.

**Treasurer.** Tax paperwork is in the process. We are hiring someone to handle our 990 which we filed an extension for. Our region exceeded the \$200K in raw revenue.

**Misc.**

- There is a big SCCA race at Hallet this weekend.
- This is not a for profit organization, we need provide value to our customers.
- At the region level online meeting, it sounded like other divisions are having more trouble than we are. Even though our autocross program struggled to make money last year, it sounded like the other regions had it much worse.
- There was a proposal to set up the autocross divisional series like we used to have. It disappeared when National events eliminated the requirement. It would require a volunteer to ramrod the Divisional organization. We should consider who would be a good fit.
- The person that was leading the Time Trial program in Dallas has stepped down and taken a full time job at one of the local tracks.

## Proposal: upgrading the HouSCCA web site

### The problem

The current web hosting provided by GoDaddy is inadequate for our needs.

- The account was set up without a full understanding of our requirements.
- We are currently at GoDaddy's lowest level of service, at a cost of \$13/month. This service tier is adequate only for the most basic of web sites.
- The web site becomes totally unresponsive when too many people check the results following a solo event. This has occurred for the past several events.
- With Rally and TT contemplating the adoption of Farmtek/Pronto as their timing solution, the problem is likely to become even more acute.

### Possible solutions

- GoDaddy offers a service tier at \$30/month that represents a substantial upgrade in processing power and memory relative to what we have now. They also have several additional levels of service if the \$30 option does not offer the performance to meet our needs.
- Amazon also offers web hosting. Their lowest level of service starts at \$35/month. While slightly more expensive than GoDaddy, Amazon's service offers better performance. They also have an additional level of service with even higher performance compared to GoDaddy.
- Oplink.net is the Houston-based hosting company used by the BMW club. They offer a level of service roughly equivalent to that offered by GoDaddy and Amazon for \$30/month. Their higher performance service tiers are priced slightly lower than the equivalents from GoDaddy and Amazon. As with Amazon, Oplink.net would require more work to get set up than GoDaddy.

### Recommendation

The least expensive and least labor-intensive solution over the near term is to upgrade our service on GoDaddy. Once we've assessed their ability to meet our needs, we can reevaluate whether it makes sense to upgrade further, and with whom.

## Summary

	Current service	GoDaddy	Amazon	Oplink.net
Cost per month	\$13	\$30	\$35	\$30
Cores	1 (shared)	1 (non-shared)	2 (non-shared)	1 (non-shared)
RAM	512Mb	2Gb	4Gb	4Gb
Storage	unlimited	60Gb	80Gb	100Gb
Pluses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Already set up and running</li> <li>✓ Works OK most of the time (except as mentioned above)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Easy to transfer site since we're already on GoDaddy</li> <li>✓ Cost increase prorated for the remainder of our current subscription</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Additional upgrade option compared to GoDaddy</li> <li>✓ Better performance per dollar than GoDaddy</li> <li>✓ Greater maximum performance compared to GoDaddy</li> <li>✓ Strong peer support and vendor documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Good technical support, since they are local</li> <li>✓ Better performance per dollar than GoDaddy</li> <li>✓ Upper performance tiers slightly better value for money than Amazon</li> <li>✓ Greater maximum performance than GoDaddy; not quite as good as Amazon</li> </ul>
Minuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Not enough computing resources for our needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Less performance per dollar than Amazon</li> <li>✗ One less upgrade option than Amazon</li> <li>✗ Less maximum performance than Amazon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ More effort to set up and administer compared to GoDaddy</li> <li>✗ Higher startup cost since we would be sacrificing the unused portion of our GoDaddy subscription</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ More effort to set up and administer compared to GoDaddy</li> <li>✗ Higher startup cost since we would be sacrificing the unused portion of our GoDaddy subscription</li> <li>✗ Lacks peer support and vendor documentation offered by Amazon</li> </ul>