

*Late June/Early July 2004*

### **HOLY CRAP!**

Wow, it sure seems like a long time since the last issue, doesn't it? But it's only been two full local events since the last newsletter, so with this issue you will be caught up on all the news that you can stand. So here; spam your mind:

### **NEXT EVENT**

Sunday, July 11 at ExpoPark. Come early, work hard, drive fast, and finish before the unpredictable rains come! This ought to be a very good day, so we'll see you there? For sure!

### **APRIL 25 EVENT RESULTS**

Another terrific kick-off. The opening event of the 2004 season saw about 40 drivers (and several new members!) show up on a beautiful day at ExpoPark for a fresh season of sideways fun. Perfect weather and a flowing course got the cobwebs out for sure. Results: (classifications may not be totally correct)

#### **A Production**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Barlow Cobra Mustang 54.491
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Darrell Schamp Mustang 55.548
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Swift Pontiac Firebird

#### **A Sedan**

- 1st Jason Rukavina Monte Carlo 58.186

#### **B Production**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Masterson Porsche 911 54.761
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Austin Mazda RX7 57.414
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Helen Morin Mustang 1:01.027
- 4<sup>th</sup> Travis Cummings Dodge Dakota (aka the body roll special) 1:07.978

#### **B Sedan**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reza Mapili Toyota Solara 52.879
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zach Gilmore Ford Contour 52.901

#### **C Production**

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Rowan Honda CRX 48.857
- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Weinzettel Honda CRX 48.909
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James Campbell Honda CRX 52.899
- 4<sup>th</sup> Kyle Figarelle Porsche 944 54.855
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gregory Madsen Porsche 951 55.374

#### **C Sedan**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Galen Smith VW Scirocco
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Doug Herold Ford Focus 54.003
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Drew Lovec Nissan 240SX 57.015
- 4<sup>th</sup> Couri Childs Honda Civic 57.313
- 5<sup>th</sup> Barry Armbrister Honda Accord 57.557

6<sup>th</sup> Isaac Baumgartner Toyota Celica 1:00.851

**GT-1**

1<sup>st</sup> Adam Johnson Ford Cobra Mustang 48.489

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Stevenson Mustang 49.181

3<sup>rd</sup> Jerry Rukavina Camaro 50.242

4<sup>th</sup> Dennis Figarelle Camaro 51.838

5<sup>th</sup> Kent Yoder Camaro 51.925

6<sup>th</sup> Steve Nutter Maverick 52.823

7<sup>th</sup> Kelly Rolfe Pontiac Trans-Am 53.716

8<sup>th</sup> Jeff Yoder Camaro 54.854

9<sup>th</sup> Matt Macdonald Mercury Cougar 59.987

**GT-2**

1<sup>st</sup> Rick Cummings Mercury Capri 49.726

**GT-3**

1<sup>st</sup> Gary Wolf Saab 9000 46.008

2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Messick VW Scirocco 50.500

3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Morin Toyota Celica 51.623

4<sup>th</sup> Greg Rice Toyota Celica 52.118

**Modified**

1<sup>st</sup> Dwight Gilliland Avenger 40.471 FAST TIME OF DAY!!!

2<sup>nd</sup> Kristi Gilliland Avenger 45.133

3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Arnett No times – car broke on 1<sup>st</sup> run

**Prepared 1**

1<sup>st</sup> Larry Akers Camaro 52.422

**Prepared 2**

Marty Johnson Toyota Mark 2 50.588

Big thanks to our out-of-town visitors and to **Champion Auto** for promoting the event. We love ya! Vroom, vroom.

**AND THEN IT RAINED**

The second event of the season was a highly anticipated run at the Helena Regional Airport facility on May 16. Yeah, sure. Nearly the moment the (really, really cool) course was set, it began to drizzle. And it just never stopped, although it did get worse and worse occasionally. So, being the wonderful bunch we are, we offered to let folks who chose to have wet fun make two “courtesy runs” as a reward for the tow and for just hanging in there. So NO POINTS, but here are the results of the day, simply in order of increasing time of the faster of two runs. Drip, drip. Sure did see some interesting lines out there! Very creative, and even agricultural. The open-wheeled guys deserve a big hand for driving without any vision. Now, that’s courage, and they got wet underwear, too. And the customary huge thanks to the course watchers who set up wet cones in a cold shower. Such dedication! If 3 dozen of the 4 dozen entries wanted to run in the rain, imagine the number of entrants we might

have had if the weather had not been so threatening. Autocrossers are a hardy breed, no? Maybe we need t-shirts that say "WILL AVOID ORANGE CONES FOR FOOD". Whadya think?

