

The

Checkpoint



Official Publication of the Arrowhead Sports Car Club

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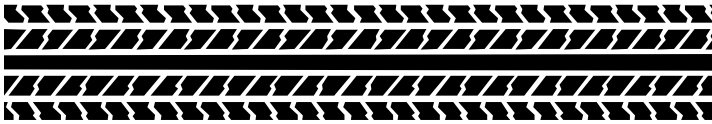
April 2000

Volume 41

Number 3

Skid Marks

---by Bill Taylor



Another Epiphany

Found the true key to world peace a couple of weeks ago. After celebrating a belated birthday for my senior grandson, it came to me in a flash. Take all of the world leaders and lock them and 300 pre-pubescents in any Chuck E. Cheese until nothing but adult whimpering is heard. Simple and effective.

Yet Another Answer to an Unasked Question

Going nearly unnoticed, except by your omniscient editor, is the announcement that General Motors has entered into a partnership with AM General. GM will produce the H2, a look-alike knock off of AM General's humungo Hummer (the H1?)



Car & Driver Photo

This new vehicle will take chassis and drive-train components of the Suburban and wrap them with body panels that look like Arnold Schwarzenegger's favorite Rodeo Drive commando vehicle. While the real Hummer comes in at something over \$80,000, the new GM product will be priced at something less than \$50,000. For the extra \$30,000 you get truly intimidating size, tires that can be inflated and deflated on the fly and a really obnoxiously noisy diesel engine.



Classic Roadsters Ad - AutoWeek, 03-27-00

On the other hand, if you already own a Suburban or GM pickup, you might give a jingle to Classic Roadsters in Fargo, North Dakota (of Cobra knock-off fame.) They will send you a set of body panels and miscellaneous hardware that will let you run around in a Hummer look-alike. All for \$12,995.00. We assume freight and handling are not included. The North Dakota product is known as the Rugged All-Terrain, or RAT. At least they have a sense of humor.

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Periodicals Postage paid at Duluth MN 55801

The Checkpoint is the official newsletter of the Arrowhead Sports Car Club, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the ASCC, its officers or its members, nor any Checkpoint advertisers. Articles may be edited. Non-original material will be noted as such.

The Checkpoint is published monthly except January from 423 S. 19th Ave. East, Duluth, MN 55812-2028.

Annual subscriptions are \$11.00 and are included in ASCC membership. Single-issue price is \$1.00 and is included in entry fees for ASCC events. Make checks payable to ASCC, c/o Treasurer.

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None this month.

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Submissions

Submissions to *The Checkpoint* may be typed, handwritten, composed on diskette or transmitted by e-mail. All submissions should be sent to the editor at the above address

Computer disks with text should be in an IBM compatible format. If material is submitted as an attachment to an e-mail message, notify the editor before submitting. No unknown e-mail attachments will be opened. Deadline for submission is the last Thursday of the month for the following month's issue.

Articles, photographs, drawings and paste-up work submitted to this publication earn ASCC Continental Cup worker points.

The Checkpoint
(USPS) 006-510

Address Correction Service Requested

Postmaster, send address corrections to:

The Checkpoint
423 S. 19th Ave. East
Duluth, MN 55812

Skid Marks

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Anybody want to start a pool on the number of lawsuits which will be launched? How many lawyers will attain "independently wealthy" status?

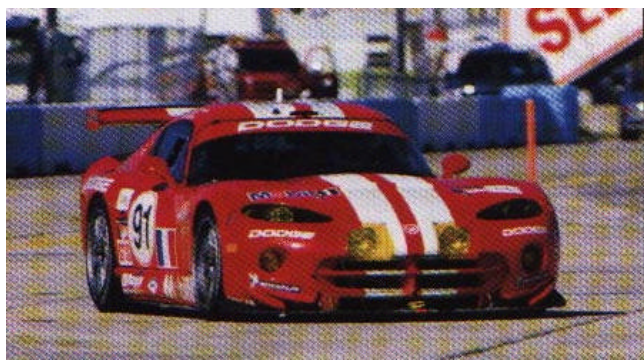
Spring is Officially With Us.

It must be. The "Competition Cars For Sale" columns in *AutoWeek* are overflowing with offerings. Of course, they are all immaculate, have impressive race histories and are guaranteed to put you in contention at Daytona, Sebring or your local vintage racing event. Trust me!

I Gotta Be Right Sometime! I Just Gotta!

Looking at all the photos from the recent spate of auto shows can lead you to only one conclusion. We are going to be awash in yet another tidal wave of SUV's and SUV wanna-bes. Take a dozen or so study-hall renderings of pick-ups and small trucks, inflict them with severe radiation-induced mutations and you get the idea of what the next wave will look like. Ford gets yet another entry in the field, to be joined by Mazda, another from Toyota, Suzuki, Porche and VW, GMC, Dodge, and more. BMW has joined the fold. Even Buick (!?) may have a sedan that converts to a pick-up.

At least Ford has gone on record that Jaguar and Aston Martin will not be producing pick-ups and SUV's (yet.)



