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IN THE PITS

APRIL 2006

THE NEWSLETTER OF *PENRITH DISTRICT NITRO RACING INC. (PDNR)*

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I hope everyone had a great Christmas break and took the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, kick back and relax.

The weather has been very trying at times in early 2006, I am glad we called the bluff on some of the nights that did not look very promising.

Driver and spectator numbers seem to be growing each year, which is promising for the future of our hobby.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members and congratulations to the 2006 elected committee.

Please enjoy reading our first newsletter for 2006 and good luck for the year ahead.

On a racing note, well done to all PDNR drivers that competed in the Pre – Worlds, Summernats and the NSW titles, at all three meets our club was represented high in driver numbers.

El Presidente

Kevin

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RACE REPORT – 2006 NSW STATE TITLES

The IC NSW Titles has been run & won over the Easter break at the JGIR at Moorebank. As usual PDNR had a good turnout of Drivers for the event. We have been well represented at all major events throughout Australia in the past few years, but this NSW Titles would be our best ever turnout at an ARCMRCC event. We had 4 drivers contesting 1/8th scale, 8 drivers in Nitro Tourer & 5 in Pullstart. I would have to say without a hint of bias that we were the best represented club at the event. We also had many members come out for a look & give our drivers support over the course of the event which is also a great sign that our club is in great shape.

The weather was looking very unkind as Thursday practice was a washout, Friday came around with clear blue skies much to the relief of all the racers. The race format was 5 min practice in heats, followed by 3 rounds of 10 min qualifiers for the Friday. 3 more rounds of qualifiers for Saturday with all finals to be run on Sunday.

Pullstart

Grahame Jones – First major outing in a Touring car, had engine problems early in the qualifiers. Once the engine was sorted car setup issues became apparent. All issues seemed to be resolved by the Sunday & was looking for a big result in the final. Had a good start in the final & lapping nicely until the throttle linkage came loose. Spent the last 20 mins driving around at ¼ throttle, had an interesting battle with Peter Willis towards the end of the race. **Qualified 9th Finished 5th**

Peter Willis – This was Peter's first time out racing other than PDNR events. Drove around pretty well & will be better for the experience. Car lacked speed in the final but stayed out for the 30 mins, entertaining racing with Jones in the last 10 mins of the race. Look for a better result next time out. **Qualified 8th Finished 7th**

Mark O'Connor – First trip to Moorebank for Mark & in an unfamiliar car. Had a very shaky start then settled down & drove well. Had a few electrical problems & missed a couple of qualifiers. Was on song in the final & sitting in 3rd when the engine decided to impersonate a hand grenade. Will return for the Winter Champs better prepared. **Qualified 7th Finished 8th**

Joe Patane – Seasoned campaigner & one of the favourites to take out the title. Drove like a weapon in the Qualifiers & held TQ after round 2. Looked like a possible winner going into the final if the car stayed out for the full 30 mins. A failed servo ended the dream early in the race. **Qualified 2nd Finished 9th**

Kevin Maton – Another seasoned campaigner, Had V-one-S Guru Micheal Turner set up the car & it showed. Some good laps in qualifying but struggled for a clean run. Come Sunday & it was a different story. Kev took the lead fairly early in the race & never looked back, drove fast & smart & took the title. First PDNR AARCMCC title winner. **Qualified 6th Finished 1st**

Nitro Tourer

Jack Umenburger – Back to the big stage after a bit of a break other than PDNR Events. Drove the car like a champ in the qualifiers, had a few flame outs but still managed to get a good result on the board. Made it into a semi without having to risk a bump up final. Drove well in the semi but was a little outgunned in a class field. Great result & it won't be long before he gets even better so look out. **Qualified 18th Finished 13th**

Steve Valetta – Long time PDNR racer but just getting started on the big stage. Struggled for a good qualifier while showing some good form. A few mistakes proving costly in the ¼ final. Will be a bit disappointed with this result but there is room for improvement next time out. **Qualified 26th Finished 26th**

Micheal Turner – Been one of PDNRs well travelled racers & he saved his best for this event. Since switching to the RRR has been on the improve. Just missed a berth in a semi without having to bump up. Micheal blitzed the field in his qtr final & moved into the semi with Jack. Great drive in the semi with a mistake in the last stages costing him a top ten berth. Will be knocking on the door again next run. **Qualified 20th Finished 12th**

Liz Fenech – First major event & handled it like a veteran. Liz improved with each run on the track. Has now had a taste of the big time & I think it is a safe bet she will be back for more. Had a run of bad luck in the qtr final & didn't move up. **Qualified 24th Finished 24th**

Tony Firth – PDNR legend again didnt disappoint, has had good results at most major meetings in the last few years & this was no exception. Qualified solidly straight into a semi. Tony started his semi nearly a lap down due to an error in the pits [forgot fuel :-)] but still managed to drive his way into 3rd spot with a fast enough time to slot into the main event. Drove well in the final with a few errors costing some time. Good finish in a very classy field. **Qualified 13th Finished 6th**

Steve O'Connor – Another of PDNRs well travelled racers, Struggled with consistency & couldn't get a good run. Needs to negotiate back markers with more precision. Travelling along nicely in the qtr final looking to bump into the semi & made an error on the back straight & lost a shock, all over. **Qualified 25th Finished 31st**

Joe Patane – Another familiar face at racetracks around the country Joe is no stranger to Moorebank. Had a tough time in the qualifiers running an unfamiliar chassis. Got it together in the qtrs & held on to third spot to squeeze into a semi. The quality of the semi was always going to make it hard to progress any further & Joe ended his pro tourer run in the semis. Good result. **Qualified 30th Finished 17th**

Kevin Maton – Managed a few decent runs in this class but mechanical failure ended his run a bit early. Made up for it in pullstart. **Qualified 32nd Finished 37th**

1/8th Scale

Kevin Maton – Lapped around fairly consistently in the qualifiers then destroyed the engine in the semi final. The car showed potential and with a decent engine a better result is just around the corner for Mr Dozer! **Qualified 15th Finished 16th**

Scott Tompkins – Scott's first drive for a few months, but it didn't take long to clear the cobwebs. Improved with each run in the qualifiers & a few breakages proved costly. Scott was lapping around nicely in the semi until the rear shock tower turned into a jigsaw puzzle. Certain top ten next year. **Qualified 12th Finished 14th**

Steve O'Connor – Car was fast but when it breaks every run a good qualifier isnt on the cards. Taken out in the semi by a backmarker, not happy. **Qualified 14th Finished 15th**

Steve Valetta – First time out of PDNR in the big banger. Major engine dramas until the last qualifier when a borrowed engine was installed. Had a decent run in the last round & got to do a few laps. Drove a nice clean semi & was still on the track at the end in a very messy race. **Qualified 14th Finished 11th**

All in all it was a great event & very well run. Well done to all drivers & club members that came out for the event. You have all done PDNR proud.

Top 3 for all classes

Pullstart - Kevin Maton 1st , David Ryan 2nd , Alan Cederblad 3rd

Nitro Tourer - Simon Nicholson 1st , Darrin Campbell 2nd , Craig Hawkins 3rd

1/8th Scale - Stewart Grant 1st , Leigh Dytor 2nd , Harry Poppodoppolus 3rd.

PDNR SPONSORS

PDNR thanks our supporters from 2005.

PDNR encourages all our members to seek the services of our sponsors.

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- Ivans Butchery – St Marys
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- Massive Mods

PDNR ARE NOW LOOKING FOR SPONSORS FOR 2006

(Please see Race Control on Tuesday nights or see rear of newsletter for contacts)

EVENT CALENDAR

- **MAY 20th / 21st** – TAMWORTH CUP
- **MAY 27th** – PDNR LE MANS ENDURO 2.4 HOUR RACE
- **JUNE 17th** – PDNR DRAG NIGHT ROUND 2
- **JUNE 23rd / 24th** – WINTER CHAMPS
- **AUGUST 5th / 6th** – PDNR CHALLENGE
- **AUGUST 15th** – PRESENTATION NIGHT (AUTUMN C'SHIP)
- **AUGUST 26th** – DRAG NIGHT ROUND 3
- **SEPTEMBER 17th** – IFMAR 200mm WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - QLD
- **OCTOBER 7th** – PDNR RC 1000 BATHURST
- **NOVEMBER 18th** – PDNR 3 HOUR CLASSIC
- **DECEMBER 5th** – PRESENTATION NIGHT & SANTA (SPRING C'SHIP)
- **DECEMBER 12th** – CHARITY AUCTION & A.G.M
- **DECEMBER 17th** – PDNR CHARITY CHALLENGE – ORAN PARK

RACE REPORT – DRAG NIGHT (APRIL 1, 2006)

The Sydney International Regatta Centre P1 car park, home of Penrith District Nitro Racing Inc. was packed to the shores on Saturday April 1 for the much anticipated Drag Night. Following two rained out attempts in 2005, the 40m strip was once again assembled ready for the record 73 entrants competing across 10 divisions to do battle for bragging rights...and some neat trophies!

Qualifying would see each entrant have four qualifying runs, their best run counting towards their overall ranking and seeding position for the top eliminator finals. The qualifying action started a little later than expected as there were more entrants than anticipated but the action was quickly hotter than the climate as the times dropped into the low 2 second bracket.

There were many respectable times posted in all divisions as most drivers improved their times with each run. Following the trend from previous drag nights, the top time was posted by a GP Top Fuel rail, a very respectable 2.228 by Steve Valletta with his MORTEC Kyosho based rail. Not too far behind the top slot was Chris Nolan with a 2.341 in Open Pan with his 1/8 scale Mugen. Capping off the top three was an unfamiliar sight at PDNR with an electric touring mixing it up with the nitro when Marty Sharp posted a 2.484 with his EP tourer.

With qualifying completed, drivers were seeded in the draw for the top eliminator finals. A new double elimination format was used which meant that each driver would have to loose twice before being eliminated from the finals. Although a little confusing at first, most drivers liked to opportunity to have two cracks at making the grand final match up. Unfortunately not all times were recorded in the finals after the timing system was accidentally taken out, but our timing creator, BLT Timing, assures us that next time the cars will come off second best, and not the timing system!

Full race results from Round 1 of the 2006 Drag Series are on the website – www.pdnracing.org.au.

The club would like to thank all drivers and spectators who attended the meeting, especially those to toughed it out to the end on what turned out to be a rather chilly evening. Hope to see you at the next one on June 17!

DRAG NIGHT RESULTS SUMMARY

MICRO

1. Jay Cottrell
2. Steve O'Connor

OFF ROAD

1. Matt Oxford
2. Kevin So

OPEN PAN

1. Chris Nolan
2. Mark O'Connor

GP PRO STOCK

1. Peter Wilson
2. Des Schneider

GP DOORSLAMMER

1. Rod Albronda
2. Carl Robertson

KIDS CLASS

1. David Baker
2. Bradley Noble

EP TOURING

1. Marty Sharp
2. Splitty Miller

GP STOCK

1. John Reilly
2. David Baker

EP TOP FUEL

1. Jonathon Freund
2. Matt Oxford

GP TOP FUEL

1. Grahame Jones
2. Steve Valletta



RUBBISH BINS

Can everyone please make an effort to **PUT ALL RUBBISH** (and broken parts) in the bins provided. PDNR are guests to the car park, and it must be left in the same state as when we arrived. There is also a **WASTE FUEL** disposal for any unwanted fuel. Thanks also to those regular drivers and members who help pack and clean up after racing every week, your help is appreciated.

FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS

'In The Pits' invites any driver, member or spectator with feedback, stories or suggestions to send them in for a new section of the newsletter. If you have any thoughts for the PDNR community please hand them in writing to Race Control or e-mail them to info@pdnracing.org.au with the subject "Newsletter."

IMPORTANT DRIVER INFORMATION

Due to insurance requirements;

1. All drivers/pit crew must wear covered footwear
2. No alcohol permitted on the premises at any time
3. No cars are to be run before 7:00pm .
4. Before running your car(s) all drivers must:
 - Check-in at race control (6:15 - 7:00 pm)
 - Put a frequency peg on your controller.
5. Drivers must return their frequency peg and transponder immediately after the race finishes
6. All entrants must pit in the designated pit/paddock area
7. All marshals must wear an orange vest
8. No cars are to be run on any other night other than race night.
9. All drivers must attend the drivers brief at the start of racing (non compliance can result in the driver being refused to race)

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS – 2006 SUMMER

The 2006 Summer Championship has been run and won. The introduction of dropping drivers worst round results kept the competition close right to the final round. Congratulations to all drivers who made the podium, you should be proud of your achievement. The final standings are outlined below:

OFF ROAD BUGGY

P	Name	Pts
1	Michael Turner	392
2	Matthew Oxford	366
3	Dean Micallef	265
4	Chris Abela (M1)	252
5	Ron Sant	227
6	Marc Swan	141
7	Scott Lee	86
8	Craig Binns (M1)	61
9	Nathan Ryan (M1)	54
10	Corey O'Donnell	22
10	Kevin So	22
12	John Bates	21
13	Kurt Seychell	19
14	Jamie Fellowes	18
15	John Newham	17
16	Matt Newton (M1)	9
16	Tony Firth	9
16	Ben Gibbs (M1)	9
19	Damian Halligan (M1)	8
20	Mick Montalvamo	7
21	Ashley Lightbody	0
21	Paul Duncomb	0

Massive Mods OFF ROAD TRUCK

P	Name	Pts
1	Joseph Porfida	319
2	Roy Hanmore (M1)	295
3	Grant Hughes	273
4	Scott Lee	216
5	Graham Fisher	214
6	Stephen Harding	202
7	Mark Deberard	192
8	Ray Cosier	156
9	David Baker	151
10	Peter Axiak	140
11	Philip Woodbury Snr	126
12	Noel Anderson	93
13	Philip Woodbury Jnr	68
14	Mark Watts	51
15	Marc Swan	41
15	Darrin Neale	41
17	Michael Pilarski (M1)	40
18	Geoff Otto	35
19	Ross Porfida	17
20	Shane Cardona	15
21	Alex Dudley	13
22	Charles Pilotto	12
23	David Bush	7
24	Matt Gordon	6
25	Jason Lovel (M2)	5
25	Rodolfo Acosta	5
25	Roy Chidiac	5
28	Andrew Herridge (M1)	0
28	David Woodcock	0

OPEN PAN

P	Name	Pts
1	Jonathan Freund	452
2	Steve Valletta	295
3	Grahame Jones	284
4	Scott Van Der Draay	147
5	Nick Janjic	132
6	Daniel Weaver	121
7	Steve O'Connor	117
8	Kevin Maton	100
9	Ray Wallace	86
10	Brad Davis	66
11	Matthew Russell (M1)	59
12	Harry Papadopoulos	35
13	Jeff Fenech	34
14	Mark O'Connor	10

SINGLE SPEED

P	Name	Pts
1	Splitty Miller	419
2	Charles Pilotto (M1)	346
3	Ray Wallace	322
4	John Jeffery	254
5	Chris Newland	219
6	Grahame Jones	209
7	Steve Kennett (M1)	40
8	Rod Albronda	30
9	Tony Firth	0
9	Bradley Mathius	0
9	Barry Gavin	0

FILL THIS ADVERTISING SPACE

PDNR IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR SPONSORS FOR THE 2006 RACING SEASON
(Please see race control on Tuesday nights or contact us by email)

**Graham's Hobby Centre
NITRO KIT**

P	Name	Pts
1	John Reilly	419
2	Daryl Thompson	359
3	Charles Pilotto (M1)	281
4	Peter Willis	270
5	Corey O'Donnell	259
6	David Baker	205
7	Trae Blanch	163
8	Mark Oconnor	95
9	Barry Gavin	94
10	Jamies Fellowes	71
11	James Kayesmith	65
12	John Newham	45
13	Greg Daly	41
14	Bradley Mathius	17
15	David Paget	9
16	Brett Shaw	8

PULL START

P	Name	Pts
1	Splitty Miller	376
2	Joe Patane	318
3	John Reilly	246
3	Jarrahd Cosier	246
5	Nathan Rya	232
6	Wayne Thomas	216
7	Rod Morgan	195
8	John Bates	148
9	Matthew Oxford	136
10	Ron Sant	131
11	Brett Umenberger	79
12	Darrin Neale	49
13	Rod Albronda	48
14	John Jeffery	45
15	Frankie Torre	38
16	Jamie Fellowes	22
17	Barry Gavin	9

**Graham's Hobby Centre
TOP GUN**

P	Name	Pts
1	Tony Firth	435
2	Jack Umenberger	378
3	Steve Valletta	310
4	Michael Turner (S1)	261
5	Liz Fenech (S1)	238
6	Laurie Grima	232
7	Peter Wilson	222
8	Ray Azzopardi	221
9	Keith Weaver (S1)	179
10	Rod Albronda	0

OUTLAW

P	Name	Pts
1	Sam Grima	432
2	Steve Valletta	317
3	Ray Wallace	242
4	Daryl Thompson	227
5	Wayne Thomas (M1)	151
6	Desmond Schneider	150
7	Kevin Maton	121
8	Rod Morgan	110
9	Robert Blanch (M1)	95
10	Laurie Cauchi	94
10	Laurie Grima	94
12	John Torre (M1)	91
13	Ray Azzopardi (M1)	81
13	Anthony Torre	81
15	Matthew Russell	76
16	Philip Woodbury	67