Zan Brady Audi 1:46.286  
Doug Herold Ford Focus 1:46.360  
Rico Salvino Subaru 1:48.939  
Dave Bowland Datsun 240Z 1:49.255  
Bill Dicus Datsun 1:50.327  
Zach Gilmor Ford Contour 1:51.317  
Darrell Schamp Mustang 1:51.599  
John Meeks BMW Mini 1:52.280  
Jeff Roe Mazda 1:52.434  
Jason Roan Corvette 1:52.548  
Namen Paul Pontiac Firebird 1:52.647  
Dean Mikes Mazda RX7 1:53.854  
Rick Turner Honda 1:54.270  
Jim Messick VW Scirocco 1:55.092  
Kane Nelson Mercury Cougar 1:55.164  
Tracy Mikes Mazda RX7 1:55.667  
Jeff Miklautsch Mustang 1:56.205  
Colter Cummings Mercury Capri 1:57.894  
Wing Spooner BMW Mini 1:59.244  
Drew Lovel Nissan 1:59.716  
Walt Davis Mustang 2:00.394  
Ed Austin Mazda RX7 2:00.626  
Amy Roan Corvette 2:00.628  
Paul Smith Datsun 240Z 2:01.811  
Allan Foss Mustang 2:02.031  
Tracy Amt Corvette 2:02.782  
Brian Goodman Dodge Daytona 2:05.441  
Couri Childs Honda Civic 2:08.261  
Rick Edwards Ford 2:09.275  
Rick Cummings Mercury Capri 2:14.061  
Donna Potter Mustang 2:14.181  
Anita Bell Ford 2:20.853  
Bruce Schlaebitz Red Devil 2:31.366  
Travis Cummings Dodge Dakota 2:32.474  
Dave Ebert Phantom F4J 2:38.610

## **JUNE 20 EXPOPARK AUTOCROSS**

**Bob Stevenson** set up a course that would make any course designer proud – busy yet flowing, and deceptively simple. Of course he got beat by a little bit on his own design; what else is new, but it kept you thinking. Another gloriously beautiful day until the rains came mid-afternoon just after all of the comp runs were

finished. No time for “free” buck runs to partially compensate for the rainout at Helena last month. Rats! But a wonderfully smooth day, thanks to helpers and volunteers who continue to amaze us all with their willingness to step up and make events so very enjoyable. Smooth beyond smooth. Awfully nice to have **Tom Masterson** bring out his daughter-in-law and our webmaster, **Sherri Masterson**, even if he did show her Porsche donuts more than he wanted to. New tires next, Tom? Thanks, Sherri, for all you do to keep this club strong, we appreciate you plenty. And our out-of-town competitors are pretty cool, too, because towing in, driving and working all day, and then towing home all tired and gritty is not easy. We do appreciate your dedication. Watch out for road critters – they can do more damage than cones can. The results:

### **A Production**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Darrel Schamp Mustang 1:02.180
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Olnstad Mustang 1:03.847
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rick Edwards Mustang 1:07.639

### **A Sedan**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Donna Potter Mustang 1:06.192

### **B Production**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dean Mikes Mazda RX7 58.187
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tracy Mikes Mazda RX7 59.671
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe Bernicker Mazda RX8 1:01.166 (such a bright yellow!)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jim Wilson Nissan 280ZX 1:03.282
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tom Mastersom Porsche 911 1:03.865
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sherri Masterson Porsche 911 1:14.583

### **B Sedan**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Zach Gilmor Ford Contour 1:00.914
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Morin Mustang 1:08.263

### **C Production**

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Rowan Honda CRX 56.562
- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Weinzettel Honda CRX 57.393
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Coby Christensen Dodge SRT-4 59.674
- 4<sup>th</sup> Alex Chung Subaru 1:00.187
- 5<sup>th</sup> Doug Herold Ford Focus 1:01.907
- 6<sup>th</sup> John Mann Honda Civic 1:03.281
- 7<sup>th</sup> Drew Lovel Nissan 1:05.811
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jan Lovec MG 1:09.882

### **C Sedan**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Barry Armbrister Honda Accord 1:05.724
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Couri Childds Honda Civic 1:06.344
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Shelby Iverson Eagle 1:10.474

### **GT-I**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Rukavina Camaro 55.753
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam Johnson Ford Cobra 56.334

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Stevenson Mustang 57.984
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dennis Figarelle Camaro 1:00.003
- 5<sup>th</sup> Steve Nutter Maverick 1:00.393
- 6<sup>th</sup> Kelly Rolfe Pontiac Trans-Am 1:01.692
- 7<sup>th</sup> Kent Yoder Camaro 1:02.582
- 8<sup>th</sup> Larry Akers Camaro 1:03.514
- 9<sup>th</sup> Matt Macdonald Mercury Cougar 1:08.889
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deb Yoder Camaro 1:10.640