Oreca #1 Viper GTS-R at Sebring
Beretta/Wendlinger/Dupuy
AutoWeek Photo

Great Journalism Emphasizes Stories With Local Interest--Yeah, Right!

At least that is what they would like you to believe. Anybody notice the in-depth reporting of Tommy

Archer's second in class, eighth over all performance at Sebring? Except for a (maybe) 2 column-inch blurb in the News-Tribune, they missed it completely.

Forget local TV. Hope John Gilbert can save us from mediocrity on this, particularly as Le Mans gets closer. Please, John, please!

Just happened to notice that Tommy now gets first billing on the list of three drivers for his car. Nice job.

Now a question that displays more of your humble editor's ignorance. Tommy has consistently placed second to the Beretta/Wendlinger/Dupuy GTS-R, LeMans '99, Daytona '00, Sebring '00. How much of that is due to team orders? Seems to me that he did some shifts in the #1 car (#91) at Daytona to make up time. He has long had a reputation for meticulous preparation, keeping his rides in one piece and for going fast. So is Tommy going to have to wait for the #1 car to break to be able to finish ahead of it? I'm afraid I know the answer.

I'm Not Really Sorry That I Can Remember These

Hertz rent-a-racer Mustang GT-350H



Yes, Virginia, those were the days. Walk up to the Hertz counter, do the paperwork, lay down the plastic and roll off in one of the hottest rods on the streets of the times. Race it and return it. For real and it was done. Yes, I've heard the stories of folks renting and ice-racing Chevettes and T-1000's. But, given the choice, which would you rent and race?

--nuff sed

Matters of Record



Minutes of Meetings

March 9, 2000
James Supper Club
4767 Arrowhead Road
Hermantown, MN 55811

Board Meeting: Omitted

General Membership Meeting

Called to order at 8:12 PM

Roll Call: waived

Minutes: approved as printed

Reports:

Vice President:

No new events this month.

World of Wheels next weekend at the DECC.

12 Hours of Sebring will be run March 18.
Tommy Archer will be lead driver of the Oreca #2 Viper GTS-R.

Secretary:

Nothing new to report.

Treasurer:

Checkbook balance \$1,018.97

Competition:

Nothing to Report

Membership:

14 paid members as of the meeting date.

Points for 1999 Continental and Archer Cups have been revised. (Printed elsewhere --ed.)

Old Business

Ashland Ice Race: Ran into former members Jim Lien and Marcie Pratt. Had to leave before the end of the event, which was won by a v-6 Chevy Cavalier.

Keweenaw Winter Rallye:

Randy Jokela and Jon Anderson trekked to the Upper Peninsula and kicked butt (translated as "screwed up less than others and won the event.") Last event of the 1999-2000 Winter Rallye Series.

Winter Rallye Series: Final series standings:

1. Randy Jokela
2. Jon Anderson
3. Todd Larson
4. Mike McConnell
5. Al Taylor

Lucas Flamethrower Rally:

Al Taylor and Paul Rosholt went to Redwing for the event. Got frustrated with the somewhat obscure critique slips and decided to finish the rally as a tour. All of a sudden they were running on time and finished second in Class C (U.)

Saint Urho's Day Rally:

Won't be run in March. May be run April 1; but, may be run later as a semi-gimmick rally.

Upcoming Events:

Fitger's Rally: Fitger's Inn has shown interest in sponsoring a rally again as a promotion. Will look into dusting off one of the first two (they are over 8 years old) to rerun.

Solo II:

Will coordinate with Land O' Lakes Region to see about getting a date on their calendar.

(continued next page)

Matters of Record



Minutes of Meetings

(continued)

New Business

Minnesota Car Club Association

Jon Anderson received a letter from Shirley VanDell asking us to rejoin the Minnesota Car Club Association. Cost is \$20.00. Moved, seconded and passed.

World of Wheels:

Club members will go Sunday between visits to the Bock Fest.

Minneapolis Auto Show:

Club members will make a day trip on April 1. Search will be made for passes or discounts on tickets.

2000 MS Walk.

Club will put up \$20.00 for Dana Goetz for the 2000 MS Walk.

Around the World in 80 Days Rally

(See also notes following the minutes of jobs we need to do and functions that need to be filled for the stopover.)

Ron Harshman has talked to the Holiday Inn about their security plans for the vehicles involved.

Rally will enter Duluth from the west on Highway 23 after coming through Jay Cooke Park.

Social event:

Talked about several possibilities, though we don't really know what wishes they may have beyond rest and repairs. Possibilities include: Cocktails and finger food in the Holiday Inn. Get together aboard the William A. Irvin. Social event at Fitger's Inn (They have both indoor and lakefront lawn facilities available.)

Any event would probably be an early and short one 3PM-7PM.

Additional Assistance:

Flyer will be distributed at World of Wheels to see if we can get some additional help for support of the rally. We need maintenance facilities and possibly flatbeds and drivers.

Additional Events

Interest has been shown by some entrants in taking in baseball game. The Dukes are in town playing a series with Fargo. Bill Taylor will look into getting them some recognition and perhaps some transportation depending on the number of interested parties.

