

South Australian Motor Racing Officials Assoc. Marshals Mumblings May 2010



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MARSHALS MUMBLINGS

May 2010

Official Newsletter of the
South Australian Motor Racing Officials Association Inc.

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The Editor welcomes contributions from any person interested in motor sport. Therefore, views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the South Australian Motor Racing Officials Association or any of its members.

SAMROA WEB SITE www.samroa.org.au

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The South Australian Motor Racing Officials Association (SAMROA) Inc. is a volunteer organisation affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) Ltd.

President's Report

Firstly, a big 'thank you' to Fran Tann (wife of our industrious treasurer) for volunteering to help edit the club newsletter. I hope you will all join me in welcoming her to the group of people who work behind the scenes to keep this club operating, and will help make her job easier by sending in material – particularly articles and pictures.

There are a number of projects in the pipeline at the moment.

The club (thanks to Andrew Leitch) has purchased a stack of chairs for the Mallala shed to encourage people to relax and socialise with a few drinks at the end of the day. It may seem a minor thing, but it is a way of encouraging the social aspect of the club- and from the response at the last race meeting it was well received. If you have any other ideas, please pass them on and we will see what we can do.

Also, we want to start up a 'buddy'/mentor/car pool system. The concept is to get members to contact people around them – particularly newer or potential members, encourage them to attend race meetings and maybe give them a lift. For this to work, we need people who are willing to help act as mentors. If you are interested, let one of the committee members know and we can get you in touch with some people around you.

Unfortunately, the 2-piece uniform has been cancelled for now - we have not been able to get sufficient orders to be able order them from the manufacturer (we needed to order shirts in lots of 50). The club is in the process of issuing a full refund to all who have placed orders while the committee is examining other options to see if this can still happen with another supplier at a later date.

At the next general meeting (Weds 19th May, 8:00pm Venetto club) we will also be putting forward some amendments to the club constitution to accommodate participants in the CAMS Junior development program. At the time of writing this report, these changes are being examined by an independent expert, but if you are interested in reviewing the proposed changes before the meeting please contact Scott Chamings.

President's Report (Cont.)

The social committee has been really busy recently with the annual dinner. This year, venues seem to have raised their room hire fees substantially – but with assistance from Andrew Leitch they have endured and overcome.

The Annual membership season is coming up, so you will find a membership form inside your mailing slip. We hope to issue membership cards to everyone this year – not just those who need one for competition. Membership season also means that the AGM is not far away, so it is time to consider if you would like to assist the club by standing for either the general committee or the T&CC.

That's all for now, hope to see you at the Venetto club on Wednesday night.
Andrew.

Uniform Refunds

At the last General Meeting (21st April) it was decided not to pursue the new uniform as currently proposed and to refund all deposits.

Please see me, Peter Tann, at the upcoming General Meeting on 19th May to collect your refund if you have paid a deposit.

Cover photo: Bathurst in the rain courtesy Peter Tann

From Graeme Fowler – trainee track marshal in the UK

Hi Andrew

Just a short message to send my thanks through you to all the SAMROA team who made my impromptu visit to Mallala on Sunday 2nd May so enjoyable.

I contacted the TCC by email, rather speculatively, to see if I could fit in a day's marshalling while on an extended holiday in Adelaide (extended by the Icelandic volcano!). I'm a trainee track marshal with the BMMC back in the UK and had missed my first two scheduled meetings of 2010 by being "marooned"!

I got a call on Saturday from Andrew Leitch who not only agreed that yes, I should come along but organised another marshal to collect me from South Adelaide and drop me back at the end of the day. The whole team were extremely helpful and welcoming, and made the day both a good learning experience (my first day primarily on flags) and extremely good fun.

I also got two rides in the course car at lunchtime, giving me a view of a track I've never had in person.

The SAMROA and Mallala teams went out of their way to make my day with you very, very good indeed and I'd appreciate it if you could pass on my grateful thanks to all involved - I'd be very happy for you to put this on the agenda for your next committee meeting!

Best regards, and thanks to you all

PS I might be back for the Clipsal if I can get the other half to agree to it (and have qualified as Track in the UK by then)!

T&CC Report

Hi folks, already a month has past and I'm writing another newsletter article. To start off with, I just wanted to make a correction from last month. I indicated the first aid certificates some of us have expired in November 2009. It's actually this year, 2010. So when we have the updated training we'll simply continue on.

