

May 2025 SOVREN BOD Meeting Minutes

May 14th, 2025

5:30 pm Social time

6:00 pm Meeting Start

Board members in attendance: Craig Larsen, Bill Simer, John Allen, Rich Newman, Jamie Buskirk, John Rankin, Jeff Kerney, Mike Lawler

Officials and guest in attendance: Linda Grass, Mike Evans, Sherri Masterson, Stephen Newby, Martin Rudow, Loren Campbell, Brin Hamilton, Steve Poole, Mary Zeitner, Corky Russell, Mike Nau, Rod Gronka, Craig Hillis, Jacque Riehl, Bobbie Kalben.

1. Approval of April BOD meeting minutes. Race Chair Mike Lawler made a motion to approve, seconded by Treasurer Rich Newman.
2. Race report; Spring Sprints. Generally very successful was the consensus. A new feature, introduced at the drivers meeting to some skepticism, was to have cars coming off track into the paddock go through the Tech station, where they could be observed and their drivers notified of any fluid leaks or visible damage. The intent was also to have drivers who had been involved in on track incidents remain in impound to allow Tech inspectors to more carefully check their cars and to take their accounts of said incidents to help the Competition Committee members assign responsibility. Happily, there were zero cases of car to car contact, and only one incident resulting in significant damage to a car. Drivers seemed much more supportive of the system after seeing it in action, and it will be carried on to the next event in Spokane. Drivers Services has been combined with and located at Tech, staffed for the weekend by Mary Zeitner.

Friday was our annual Novice Day, and it was successful, with all 7 drivers coming through it getting high marks from Novice Chair Stephen Newby and their fellow racers. They were described as courteous and clean.

The YODA program was also firing on all cylinders, with 10 of the 14 eligible drivers entered in the event. Racers reported energetic, excellent “vibes” in the paddock, with the younger drivers bringing friends and family out for the weekend.

Speedhive/MyLaps has replaced Race Hero as the timing and scoring app, and everyone reported difficulty getting timely results, and even in finding the event on the app. Sherri Masterson is working on this with MSR and Speedhive, and will include an instruction sheet in the drivers packet for races to come. Sherri reported 74 racer entries and 75 car entries for the weekend, and the Friday Test ‘n Tune having 43 entries and the Novice program 8 entries. The optional cancellation insurance policy offered through MSR is getting off the ground, and at least one member has filed a claim for a refund of their entry fee after a mechanical issue kept them from racing. Stay tuned...

3. Upcoming races.

Spokane; Bill Simer announced a new partnership with Meal on Wheels, and a new catchphrase, "Hot Wheels for Hot Meals". Also, the Spokane Police Department has agreed to provide a motorcycle escort for the racers travelling from the track to downtown. Mike Lawler added that the Spokane Downtown Partnership has offered to help prepare and distribute a press release for the event.

The sad announcement that the Velocity Invitational has cancelled their event at Sonoma, scheduled for the same weekend in June, may benefit our Spokane race, as some NW racers will redirect to Spokane. VRM (Vintage Racing Motors) will be bringing their transporter and 6-8 cars, and we're hoping others follow suit.

There will be a Car Corral happening as well, with the Porsche Club expecting to have 30+ cars on hand for that.

The improvements to the runoff areas have been documented and posted online in a GoPro video on the Spokane Festival of Speed Facebook page. This is looking to be a great event, so make sure you're there!

Historics: Jamie Buskirk presented on behalf of the Historics Planning Committee. News includes Chuck Ward, whose AP Corvette sadly expired during the last race of the Spring Sprints weekend, volunteering to be Volunteer Wrangler for the Historics weekend, with Jeff Kerney handling recruitment of volunteers. 2 more cars have been located for exhibition, for a total of 7.

