

Southland Sports Car Club Inc

Newsletter, June 2006



Don't get a shock, but we have finally had time to organise a newsletter. Sorry about the long delay.

NEXT SEASON

Dates for next season have been finalised and are as follows.

October 1st 2006

Clubmans, Motorcycles, 1 Hour Race, Otago / Southland Challenge

November 5th 2006

Clubmans

December 3rd 2006

Clubmans, Super 6, Kumho Sport Saloons, Pre 65 Saloons.

January 12-14th 2007

Paul Kelly Series NZV8s, Porsche GT3, Toyota Racing Series (NZGP) Production Racing, Formula Ford, BMW Mini Challenge.

February 16-18th 2007

Classics, Clubmans, Mini 7s

March 16-18th 2007

Clubmans, Endurance Race (3hr), Super 6, Kumho Sports Saloons, Pre 65

As you can see it is once again a full on year.

Entry forms will be sent out for the first meeting of the season, and entry forms are available on the website. It is up to the people wishing to enter the race meetings to make sure their entry forms are on time.

For more information on the above meetings, just look on www.teretonga.org.nz.

CLUBSPORT

Brendon Mitchell (Clubsport Chairman) has held a couple of events at Teretonga Park, but unfortunately not many people have attended. Remember this is where grassroots motor sport starts. Look on the website for future dates this season.

CONFERENCE

The 59th AGCM of Motorsport NZ was held in Auckland over the weekend of 12-14th May. Wayne Shiefflebein and Wendy Jenks represented our club.

There was no change to President, so Steven Kennedy is President for another year. There was an election for Vice President but once again Paul Te Punga won. The other VP Martin Fine was not up for nomination this year. Only one Executive Member was up for re-election and that was Murray Starnes and he also won.

Good news for the south was that Karen Clearwater polled very high in her nomination for Race Commission and is on for a 2 year period. Roger Laird is still on the Rally Commission and Barry Leitch is Chairman of the Historic Commission, so as you can see the south is well represented on the commissions of Motorsport New Zealand.

At the conference there were no major issues which obviously means Motorsport NZ are doing things right. The awards dinner on Saturday night was once again a glitzy event where all the prizewinners are

rewarded with trophies for their season's efforts. Of very special interest to us was the Distinguished Service Award presented to Roger Laird for his services to Motorsport. Well deserved, congratulations Roger from all of us.

RACE TO THE SKY

Well the 9th annual Race to the Sky was held at Easter at Cardrona and once again the SSCC organised the Marshals for the weekend. It was great to have volunteers offer to help run this event, which is a very popular weekend for competitors.

Once again Monster Tajima won the event with the fastest time ever. Brendon Mitchell was second in the Dong Feng Challenge for trucks. Well done Brendon. Next year is the 10th year, so if you want to have a weekend away, with the possibility of it being the last one, make plans now.

PIT OFFICE

As most people are aware the pit office is the hub of the infield on race days and it has become too small. We are on the lookout for a new one about four times the size, so if anyone knows of a transportable that may be suitable (and not too

expensive) please give Paul (216 5687) or Wendy (213 0037) a call.

MID YEAR SOCIAL AND PRIZEGIVING

This is to be held on 1st July at Club Southland from 7pm. The cost is \$20 per head for a 2 course meal, and you purchase your own drinks. Everyone is most welcome, including Marshals, pit crews etc. Tickets may be purchased by calling Wendy on 03 2130037 or email jenks@southnet.co.nz

This is an opportunity to have a get together during the off season. Let's make it happen.

POSITIONS

At the moment the Southland Sports Car Club is in a very critical position in filling major positions within the club. We are experiencing a shortage of Clerks of Course, (A and B Grade) and Competitor Relation Officers. This past season we had to get people from further north to fill these positions, which is disappointing, as there are many capable people within this club who could fill these positions.

Give it some thought. If you no longer compete you may be able to give us a hand.

NEW ZEALAND GRAND PRIX 2007

At conference it was announced that Teretonga Park has the New Zealand Grand Prix for Toyota Racing for 2007, which is great news as it is Teretonga Park's 50th year. Also at this event are the NZV8's, Porsche GT3, BMW Mini Challenge, Production Racing Series, Formula Ford and NZV8s Development. This event is to be held on the 12-14 January 2007.

RALLY SCENE

Motorsport New Zealand is pleased to announce the 2006 Rally Xtreme Championship. This competition provides a unique and challenging championship to decide the overall winner of the 4WD and 2WD Motorsport New Zealand Xtreme Championship for Regional Competitors.

This competition is open to competitors contesting the three established regional rally series in both 2WD and 4WD categories and excludes those competitors who are registered for the 2006 NZ Rally Championship as the number one driver or have competed in the NZ Rally Championship in the 2005 rally season or is the current

holder of a valid motorsport A or B seeding.

The co - ordinators will determine the overall winner in each of the classes, by an aggregate of points scored from the competitors best results in two of the three resident island regional rally series specified events, plus the points gained from their chosen in the event in the island of non residence. A formal registration is required to enter the Rally Xtreme Championship.

The Southland round of the competition is to be held on the 10th June around the roads of Southland. This is also a round of the Mainland Series and the Laird Motorsport Southern Series rallies. As we go to print we have 72 entries which is the best we have had for some years. We are still short of a few helpers, so if you can give a hand please contact Richard Clapperton on 03 235 7078

RACE SEASON

Although it seems ages since the race season finished, we still need to reflect on what happened. Numbers were up a little on last season, which made it another very busy year with 5 meetings promoted by the SSCC and the NZGP meeting.

The September meeting was a shake down to start the season with Clubmans cars and Motorcycles, including the Otago - Southland Challenge (which Southland won) and the 1 hour race, (Donald Walker was the winner) which is a nice way to start the season.

The meeting was also the initial event sponsored by Fulton Hogan Southland throughout the season.

At the November race meeting we had Clubmans, South Island Formula Ford and Mini 7s. We had another dry meeting with some very good racing.

The December Race meeting was a very busy one with Clubmans, OSCA, Sports Saloons, Pro 7's and Super 6. There was some very close, exciting racing once again. Santa also made an appearance after the racing concluded for the day.

The NZGP meeting in January started out really great with full fields etc BUT the weather was against us. It would have been the worst conditions I have ever experienced. We were digging drains to try and make them cope with the water. We were very lucky to have the meeting at all – but Southland peoples “can

do” attitude made it happen. Great work everyone. It is awesome to have so many people who are so willing to help make things work.

The Leitch Motorsport / Southland Times Classic Speedfest was another great meeting with some very classy cars entered. I think it was one of the best Speedfest's yet.

Endurance racing was back in force at the March meeting with 31 cars competing. We held the race on Saturday afternoon after practice for the TraNZams, Super 6, NZV8 Tier 2 and Pre 65. Clubmans practiced on Sunday. This was another very big race weekend. A great finale to the race season.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in one way or another this season. As I have said before we had some very trying times but we got through. Thanks to all our sponsors, you definitely make our job easier.

2007

The year 2007 is very significant to Teretonga Park. In November 2007 the circuit is 50 years old. We are going to celebrate this milestone throughout the year, starting with hosting of the NZGP Meeting in

January. In February at the Leitch Motorsport Classic Speedfest we are going to honour a Southland man synonymous with the car building industry, George Begg. We have a few of the cars he built coming to that meeting.

A celebration dinner to commemorate the 50 years will be held in November.

PRODRIVE

The club has recently completed another intake of students for this worthwhile course. There were limited dates available as our track has been heavily booked but the 8th, 29th & 30th April and 16th May saw us host busy days at Teretonga Park. Thanks to all the tutors as it is a commitment when we are already busy. Thanks to new tutors Alan Smellie and Carter Strang. We are planning to make some sessions available to club members and their partners if spaces are available when Prodrive is here next. This may not be for some time but we will advise closer to that time.