You might wonder why First Aid skills would benefit you. Well, it's not only at a motorsport event you need the skills to apply all forms of immediate attention to an injury, but also in the everyday things we do and the common places we visit. It could be a loved one or close friend you save with your skills!

The proposed date for the update training day is **21st November 2010**. Please add your name **via the database ONLY**. This means if you don't have access to a computer, then you need to contact me ASAP so I can include you. While a basic course normally costs \$85per person, this training session is tailored to address some of the challenges we may face in motorsport and will only cost you as a SAMROA member \$30. **I need to get an indication of your interest, so please register yourself NOW!!**

Since the last newsletter article I have two race meetings to comment on. Superkarts on 11 April saw Scott Chamings acting as Chief Flag. While it is a position of responsibility, it also takes some logistical thinking as to how you're going to apply your personnel to the points and who will be in the key positions. Bear in mind that is difficult to plan placements when we have a few people drop out the night before or simply don't turn up at all. So with guidance, Scott was able to manage the trackside operations of a club meeting.

SA Circuit Racing Championships Round 2 took place on the 1st and 2nd of May with Andrew Leitch as the Chief Flag and Tony Aloï as his assistant. Tony was selected to be given the opportunity to experience the role and to be actively involved in managing the trackside personnel, but also experiencing Race Control operations and the directives that the Clerk of Course may bestow upon the Chief Flag Marshal.

T&CC Report (cont.)

Most of the racing was pretty tame with the odd spin out and no heavy impacts until one of the Improved Production cars left a nice Oil Trail from 3 round to 5 and made the track like ice. This saw many competitors spinning out at speed which made it quite dangerous, but with oil flags out you hope the vehicles stay in relative control while all you see is a cloud of dust. Paul Hart was in Race Control on the “Flag Loop” and commented that the radio calls were quite good, with concise messages and expedient track clearances. Keep up the good work !!

Most reports on Flagging were good and the Clerk of Course commented on several points being ‘on the ball’ especially when passing and lapping were occurring. There was a report of a driver indicating he was passed while under a yellow flag situation, but this was not able to be confirmed and therefore no action taken. **Be aware**, that while all drivers know the passing under yellow rule, some hope that they can somehow slip past without being seen.

This is where we come in..!! So keep a watchful eye even when you think all cars have slowed and are being compliant. Even if all vehicles have received the Chequered Flag, and may be on their cool down lap, you need to be extremely cautious of your actions especially if it involves any trackside work. And should any official go trackside, a waved Yellow flag is mandatory AND anyone who is trackside needs to be vigilant in observing approaching traffic.

On Sunday we also had a British Motorsport Marshall come out and do a day with us. Graeme Fowler, who was here on holidays from the UK got an unexpected extension when the Icelandic Volcano Ash grounded most air travel and decided to experience a day of Australian Motorsport. From all reports, Graeme thoroughly enjoyed the day and learnt a few things about how we do it which I’m sure he’ll take back with him. Graeme also got to ride in the course car which would give him a unique experience to discuss when back home. Hope you got a few photos to remember your day!!

There are 2 positions vacant on the T&CC, a Secretary and member. So if you have any desire to be involved in the running of trackside operations and training, then get onboard. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7:30pm.

T&CC Report cont.

Don't forget, more names are need for the;

- 6 Hour Modern Regularity 23rd May - Karl Fleming
- Shannon's Nationals 29th & 30th May - Peter Cirillo
- HQ Enduro 5th June - Barry Hughes

So hit the database for these and whilst your there, look at the other dates coming up.

- Always need people for the **City to Bay** Sept 19th A few hours for a good cause and a social brekkie.

Andrew & the T&CC



**Opposite lock: Action from the recent Sporting car club meeting.
Photo: Rosalie Siddell**

From the meetings...

The following are highlights from the General Meeting held on 21st April. The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday 19th May at 8.00pm.