The event poster has been received from the printer, and it is beautiful. Thanks to Brin Hamilton and Loren Campbell for their yeoman's work on the Club's behalf. Martin Rudow has some posters for distribution, if you didn't get one at the Spring Sprints. Martin Rudow is also still accepting advertisements for the program, but hurry, the deadline, June 1st is coming up soon.

Diana Hodgins of Pacific Raceways and Registrar Sherri Masterson have set up entries for the Car Corral on MSR, and entries can also be placed with Diana directly at the Pacific Raceways office.

4. Finance report: Treasurer Rich Newman presented a quick P&L comparison between last year's Spring Sprints and this year's. We had about 10 more entries this year, resulting in approximately \$7,000 more gross income. Bill Simer pointed to the positive direction the numbers are indicating.

5. Administrative report; Sherri Masterson reported 241 members, including 159 racing members. New memberships are ticking up, largely attributable to the YODA program.

6. Outreach; Loren Campbell spoke of preparations for attendance at various car shows and events. Upcoming events are the Women in Motorsport at the LeMay, Fenders on Front Street in downtown Issaquah, and the Greenwood car show in Seattle. These are opportunities to attract spectators and recruit volunteers, workers and drivers. SOVREN members are encouraged to attend and help out with car show logistics. An Ambassador program is in the planning stage, which would have drivers give guided tours of the paddock during race weekends for prospective sponsors and advertisers.

7. President's items; Craig Larsen spoke about the current open Vice President position on the Board. He notes having 2 strong candidates currently, but encouraged any qualified candidates to reach out to him. He would like to address this again at the June meeting.

Sherri Masterson spoke about the possibility of consolidating Mid and Large Bore run groups if their car counts don't improve. This would increase session lengths from 15-20 minutes to 20-25 minutes, and make the on track racing more appealing to spectators.

John Rankin made a proposal to compensate Board members, particularly Competition Committee members, in the event that their duties prohibit them from racing for an entire day or more in a race weekend. This compensation could be a discount on a future event. This was supported by Rich Newman and Bill Simer, and Sherri Masterson recalled a similar program in the past. The Board agreed that if a racing Board member misses an entire day due to board duties, they should report that fact to the President or Secretary.

John Rankin then brought a motion to the floor, which would rescind a change regarding seat belts made to the 2025 Handbook. He stated that the process for rule changes contained in the Handbook wasn't followed in this case, and that this could undermine the credibility of the Club. Scrutineer Emeritus Corky Russell responded that he felt the process was followed. A lively and lengthy discussion followed, with a formal motion then made by John Rankin, and seconded by John Allen. The motion failed with a 6-2 roll call vote.

Vice President Bill Simer then provided a motion which would continue all changes to the Handbook made from 2024 to 2025, while those changes go through the approval process specified in the Handbook. This was seconded by John Rankin, and passed unanimously. Sherri was asked for and agreed to provide the marked up version of the 2024 Handbook to the Competition Committee and Vice President Simer.

Mike Nau then brought up a proposal aimed at increasing car count for the Historics. This would entail having the Club provide 1 free entry fee to run groups which increase their car count 30% or more over the 5 year average for entries. The run group could then, at their discretion, raffle or gift the free entry within their group. He suggested starting the program with the Formula Ford group. This was supported by the Board, and the Sprite/Midget group identified as another run group which might be eligible. The Board agreed that the run group in question must have a substantial number of entries to be eligible. Jamie Buskirk suggested 15 entries as a floor.

Jacque Riehl announced a membership survey focused on gathering data for sponsorship and partnership opportunities, and asked the Board how long to make it available online. The consensus was 2 weeks.

Mike Lawler brought a proposal to the Board for purchasing a replacement LED stop/go light for the track entrance. He reports the current equipment as being old and extremely heavy. Jamie Buskirk seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Craig Larsen announced the Spring Quarterly Membership Meeting to be held at Open Bay Garage, 1055 Andover Park E , Tukwila, WA, 98188, on May 17th, from 10 am to 12 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm