



The

Checkpoint

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Skid Marks

----by Bill Taylor



Redux, Redux

I know I've said it before, and I hope I'll be able to say it again--"Take a good look around, the good old days of sports cars is now." That includes "sporting cars" as well as those Porsches, Miatas, Z3s, SLKs and others we acknowledge as "sports cars."

Now Nissan is resurrecting the Z-Car. Specifically the 350Z. Mazda is bringing back the rotary RX in the RX-8 (albeit with four doors rather than two.)

DaimlerChrysler has shown a couple of interesting prototypes and G-M has a couple of very attractive show roadsters. All of these use the tried and true method of repackaging existing components. Things could be looking up if any make it to production.

Most interesting to me, is the revival of Ford's GT-40. While there is no hope of me accruing enough cash for one of these limited production critters, I enjoy the fact that Ford is joining the fray at "High-Viper, Low-Porsche" level.

Unless the market stays in the tank, things could be very interesting over the next few years.

Creeping Sterility

I've been able to catch a lot of this year's F1 series on TV (yeah, the eyes actually stay mostly open at those early Sunday hours.) While watching Schumacher, The Elder/Ferrari, rub it in at the German Grand Prix,

it struck me that, visually, these races are all beginning to look alike.

For safety reasons, the German course had been shortened by almost a third. No longer did they run through the forest. Safety considerations said that the trees needed to be cut back from the edge of the track. German environmental restrictions kept the organizers from cutting trees, period. Therefore, the only solution was to confine the race to the open sections through the stadium and adjacent areas.

It sounds like the next course to be sanitized will be Spa. Its forest sections had survived, even though the dunes and sea-side sections had long ago gone away. Now they will have to go, probably by next year.

Now nearly all the courses have the same look -- something akin to ribbons of blacktop running through larger parking lots. A lot of this stems from the gravel traps being replaced by macadam run-off areas.

Granted, all the F-1 venues have their own racing character, but the only one that is truly distinctive is Monte Carlo. Unfortunately, it is also the one course that is least friendly to passing and hard racing.

The whole situation is sad, even if necessary. Not sad enough to kill my interest, though. As long as there are drivers with both *cojones* and high skill, it will be interesting.

Proof of "Geezerdom"

Michael Andretti is becoming a team owner and "Little Al" has turned 40 and admitted himself to rehab after drunkenly slapping his girlfriend around. I remember when they were the "kids." Ah, well...

--Nuff Sed

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None, this month.

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None, this month.

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.

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Matters of Record Minutes of Meetings

Thursday, 7-11-02

Location: The Local
4767 W. Arrowhead Road
Hermantown, MN 55811

Board Meeting omitted

General Membership Meeting

Called to order at 8:18 PM

Roll Call: omitted

Members Present: Jon Anderson, Randy Jokela, Tim Winker, Bill Taylor

Reports

Vice Pres.: Coming Events
Maine Forest ProRally, 7-26/27-02
Ojibwe ProRally, 8-16/17-02
National Saab Convention
Wings & Wheels, 2d Weekend in
October

Treasurer: Balance \$673.50

Publicity: No Report

Checkpoint: June issue not published, no cost

Old Business:

Highway Clean-Up: One more session needed.

Summer Rally: Randy is still looking for a good date.

Winter Rallye Series Trophies: Jon Anderson working on designs.

Observed Trials: This June international motorcycle event brought out a lot of riders and fans with interest in Pro/Club Rallying. There may be an "orphan motorsports" connection here. Display of ProRally car got a lot of interest from people who actually knew what it was. We passed out a lot of cards with information about the up-coming Ojibwe ProRally.



New Business:

Randy Jokela's Rally: Will be approximately 100 miles in length. The course has approximately three feet of gravel. Exact date to be determined.

Highway Clean-Up: Saturday, August 3, 2002.
Noon.

Web Site Charges: Cost of maintaining the ASCC web site has gone up to \$12.50/month. This is still a bargain. Comparable charges from other provider would be approximately \$20.00/month. After a short discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved that the club accept and pay the new charges.

Adjourned: 9:34 PM

Runoffs Invitation

The Runoffs offer the most fantastic opportunity to share, camaraderie and learn while enjoying 24 of the best SCCA races. I would appreciate everything and anything that you can do to encourage flaggers and marshals to join us at the SCCA Valvoline Runoffs© September 16 - 22, 2002 at MidOhio. Volunteer application forms may be found at http://www.scca.org/amateur/club_racing/runoffs/forms.html Volunteer Worker Form - [Standard] [Fill-in]

If marshals would like to work this year's Runoffs, they MUST PRE-REGISTER by August 26, 2002. For questions or information contact Ron Sharp at (ph) 515-277-4744 or Email rasinc35@aol.com Thank you for your support and spreading of the word.

Dick

Dick Coburn, National Administrator
SCCA Flagging and Communications

Good News

I'll get right to the news, Jill and Jon (& Luke too) have a new addition to their family as of 7:55 p.m. tonight (7/28) All are doing fine.

Weighing in at 6 lb. 12 1/2 oz and 19 inches long with lots of thick dark hair is a sweet little girl named Molly! She's so dang cute!!

