



The Panic Slip



November Meeting Highlights

We had a productive, informative meeting in November and, among other business, elected our officers for 2013. Most of this month's Panic Slip is devoted to informing our racers on current happenings in 2013 season planning.

Nominations were received for all positions and together we voted in the following folks:

Region Executive – Kip Anderson
 Assistance RE – Dustin Ostberg
 Treasurer – Stan Howard
 Secretary – David Sherman
 Competition Chair – Nathan Church

We have a lot of folks who have stepped up to fill committee chair positions – all were confirmed by our new officers for the 2013 season:

Safety Steward chair – Bob Stevenson
 Event Chairs – Jeremy Shaw, Kat Hardy
 Timing and Scoring – Jeff Thill
 Panic Slip Editor – David Sherman

A productive discussion concerning next year's Street Survival program took place as well (if you're not familiar with Street Survival, it's a driver education program targeting young drivers sponsored by Tire Rack and the SCCA – more information is available at <http://streetsurvival.org/> and <http://streetsurvival.org/>). All key positions for conducting the event were filled with Jerry Rukavina agreeing to instruct the classroom portion of the training while Jeff Thill organizes

and leads our event driving instructors. Dustin Ostberg will be helping out as the event marshal to keep everything flowing on the day of the event. Our target dates are either May 4th or 11th, 2013 – right now, May 11th looks more likely. Once we receive and sign a contract with our venue (Expo Park), we'll begin our advertising campaign to get students and local sponsors.

We also received an update on next year's schedule (planning on track but not yet finalized) and our banquet (Brian Franklin is trying to get some old 8mm film of events transferred to DVDs for entertainment).

The last item of old business was revamping our Top Gun scoring system. Jeff Thill briefed the new scoring system we'll be using – in short, the winning region for Top Gun will be determined based on cumulative PAX scoring. This won't affect how we score our regular season events – this only applies to Top Gun.

In new business, winterizing our race trailer was discussed briefly. Brian Franklin has already started accomplishing this and has agreed to make sure it's properly prepared for the off season.

Discussion of the race trailer led to concerns about our "porta-potty" trailer's condition. Members proposed several possible solutions to bring our "facilities" up to par for venues without latrines (replace bad wood pieces, tires, suspension; replace with new trailer, etc.) – we agreed to hold off on any actions until we receive a response from Malmstrom on our

proposal to resume our racing partnership with them as that's the only venue for which we currently need the trailer.

Also brought up was a proposal to send two officer representatives to the SCCA Solo convention in August 2013. The thought is to send two formal or informal leaders from amongst our ranks to both represent our region on the national level as well as to bring back the latest information and trends for conducting autocross events. Membership thought this was a good idea and agreed to hold this as an open item until early summer, 2013 to allow for an accurate cost estimate.

The last item was our meeting schedule for the next two months. Due to the holidays, we are not holding a December meeting. We also do not have plans to hold a January meeting unless a pressing issues surfaces that requires immediate attention.

Next Year's Events

We're still looking at a great racing year for 2013. We've contacted Malmstrom AFB and requested to resume a partnership relationship to once again hold events on their flightline. We don't expect any response until January at the earliest but do have high hopes on working again with their personnel.

Regardless of the outcome of our discussions with Malmstrom AFB, we still have a top-flight season laid out for our members and guests. Lots of Expo Park racing, several extra events down at Helena outside of the Montana Challenge series, and more. We anticipate finalizing the schedule and getting it out in early April – we'll e-mail out to all Panic Slip recipients when it's published.

Racing Tips from the Grid

This month's racing tip starts with the most basic of basics – getting in your car prior to starting your autocross run.

Proper positioning in your car is vital to your success on the course. Your seat needs to be adjusted to allow you to fully depress your brake (and normally clutch as well) while leaving a slight bend in your knees. Your seatback should be reasonably upright – enough so that you can comfortably rest the inside of your wrist on the top of your steering wheel. Your seat belt should be close to uncomfortably snug to hold you firmly in your seat.

This position maximizes control over your car as well as enhances your safety in case of loss of control (cough, cough – I mean “exploring the edges of your traction envelope”)!

Due to the holiday season, we won't have a December membership meeting. We'll look forward to seeing you at our January banquet!



Happy Holidays from Region 105

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