Business arising from the last meeting

- Conveyor material at Flap Points 8 and 1 needs to be wider – presently too easy to put foot between material and tyres
- Superkart Lifting Bars were used at previous Superkart meeting
- Trackside brooms – some new ones have appeared while some old ones need sandpaper
- Social club is looking for numbers for the shooting venue – (see the Social Committee report on page 16)

OHS&W (Provided by Andrew Robinson)

- Some Brooms at Mallala have been replaced – Still need to be aware of splinters on remaining handles.
- Matting at Turn 8 and Turn 1 need to be wider

T&CC (Provided by Andrew Leitch)

- It is planned to have First Aid Training – approximate cost \$1695.00 for twenty people.
- Costs of Flags - \$1650.00 for 75 flags / \$2625 for flags and new poles.
- Lobethal Grand Carnival has been cancelled for 2010 – next one planned for 2012
- Lack of members at race meetings are a bit of a concern – always seems to be the same “core” of approx 25 members. Numbers urgently required for:
 1. Regularity 6 hr Relay, an
 2. Shannons Nationals – Practice day on the Friday, need at least 10 names.
- Upcoming Courses – Flags / Comms & Senior / Chief Flag – being planned for later in the year.
- Vacant position on T&CC – any volunteers?

CAMS REPORT (Provided by Peter Tann)

- Officials Uniforms – No one is aware of moving to all orange for trackside official uniforms.
- Stewards meeting is planned for May 28th – Open meeting

From the meetings...(cont.)

- CAMS Portal will go live later this week – Licence Renewals
 - Licence Checking – SMS service – need Name & DOB – reply current or expired.
 - Austin 7 Club's 50yr anniversary 15 August 2010
 - CAMS Club Affiliation Discussion Paper – Main things for SAMROA
1. Cheaper Affiliation costs
 2. Members will not be able to use club to get a competition licence
 3. All clubs advise CAMS details of membership
 4. No permits

SOP REPORT (Provided by Peter Cirillo)

- The red licensing accreditation booklet will now be green and available in early May. It's now smaller as some information has now been moved to the web site.
- New CAMS website is taking form and things are becoming easier to find.
- New EA Forms will be on the website soon.

MRP REPORT (Provided by Darren Mattiske)

- Meeting moved to the 29th due to ANZAC day.
- JDP update
 - Draft information and Application form available for viewing.
 - Darren has 5 cars in various state of “completion” – anyone wanting to help , contact Darren
 - Dates are June 12, July 10, August 7 and Sept 4 and run at Tailem Bend.
 - Great opportunity for SAMROA to get involved. Looking for Clerk of Course at all 4 events and someone to present some theory sessions in June, July and August. Sept will be a “mock event”
 - Spit will also be on display at on June 12.
 - Participants and their parents will be strongly encouraged to be officials / flag marshals for a day.
- If anyone wants to become involved, please contact Darren Mattiske.

From the meetings...

WEBSITE (Provided by Scott Chamings)

- Looking for any new material to be put on Website

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (Provided by Darren Martin)

- Social event – Indoor Marksman – show of 5 hands (out of 18) interested in attending – details will be advised.
- Annual Dinner Venues – prices are a lot higher this year, maybe a gourmet BBQ or Cafe. Andrew L suggested Scotch College – free function room hire.

PROMOTIONS (Provided by Darren Mattiske)

- Gawler show 28-29 August. Great opportunity for SAMROA to attract new members that live close to Mallala. Requesting a better position this year. (28th is also annual dinner – venue to be Gawler Show, Dagwood dogs and fairy floss for all members)
- Spit and some SAMROA promotional stuff will be on display at the June JDP.

General Business

- Adelaide Hills Rally are looking for officials – same date as Regularity 6 hr at Mallala.
- Austin 7 50th Anniversary – Officials will receive a recognition certificate and competitors will get a plaque.
- Club Newsletter – Need to reinvigorate with some new interesting articles. Andrew R. would like to hear from any one interested in taking on the production – Peter Tann's wife, Fran will take over the Editor's position. (will be up to Committee to give her assistance if required)
- Bob Schofield (and other founding / life members) are concerned about current numbers in the club.
- a. Seems to be too much emphasis on Emails / SMS and not enough “face to face” or phone contact. Club membership is fairly stable but there seems to be a drop in participation.
- b. Peter Tann suggested introducing a “buddy system” to try and boost up participation at Race Meetings, also car pooling (if petrol costs etc are getting too much)
-

From the meetings...(Cont.)

