



The Panic Slip



And our 2014 Officers will be...

Thanks to all who participated in our November meeting and officer elections. Our officers for 2014 will be:

Regional Executive: **Stan Howard**

Assistant Regional Executive: **Lane Holmberg**

Treasurer: **Bob Nommensen**

Secretary: **Aaron Gray**

Competition Chair: **Clint Oppelt**

2014 Race Schedule – Coming Soon!



November Meeting Minutes

Our complete November meeting minutes will be reviewed and finalized at our next monthly meeting in 2014. The highlights of our meeting were:

- Officer elections (previously covered in this newsletter)
- An extensive re-write of our by-laws and competition rules was approved. New by-laws and competitions rules will be posted at www.greatfallsracing.com
- Our annual award banquet will be on January 23rd at the Amigo with a free-for-members enchilada/taco bar and sodas.

Tips from the Grid

With the days getting shorter and cooler it can only mean that winter is here and the holidays just around the corner. This brings us to this month's topic: track equipment that we can hope comes to us in December!

After years of racing, I've finally pared down my equipment that I take to events from a semi-trailer load down to the minimum basics that I can easily fit in a milk crate. Regardless of the class in which you race (excepting F-mods and carts – they have very special equipment needs!), we'll discuss the bare-bones equipment you should always bring with you as well as a brief mention of some of the specialty equipment needed for non-stock/street classes.

First and foremost is an extremely affordable set of items – an ink pen and notebook. As we’ve covered before, for every race you should log the date, time, and venue for each run, the track/weather conditions, tire brand/type, tire pressures, and your run times. From this competition history, you’ll have a reference library of how to set up your car for future races – this helps maximize your car’s capabilities by having it at or near the best possible set-up at the beginning of the race day rather than taking a few extra runs to work it out. For extra coolness points, you can get a “waterproof paper” notebook and a Fisher Space pen; however, a pocket-sized spiral notebook and free pen from your credit union will serve admirably.

The second item is a quality tire pressure gage. Pressure gages vary from the \$1 gages you pick up in the checkout at Town Pump to \$325 top-of-the-line track gages. I’ve generally spent no more than \$30 for a brand-name tire gage for autocrossing. You’ll want to get a gage that you can easily read to at least the ½ pound range and, as an added bonus, you can sometimes find a “pass through” gage that allows you to add air through the gage itself.



“Pass-through” tire gage

The last “basic” item to bring is a clean rag or a roll of paper towels. You’ll need these when checking your fluid levels before the race as well as potentially between run sessions.

After these basic items, we expand into some of the specialty equipment that you may need depending

on your racing class. A low-profile, short-handled jack (\$30-70), jack stands (\$20 a pair), a ½ inch drive “click-type” torque wrench (~\$50), a lug wrench (<\$10) and/or an impact gun (\$60 + rechargeable battery), and either a portable air tank (\$40) or small 12 volt air compressor (\$15-25) may be useful or necessary to safely race in your class. You don’t need to over-buy and get top shelf equipment; however, generally paying a little more for a quality product pays dividends over the years.

Lastly, you may want to purchase a plastic or rubber storage container to pack your equipment to and from the races as well as to keep it contained and organized at the events. Between our local home improvement and department stores, there’s a wide selection different sizes and types of containers – in this purchase, it can be helpful to over-buy in the size of your container as inevitably you wind up adding other odds and ends that you hadn’t originally planned to include. A snap-in-place lid or a lid which latches down is also a good idea to keep the wind from carrying it off.

Best wishes for the holidays, be safe, and see you next year!



Is this a Christmas-powered car or a car-powered tree?

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