P	Name	Pts
17	Scott Van Der Draay	47
17	Steve O'Connor	47
19	Frankie Torre	27
20	Corey O'Donnell	24
21	Jarrahd Cosier	17
21	Nathan Ryan	17
23	Nathan Cooper (M1)	16
23	Peter Axiak	16
23	Mark Deberard	16
26	John Bates	13
26	Kurt Seychell	13
28	Matthew Ferguson	10
29	Craig Hart	8
29	Grahame Jones	8
21	Jarrahd Cosier	17
21	Nathan Ryan	17

P	Name	Pts
23	Nathan Cooper (M1)	16
23	Peter Axiak	16
23	Mark Deberard	16
26	John Bates	13
26	Kurt Seychell	13
28	Matthew Ferguson	10
29	Craig Hart	8
29	Grahame Jones	8
31	Carl Robertson (M1)	0
31	Michael Stone	0
31	Nick Janjic (M1)	0
31	Shane Fitzpatrick (M1)	0
31	Daniel Weaver (M1)	0
31	Barry Gavin	0
31	Brett Umenberger	0
31	Rod Albronda	0
31	John Jeffery	0



MARSHALLING DUTIES

All drivers who are registered to race are required to perform marshalling duties, regardless whether you raced or not.

The PDNR Management Committee will impose severe penalties to any drivers who do not abide by these conditions.

Marshals must also wear the provided orange/flouro safety vests.

PIT / PADDOCK AREA

All drivers are reminded that you must set up your pit tables in the designated pit/paddock area . It is an insurance requirement and racing may not commence until this requirement is adhered to. Please put all rubbish in the provided rubbish bins. PDNR Management will enforce that all drivers must be located in the designated pit/paddock area.

RAFFLES

RC CAR RAFFLE

Kindly donated by

GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE

Tickets are a one dollar each and all proceeds
Help keep the club up and running

This championship GRAHAM donated a fantastic
KYOSHO INFERNO MP7.5
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\$1 each

*Raffle will be drawn at the presentation night on May
2nd, 2006. If winner is not present, they will be
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Tickets are available from Race Control or Michael, Liz & Keith (Yellow Vests)

Meat Tray RAFFLE

Purchased from selected quality meats at
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Tickets are three for one dollar or 50c each.
All proceeds help keep the club up and running

3 for \$1 or 50c each

*Raffle will be drawn each night. Due to the nature of
the prize, if the winner is not present at the draw, the
raffle will be redrawn until a winner is found.*

CONTACT DETAILS

Club website:

www.pdnracing.org.au

Club mail

PDNR, PO Box 4126 Penrith Plaza, 2750



THANKS TO OUR 2005 SPONSORS FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT

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MASSIVE MOOS
HIGH PERFORMANCE NITRO

COMMITTEE UPDATE

There are a few changes planned for the Autumn 2006 Championship which are outlined below.

RACE ORDER

With the removal of Single Speed, the race order will be as follows. Depending on entrant numbers, more than one heat can be run to an overall maximum of 10 races per night. Novice will remain unchanged with two 10 minute practice sessions.

Novice, Nitro Kit, Open Pan, Buggy, Truck, Outlaw, Pull Start, Pro Tourer

STARTING PROCEEDURE

- Open Pan will use a Le Mans start, Race 1 based on registration order, Race 2 based on Race 1 positions.
- Pro Touring will use a Le Mans start. Race order based on seeding/registration, with Race 2 based on Race 1 results.
- All other divisions must have their cars on the grid at the 10 second mark. Late starters will start from pit lane. Cars starting from pit lane must wait for the entire field to pass before joining the race.

RACE FORMAT

Race format will remain 2 x 5 minute races, but there will be approx 4:30sec between races.

TRACK DESIGN

The layout for Autumn 2006 will be the same as Summer 2006.

RULE AMMENDMENTS

Pull Start – No Lola/GTP bodies permitted, only sedan style.

For full rules get a copy of the PDNR Competition Rules and Regulations from race control.

www.pdnracing.org.au

**EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL REGATTA CENTRE
CASTLEREAGH ROAD, PENRITH
(ENTRY VIA GATE A)**



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