- Darren Matiske enquired if SAMROA would offer membership to JDP participants. Club's Constitution would need to be changed and add By-laws.
Discuss at next Committee meeting and bring to next Gen Meeting.
- Club Uniforms – David Mori moved that club refunds monies held in trust for the new Uniform back to the members. Will take back to Committee Meeting to discuss “off-the-shelf” options. This was seconded by Bronwen Williamson.
- Peter Tann presented a wine drinkers special – if interested contact Tapestry Wines.

Next Meeting: 20:00 (8:00pm) on Wednesday 19th May 2010 at Venetto club.

More on the CAMS REPORT (Provided by Peter Tann)

In addition to items reported in the minutes:

- Certification withdrawal – All ‘Impact Racing’ certification has been withdrawn as equipment has been found to be non-compliant with standards. Use of equipment with Impact Racing certification only will not be permitted at CAMS sanctioned events.

Why Do I Do This Again?

It's a question I usually ask myself as I stand trackside in pouring rain during the corporate rides that are adding an hour to an already long day but this weekend is the first time I have thought about trying to answer it seriously and not with the usual flippant remarks along the lines of my being a crazed adrenalin junkie. The incident on Saturday of the mini crashing into the spectator area has given me pause and a need to really think this all through.

I use up all my Rec leave and spend a few thousand dollars each year on travel, accommodation and food, all on a voluntary basis. My fiancé and I plan our lives (including our fast approaching wedding) around major motor racing events to ensure we don't let the team down by not being available. Being a volunteer trackside marshal is definitely not for everyone but there is something that keeps bringing me back.

Why Do I Do This Again? (Cont.)

I've been abused by spectators for asking them not to stand on the wheelie bin for a better view or not to sit little Johnny on the chain link fence just in case something bad happens or just for where I choose to stand to watch a race.

Promoters have run out of water, lunch has only been a sandwich and an apple, there aren't enough programs or pins for all the volunteers or there hasn't been a Portaloos trackside. I've raised concerns over safety for myself and other marshals only to have them brushed aside or seemingly ignored all together.

I've had ant bites, heat stress, migraines, fallen over on track and been treated in the medical centres of Qld Raceway, Indy, Bathurst and the Grand Prix.

At my first Bathurst as a Sector Marshal I watched my favourite driver have a massive crash in my Sector, the day after a fatal accident and just hours after an emotional farewell tribute to my other all time favourite driver.

I've had days when it has felt like Race Control is just not listening and keeps asking me to repeat things I have already said. There have been times when they don't seem to trust me to do my job and question why I have done something a particular way.

In spite of these negatives (and a few others that I won't share here) I keep coming back for more and I'm asking myself: why???

I remember my very first race meeting with two crazy guys cracking jokes and making me laugh but also teaching me that, when they move away from the wall, I should probably follow them.

I remember my first time on Comms, getting so tongue tied and mixed up that I was sure I'd never be given a radio again only to have the other Communicators tell me what a great job I did for a first timer.

I remember turning up to a V8 meeting at QR, getting my first Sector Marshal hat when I had never done the job before and being told they trusted I would do the best I could. (Funnily enough that was Turn 6 at Queensland Raceway, the very corner that started all this thinking!)

Why Do I Do This Again? (Cont.)

I remember road trips to Bathurst and all the crazy stunts, bad puns and silliness that help pass the time spent travelling.

I remember all the people I have met since becoming involved in marshalling, especially the fact that I have met the man I am about to marry.

I remember the care and concern shown for myself and others involved in the three major incidents by everyone at the track this weekend.

That is when I realise I have had my answer all along and it comes down to this - I love the people who, in spite of all the adversity and negative things that sometimes happen in our sport, keep coming back and committing themselves to get the job done. We may not share the same political or religious views and may not mix socially but we are all part of the “Flaggie Family”.

I wish the public knew of the dedication these people show and what they go through on a regular basis. I wish TV commentators would have a go at the job first before criticizing the efforts they see on camera. I wish drivers, including so-called stars, would spend more than their compulsory time trackside to really understand what goes on.

I wish that promoters and circuit owners would stop taking advantage of the love we have for motor racing and treat us with the respect and dignity that we deserve. More than any thing else I wish marshals at all levels would start realising that we are fabulous people who deserve better treatment than we are allowing ourselves to accept!

