



# Tell Tale

*Repeat after me: "I resolve to write one article for the TT this year."*

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

JULY 2010

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE #2

Greetings TC members,

As our second race approaches at ORP, I can't believe how quick a month goes by. I hope all who were present at the first race had a good time. Many put in long hours to make it a successful event. Thank you to all who did. Your help is always needed and appreciated in all the areas it takes to put this on. There were numerous commendations from participants about the professional way everything was handled. Once again we need to pull together and help in all the needed roles. Please offer to assist in some way.

One of the highlights of our May event was the Novice Race. Dillon Olsen, third generation TC member and racer entered his first ICSCC race in an MG roadster which has been driven by his Grandfather Sid, Father Scott, and Uncle Larry. Dillon started racing at 6 years of age in Quarter Midgets, became a national champion before moving on to motorcycle road racing, and is currently running a 360cu. inch Non Winged Alcohol Sprint car on dirt oval tracks, (can you say sideways with 600HP!). Another multi-generational effort was the Father and Son team of Mitch and Mitchell Lea. They are sharing an E Production Volvo 850. Mitch recently upgraded to an ARR license, and Mitchell is working on his Novice program when he is not attending college at OSU. Congratulations to both racing families!

On a more serious topic: The irresponsible actions of a few individuals who stayed at the Wild Winds Ranch Bunkhouse during the May race weekend has tarnished the image of our Club, not only with the owners of the Bunkhouse, but also with ORP Management, the local community, and ICSCC. The Bunkhouse was not only left in a messy disheveled state, but there were broken beer bottles, stained carpets, a broken toilet and plumbing connection, as well as numerous other clues as to the inappropriate behavior that occurred during the course of the weekend. This was beyond "having a good time" and "cutting loose a little". As guests of the local community and ORP, the way we conduct ourselves makes a statement about TC, ICSCC, and motor sports enthusiasts as a whole. Please keep this in the forefront of your mind at all times during our future events at ORP. Don't hesitate to make a corrective comment to someone who is getting out of line before their actions affect all of us in a detrimental way.

On a more somber note: I regretfully convey the recent passing of Betty Johnston, Widow of the late P.J. Johnston who joined TC in 1964. The Club wishes to express our condolences to Tony and Diane Ragnone, who were especially close to PJ and Betty.

Sincerely, Eric Howell, President: Team Continental: [president@teamcontinental.com](mailto:president@teamcontinental.com)



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Electronic submissions are preferred.

Don't spend a lot of time on fancy formatting.

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editor@teamcontinental.com

**The Tell Tale**

**The Official Publication of Team Continental**

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**MEETINGS**

**G e n e r a l  
M e m b e r s h i p  
meetings will be  
held the third  
Wednesday of the  
month at Mar's  
M e a d o w s a t  
7:00pm.**

*General Membership Meeting will be held the third Wednesday of the month at Mar's Meadows at 7:00pm.*



## The Bob Smethers Resolution

### A Counter Point (Not necessarily an attempt to make points)

Historically in club racing, officials and turn workers were loyal members of their respective clubs. They were proud to belong and paid their dues. Support of the sport we love was the motivating factor. The expenses of turn working were born by those that volunteered their participation. In return they got the best seats in the house for free, and others had to pay spectator admission. There was a perceived value to being a turn worker. Often a husband's wife or team would work a corner and bring their picnic lunch with them. Along the way, we quite charging admission fees and the perceived value proposition changed. Within the worker ranks and racer ranks as well, there have always been those who have been better heeled than others, T.C. has always tried to make sure that no one was excluded due to true financial hard ship. This has taken many forms, arranging transportation, furnishing lodging if it's too cold to camp, supplying lunch, Etc. No sooner did one person get a free room than others started asking "Why do they get a free room and I don't." That has developed an attitude that "My specialty is worth more than yours so I should get some extra accommodations." The hierarchical structure of most sanctioning bodies and a litany of superfluous titles has helped promote a division and class structure. In that regard it is of little wonder that so many embraced a "Union Mentality" and a "What's in it for me ?" attitude. Drivers have never been unappreciative of the contribution made by the volunteers. Setting up the worker fund is just one example. Many drivers also quietly make behind the scenes contributions to help those that find volunteering a true financial burden.