PROJECT COMMITTEE

One meeting has been held. Another sub committee meeting saw the sending of a letter and plans to Motorsport NZ Safety

Department, basically asking for "approval in concept" of a proposal to shift the pits to the outside of the circuit. A reply has been forthcoming and another meeting of the Project Committee is scheduled for 8th June.

MEMBER TRACK HIRES

It has come to the attention of the Executive that some members are flouting the rules of track hires. Please read the conditions of hire. If you are caught breaking the rules you will be dealt with.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

Use of the Teretonga circuit increased by 11% for motor races over the last season compared to the 2004/5 season. This is a new record. 545 competitors covered 15,507 laps of the 2.61km circuit. That's 40,473 km of racing! Record entries in the three hour saloon car race boosted the 12/13 March meeting which put up the most laps. Its 5,058 laps exceeded the Grand Prix and SpeedFest meetings. Not surprisingly hours put in by volunteers also reached a peak, 983 marshals put in 5,681 hours of work so that drivers could take part in the 114 races of the season.

Despite the terrible weather for the Sunday of the Paul Kelly meeting which featured the New Zealand Grand Prix, the meeting is still expected to show a profit to the club.

CONGRATULATIONS

Several of our members have been racing very successfully around the country throughout the 2005/2006 motor racing season.

Glen Brazier and Wayne Tuffley both went extremely well in Kumho Pre 65 Saloon racing again this year. Glen made a clean sweep of the Overall, Class A and Reverse Grid titles in the South Island Series.

At the end of the season he held the lap record at every South Island circuit plus the new Taupo Motorsport Centre where he raced as part of the North / South Pre 65 Challenge.

Meanwhile Wayne finished 2nd overall in the South Island Series and 3rd in his Class. He like Glen was part of a very successful South Island team that defeated the North in their inter – island challenge.

Alan Crawford of Invercargill contested two North Island

meetings in his Mini in March and April.

The first event was at Manfeild where he grabbed a 4th and two 2nd placings in his class and an 11th, 9th and 3rd overall. He then moved on to the new Taupo Motorsport Centre and after finding his bearings on the circuit which was initially "totally confusing", he managed to qualify a fine 2nd overall. He followed that performance up with a 7th, 4th and 2nd place in the final race after coming through from 14th on the grid and leading the race until the final corner.

Darryn Andrews and Jason Pryde were also second in their classes in the Kumho Sport Saloon Series.

Congratulations to all our members who have achieved at various levels over the past few months.

DFAC CHALLENGE

Brendon Mitchell was the Southland Sports Car Club's representative in the DFAC Challenge at the recent Silverstone Race To The Sky.

The DFAC Challenge involved six selected drivers competing in Dong Feng trucks on the Rallycross

circuit at the foot of the famous hill.

As reigning Speed Champion Brendon was our club's representative and he certainly did the club proud.

BAYVIEW HOTEL/PUB CHARITY WHERE THE JOURNEY BEGINS BLUFF HILLCLIMB

Ross MacKay of Ashburton won the inaugural Bayview Hotel/Pub Charity Bluff Hillclimb on Saturday 18 March.

The first local home was Steve Heffernan in his Van Diemen RF92.

The hill found favour with most competitors and plans are underway for a repeat with perhaps a sister event over the same weekend.

Thank you to all those who helped to make this event a reality.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy 50th Anniversary to our good neighbours the Eastern Southland Car Club who celebrate on 16/17 June at the Scenic Circle Hotel in Gore.

The club was a branch of our club until 1956 when the Eastern Southland Car Club was formed.

Since that time the club has produced several top class competitors on the national scene and several of their members have contributed a great deal to the sport both locally and nationally.

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