**Article by Toni Wheeler, Reproduced with permission
(Toni was the sector Marshal seen running to the scene during the Mini Incident at QR).**

As a footnote:For those that were working at the State Championships the other weekend, we were told that the only reason there was no serious injury or death was that the mini landed in a space occupied by 2 vacant chairs. The elderly couple that were sitting there only moments earlier decided to head off to get something to eat.

Darren Mattiske



Members celebrating Birthdays in the coming month



Happy Birthday!!

May

Wayne Jones (24th), Paul Karamanov (25th)

☆ Special congratulations to Michael Fitzell 50 years young on 28th ☆

June

Sarah Kenyon (7th), David Marshall (9th), Bronwen Williamson (12th)

Geoff Messer (16th)

Upcoming 2010 events

Date	Event	Location
23 May	6 Hour Mod Reg	Mallala
29-30 May	Shannons Nationals	Mallala
4-6 June	<i>Bigpond 300</i>	<i>Barbagallo</i>
5 June	HQ Enduro	Mallala
18-20 June	<i>SKYCITY Triple Crown</i>	<i>Hidden Valley</i>
20 June	Superkart/Mod Reg	Mallala
18 July	Superkart/Mod Reg	Mallala
15 Aug	Superkart/Mod Reg State Champ	Mallala
21-22 Aug	SA Circuit Racing Champ Rnd 3	Mallala

Have you put your name down?

June Newsletter:

June issue will be printed on Thursday June 10th for post on the Friday.

Final deadline for material is **9:00AM Thu 10/06**. Earlier is appreciated.

Thanks to Peter Tann for his assistance in printing the newsletter each month.

M P D

“SERVICE OTHERS ONLY TALK ABOUT”

Metropolitan Parcel Delivery Pty Ltd

Peter Cirillo

Trade Discount at Ray's Outdoors:

SAMROA is now a trade customer at Ray's outdoors, simply quote the Business name (South Australian Motor Racing Officials Association) or number D73564 at the register to get a significant discount. 28 stores nationwide, SA Stores at:

61-69 West terrace ADELAIDE



1 Phillip Highway ELIZABETH
Harbour Town ADELAIDE
AIRPORT



Australian Central Credit Union Community lottery

We still have approximately 20 books for distribution. If you are able to take and sell some (more) tickets – please see me, Peter Tann, at the next General Meeting on 19th May. Any tickets not distributed by then will be returned to Australian Central Credit Union for redistribution to another club.

Please return completed books as soon as possible. Ticket sales **must cease on 30th June**. Books and money can be returned to me, or any committee member, at:

- the General Meeting on 19th May
- 6 hour relay on 23rd May
- Shannons Nationals on 30th May.

Please return books promptly then I won't have to send 'the Heavies' after you. Remember, we do know where you live.

Space for 'rent'

Any contributions - Pictures, short stories or items of interest always welcome.

Please send them to the Editor, Fran at
editor@samroa.org.au

Social Committee

The Social Committee had a meeting on 26 April 2010 and we can now inform everyone that the Annual Dinner will be at:



On Saturday, 28 August 2010

Barr Smith Theatre

Scotch College Adelaide

Carruth Road

Torrens Park

Time & Price: TBA

The evening will be catered for and a DJ will also be present to provide us with some entertainment.

The evening should be full of fun, with excellent food and excellent company!!

We also have the evening of **June 11, 2010 at the Indoor Marksman Range** for an evening of entertainment. The evening will cost \$80 and includes dinner. We will need definite numbers by the Shannon's Nationals, so if you are interested, please let Scott, Darren or myself know ASAP.

The Social Committee is also looking at celebrating Christmas this year, so if you have any ideas, please let us know!

Jodie Johnson – ph: 0457 174 788

SAMROA Merchandise



SAMROA Sew On
Badge - \$6



SAMROA Sticker - \$3
(10cm across)



SAMROA Logo Pin
(Metal) - \$3



SAMROA T-shirt - \$40



SAMROA Cross Flags
(Metal) - \$3



SAMROA 30th year
badges...\$10 each



More action from Sporting car club meeting, courtesy of Rosalie Siddell

Findon Crash Repairs

Automotive Repairers and Refinishers

367 Grange Road, Findon

Ph: 8356 4404

Mobile Lui: 0408208755

Mobile David: 0409202414



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