Membership in T.C. is a bargain. The club already loses money on the cost of bringing in every new member. Many members of the board and committee never ask for reimbursement for the expenses they incur or the supplies they provide to do the clubs business.

Sports car racing financial thinking has degenerated to embrace the misguided notion "Let the drivers pay for it, they must be rich or otherwise they wouldn't race sports cars." Like welfare, after a while the recipients develop a sense of entitlement. There is no such thing as a free membership in team .

Sorry if I have offended anybody...well maybe not.

Bill Murray

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## MORE BOD MINUTES

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No minutes submitted. Sorry for the inconvenience.

## SPECIAL NOTES

**Tonya Kihlstadius is back doing the Tell Tale!**

**If any of you have pictures or notes that you would like to be in the Tell Tale, please email them to me directly at [sunsetref2@comcast.net](mailto:sunsetref2@comcast.net).**



Thanks to Jeff Hanken for reminding me of my promise to contribute something for The Tell Tale.

I was looking through some files in an old computer the other day and found something I started to write back in 2006:

IMAGINE A RACE TRACK. SMOOTH AND WIDE SNAKING IT'S WAY THROUGH ROLLING FIELDS. A WARM DAY WITH A NICE BREEZE. A BLUE SKY GROWING BRILLIANT RED AS THE SUN BEGINS TO DESCEND BEHIND THE DISTANT MOUNTAIN TOP. THE SMELL OF BARBEQUE DRIFTING THROUGH THE PITS AND THE LAUGHTER OF YOUR BUDDIES RECOUNTING SOME NUANCE OF THE DAYS QUALIFYING.

I am not sure where I was going with that thought, but I liked the image it inspired. I still do. It is this vision, or I am sure, or one very similar, that has kept this project alive since late in 2002 when a bunch of T.C. guys organized P.M.M.I. to build the club a permanent track. With any luck at all we are only days from having those visions realized.

All complex undertakings require commitment, investment, hard work and dedication. Our three coming events are no exception. The good news is that Race Chairman Steve Leonard and his staff of support specialists is on it, and has been on it, for a long time.

Additionally this is a team that brings well proven capability at pulling off successful events under way more rugged and sparse conditions than those we are working with at O.R.P.

The other good news is that it is certainly not too late to get involved, or if you are relatively new to the racing family, to “understudy” one of the “experts” that have years of experience in their specialty. The mentoring process is a great way to train those that will carry this sport and this club into the decades to come.

This is a major milestone for T.C. and with a three race schedule, definitively marks the ascendancy of the club to a “second to none” full partner status among the racing clubs of the Northwest.

I know I speak with gratitude for myself and the nine other original partners of P.M.M.I: Marshall Atherton, Scott and Mark Hanken, Charles Denkers, Duane Starr, Mike Conatore, Ron Tanner, John Bachofner and Bob Caspell for the acknowledgment and the honor of having the first T.C. event named “The Founders Grand Prix.”

Bill Murray

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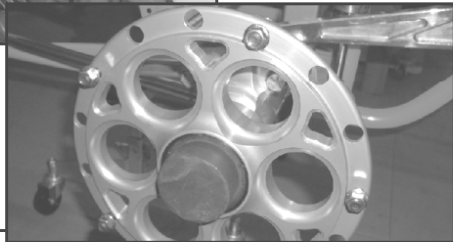
Photos from O.R.P. June 10th 2010 and  
P.I.R. June 5th 2010.



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## **Tell Tale**

**Editor**

**1655 Thurston SE**

**Albany, OR 97322**

**TO:**

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**Mar's Meadows at 7:00pm.**