ASCC Reunion:

Suggestion was approved to make the June 29 - July 1 Around the World in 80 Days Rally an event to build a club reunion.

Additional: Tim Winker and Randy Jokela are planning on meeting the rally in Montana and run with/ahead of it all the way to Duluth. They will be taking photos and video to be FedEx'd ahead.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM



***Coming soon to a city
real near you!***



Around The World In 80 Days Challenge

Organization Requirements

Chair: Coordinates all specialties.

Worker Coordination/Registration: Provides information on lodging, etc., for out of town workers. Makes sure all workers sign waivers and get any goodies that may be provided.

Sponsorship: Sells sponsorships to fund all activities.

Treasurer: Collects sponsorship money and pays any bills.

Controls: Staffs one control on Thursday and one or two on Sunday.

Welcome: Coordinates any welcoming ceremonies with the Duluth Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Service: Identifies possible service facilities in the area, including towing. Arranges for any work to be done.

Social: Reserves location and comestibles for Friday evening social event.

Parc Expose: Reserves location and security for display of cars.

Publicity: Coordinate with International and North American publicity persons. Provides any local News Releases and/or News Conferences. Arranges interviews for local media before and during event. Follows up with event final results in July.

Yes, folks, we're looking for you!



OK, You Didn't Ask, But...

While surfing the web the other night, seeking sites automotive, I found one dedicated to the VW Fox! A registry, no less. Yes, I registered the old "Redd Fox." Where else may you find information on engine swaps, suspension upgrades, intake and exhaust systems, etc. More than just the Fox, this site welcomes registry of all obscure VW models from outside the US and Canada, such as the:

- VW Voyage
- VW Parati
- VW Saveiro
- VW Gol
- VW Gacel
- VW Amazon and
- VW?

No, I've never heard of them either; but, all vehicles based on the VW BX (Fox) platform are welcome. Try www.lunaticfringe.org/vwfox.

Revisions to World Rally Championship Procedures

Tim Winker had this sent to me via e-mail
(*Lord, I love it since I took the bold step into the 1990's*)

"Recce System Could Be Revised in New Plan"
The World Rally Championship recce system may be revised in a money-saving plan. The proposals would see the current recce and the pre-event shakedown test abolished. Rally crews would practice stages in the morning in their rally cars. With the abolition of the recce and shakedown, events would still retain their seven-day format. The plan has backing by Prodrive, backers of the Subaru team and others."

(Source was Tim Warburton of Motorsports News Limited. Similar stories can be found at www.rally365.com.)

This change would bring the WRC procedures closer to those of the SCCA which prohibits pre-rally recce, altogether. Now you can look for some changes from SCCA. All of this is preliminary to bringing the WRC back to the US. Hang in there.

As Seen on TV! (Thanks to Tim Winker)
Don't wait 'til October to Buy your Halloween Costume.

You know how it goes. Every year you wait until the last minute to find that perfect costume for that special party. And come October 31st, there you stand like a dork at the front door dressed like some Pokemon thing in a costume from Wal-Mart that reaches almost to your knees and a mask that makes your face break out like the night before prom.

Now Available For Your Masquerading Pleasure!

Costumes Custom Made for Television and Seen Live on ABC!

These are no dime store variety kiddy outfits. These costumes are so detailed, so accurate that TV viewers were completely fooled! You saw them yourself this past Sunday afternoon, March 19th, in an actual nationwide broadcast. But, these costumes are so authentic, so realistic, you never knew what you were really looking at! There was no studio trickery, no special effects (*yes, there was.*

More later. --ed.) Even those who were present were completely fooled...in broad daylight!

Imagine the reaction you'll get from these smug jerks perfectly dressed as Rhett Butler, Moses, Regis Philbin or Klingons.

Picture the looks of desire on the painted faces of nubile young women scantily clad as French maids, she-devils and endangered carnivorous felines.

You'll be the center of attention!

You'll be the object of envy and lust!

You'll be the talk of the party!

YOU'LL BE AN EMPTY SEAT!

Order today. Only 60,000 available.

Phoenix International Raceway
PO Box 13088
Phoenix, AZ 85002

Or call (602) 252-2227. Ask for Tony.

NOTE: Costumes not available until the end of the season or the end of the series...whichever comes first.

(Ed. Note: There was some almost very good studio trickery at the Phoenix IRL race. There was a very elaborate blue screen effect that very nearly covered up a bunch of the empty seats in the main grandstand with an IRL series galleon logo. I'm sorry to say that I watched enough of the IRL spec racers to get thoroughly bored and start watching the way that ad banners were used to shield empty seats from camera view. Something about the blue logo didn't look right. Took a few laps; but, I finally figured out what was happening in the main grandstand.

Guess it's a good thing IRL has their TV contract, 'cuz they'd never make it with spectator support. Just another reason to fall in love with the world's biggest spec racer series.

Remember, Roone Arledge started his really big-time TV career as director of ABC Sports (remember the tumbling Hungarian ski jumper?) before he moved on to the head of the Entertainment and News Division. There's a message there someplace.)

Look for Finalized 1999-2000 Winter Rallye Series standings in the next issue.