#### GT-2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Clint Hauge Mazda RX3 58.662
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Cummings Mercury Capri 59.395
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Travis Cummings Mercury Capri 1:04.565

#### GT-3

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gary Wolf Saab 9000 54.186 FAST TIME OF DAY!!!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Messick VW Scirroco 59.446
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Morin Toyota Celica 1:01.178
- 4<sup>th</sup> Russ Wilson Toyota Celica 1:02.345
- 5<sup>th</sup> Greg Rice Toyota Celica 1:02.686
- 6<sup>th</sup> Jin Huotte Chevy Luv 1:08.169

#### Prepared 1

Dave Cooley Porsche 928 59.945

#### Prepared 2

Marty Johnson Toyota Mark 2 59.598

#### Prepared 3

David Thurston Plymouth Conquest 1:03.399

### **DEMO DERBY**

The Demo Derby is still on for the 7<sup>th</sup> of August – Saturday night. The club gets a great return for our participation (rebated facility rental) and members who assist get a free event day, tickets into the Fair, and cool t-shirts. But the big thing is that it's a rollicking good time. Tech inspection starts in the morning and runs throughout the day (remember the big Extreme Motorcycle show in the afternoon!), and the big event (along with its little brother, the Herbie Derby) is the evening entertainment. WE NEED HELP, AND WE NEED TO KNOW WHO THAT MIGHT BE RIGHT NOW, NOT THE EVENING OF THE EVENT. So please call **Ed Austin** at 452-1135 so we know exactly who can be there and to make sure that we have enough folks to tech, time, judge, and generally oversee this important event. Thanks for your assistance, of course.

### **MONEY TALK**

The club is in good financial shape right now, thanks in large part to the **Heppner's, Anita and Paul**, who are just the best and most responsible couple ever. But just as a heads-up, the club will need to take a look at increasing event fees in the future, like next year.

So mull over a \$5.00 per event increase to see what it does to your autocrossing plans. Inflation is everywhere, and even with a fee increase, this is damn cheap car fun. This topic will be discussed at upcoming club meetings, so bring your opinion.

### **NOT ALL NEWS IS GOOD NEWS**

**Lois Masterson**, wife of Tom Masterson and a very gracious lady/dancer/businesswoman/dog enthusiast/mom/driver to boot, recently lost a tough battle against lung cancer. Lois turned more than a wheel or two in this sport, and was a strong motorsports supporter through and through. She will be missed often and deeply by those who knew her. Our club and individual condolences go out to Tom and the children, and we will all say a little extra something in our prayers. Her memorial will be held Saturday, July 10, at 11:00 AM at Giant Springs. Godspeed.

### **THOUGHTS AT LARGE**

- The Yellowstone Region in Billings indicates in its last newsletter that less than two dozen competitors are entered in each of their last several events (in a very, very ambitious season schedule), and that the age-old problem of too many late arrivals and early leavers are burning folks out. This club remains convinced that the combination of a reasonable number of really quality events keeps us healthy, and that the work schedules and worker attitudes are truly spreading out the work load. Please don't ever be hesitant to offer to learn a new club job; there's always room for more help.
- There sure are a lot of nice competent new cars out there that run exceptionally hard right off of the showroom floor; we see them at our events along with older cars that have been massaged into quickness over the years with hard work, determination, and a certain attitude. And they all run competitively together. Ditto with the front vs rear wheel thing – never mind 4wd! It's just very rewarding and interesting to see all of the different ways folks see the automobile, and how they manifest their own personal tastes and styles.
- Drifting is apparently a big deal elsewhere. Any interest here? Steve? Tom?
- Someone suggested a club swap meet – your chance to take home someone else's car junk. Any interest?
- **The Rukavina's** just suffered a nasty lightning-caused house fire. **Jerry, Ev**, and the cat are all just fine, but the family's killer 600hp aluminum race motor was totally consumed by the blaze. Donations for a replacement will be gratefully and gleefully accepted. Seriously, many thanks to those of you who called to offer help following the fire. We are

lucky to be here and enjoy your friendship

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, July 29, 2004, at 7:30 PM at the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Hardee's Restaurant. Be there. For more information, call Ed Austin at 452-1135 or Jerry Rukavina at 761-4357. The schedule for all Montana SCCA regions is attached to this Panic Slip for the benefit of those who may want to autocross elsewhere. Go! Run like the wind.