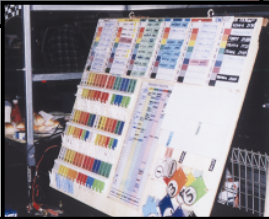


# The Racer's Edge

May 2008

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



## 2008 – WHAT WILL THE FUTURE HOLD?

The 2008 year is only one championship old, but it has already been a very eventful year for PDNR. With much of the Summer Championship cancelled due to rain, and the track location changing multiple times during the last 3 months PDNR members and drivers have been under an unusually high level of pressure.

This pressure is none greater than for those on the PDNR management committee who were elected at the AGM in December last year. Unfortunately there have been three resignations since then, with two of these positions still vacant as this newsletter goes to print.

In case you missed the last newsletter (February 2008) here are the 2008 committee members:

**President:** Kevin Maton – [president@pdnracing.org.au](mailto:president@pdnracing.org.au)

**Vice President:** *VACANT*

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Michael Turner – [secretary@pdnracing.org.au](mailto:secretary@pdnracing.org.au)

**Competition Secretary:** Tony Firth – [racing@pdnracing.org.au](mailto:racing@pdnracing.org.au)

**Registrar:** Rod Albronda

**Publicity Officer:** *VACANT*

**General Committee:** Grahame Jones, Steve Valletta, Flavio Cataldo, John Bates, Nathan Ryan, David Lo Iacono, Jonathan Freund.

As you can see there are some vacancies on the committee which need to be filled, so if you feel you would like to contribute first hand to the running of your club, please attend the General Meeting that is being held as part of the Summer Presentation on April 29 at the Nepean Rowing Club.

The committee is there to represent PDNR members and drivers, so if you have any ideas, experiences, thoughts or suggestions please approach one of the committee members and let them know so that they can present and explore them further. *Your club, your ideas!*

## RACE REPORT – SYDNEY GRAND PRIX

### ***PDNR Dominate Round 5 of the Nitro Interclub Series***

*-- Report by Chris Stanley --*

Round 5 of the Nitro Interclub Series (NIS) has been run and won with P.D.N.R. putting on a spectacular display of driving in all three Classes.

#### **OPEN TOURER**

The 25 minute Open Tourer final was taken out by our own Phil “Lithgow” Woodbury on 114 laps in 25 minutes 2 seconds, with a best lap of 12.08, only 3 laps ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> place. “Lithgow,” renowned for his coolness under pressure and constant race lines only managed to race on Sunday (played golf on the Saturday – work that out!) and had plenty to do. With a field that contained names such as Tony Firth, Alex Koussas, Matt Russell, Greg Brooks, Steve Valletta, Wayne Thomas and Shaun Kaltenbacher, it was going to be no walk in the park for Lithgow.

Tony Firth was in a similar situation as Lithgow and only raced on the Sunday (no he didn't play golf), leaving both of them with only two qualifiers to work with. Like the inevitable rain that comes each and every drag night, Lithgow TQ'd with an amazing 25 laps in 5.09 minutes. The only driver to crack the 25 lap mark. The next closest was Greg Brooks who had a very similar time but was a complete lap behind. Lithgow had sent the message out... ‘Catch me if you can!’



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However as all drivers know, come the A final all bets are off and everyone is on the same playing field/track and it didn't take long for some of the drivers to work that out. Greg Brooks didn't even secure a lap before coming entangled in the first, second and third corner carnage, and breaking the rear out of his car which ended this day/race early. Brooks, a real contender calmly walked off the driver's stand back to his pit table for a lot of character building and soul searching!

This exit opened the field right up and allowed Lithgow in his Mugen to extend his now widening lead on Wayne 'Toaster' Thomas in his Kyosho RRR. Toaster found himself in a somewhat unusual but very comfortable and deserving 2<sup>nd</sup> position.

Tony 'Roo' Firth was giving is RB powered Kyosho RRR all that it had and combined with his never say die attitude could not be trusted and was keeping both Lithgow and Toaster honest out in front. It didn't take long before Roo was on the pace and rounded up Toaster by lap 17, who for some reason had a 46 second lap.

Alex Koussas was also now getting involved and jostling for position with Roo, both of who were being hotly pursued by Matt Russell (4<sup>th</sup>). Russell's Xray NT1 which also had the throbbing heartbeat of an RB, was slowly but surely reeling in Koussas and Roo. Russell posted some reasonably good times in his pursuit, so much so that a podium finish was installed. However as fate would have it a loose wheel nut would see Russell's front wheel land at the feet of Barry Gavin who was marshalling along the back straight. The now stranded NT1 put a premature end to any chance Russell may have had.

Around the 20 lap mark Shaun 'Cucumber' Kaltenbacher suffered some serious reliability problems which saw him withdraw from the race. PDNR drivers were falling faster than the US dollar!

As the race unfolded Steve 'I talked the whole weekend and didn't take a breath' Valletta was lurking in the shadows waiting for his moment to strike and strike he did. At lap 40 Valletta secured 4<sup>th</sup> position and that's where he remained for the next 60 odd laps and finishing a very respectable and competitive race.

Chad Donnelly had now joined the onslaught and was showing no mercy to his 3 hour race partner (Toaster) rubbing door handles every chance he got and letting Toaster know he best start working that RB a little harder.

The action was hotter than a dodgy chilli kebab after a night on the cans, and no one was going home wondering what could have been, apart from Greg Brooks who left before the final buzzer had even sounded????

Lithgow now cruising out in front, Roo was on the charge, Koussas trying to palm off Valletta who was pushing harder than a shopper on Christmas Eve at the fish markets, but all to no avail. The sound Lithgow was longing to hear... BUUUUZZZZZZZZzzzzzzz!

And there it was for another year...The Sydney GP for Open Tourer complete along with round 5 of the NIS. Well Done Gents!

- |     |                     |          |
|-----|---------------------|----------|
| 1.  | Phil Woodbury       | 114 Laps |
| 2.  | Tony Firth          | 111 Laps |
| 3.  | Alex Koussas        | 109 Laps |
| 4.  | Steve Valletta      | 102 Laps |
| 6.  | Wayne Thomas        | 86 Laps  |
| 8.  | Matt Russell        | 36 Laps  |
| 10. | Shaun Kaultenbacher | 19 Laps  |



## PULL START

The field may have been small but the names were big, such as Russell, Valletta, Kaltenbaker, and Bates. Just like a Tuesday night at PDNR (except that it wasn't raining) each knowing only too well the others driving ability and all positions were up for grabs. A special mention must go to our good friend Steve Valletta who tried a number of questionable tactics during the weekend, such as his modified C12 RB (now confirmed!) or painting his body the same as Matt Russell's but to no avail! The RC gods were watching Steve!

- |    |                     |     |      |
|----|---------------------|-----|------|
| 1. | Matt Russell        | 107 | Laps |
| 2. | Shaun Kaultenbacher | 94  | Laps |
| 3. | Chris Stanley       | 91  | Laps |
| 4. | John Bates          | 81  | Laps |
| 5. | Steve Valletta      | 54  | Laps |



## RACE REPORT – ROUND 1 MECA CHALLENGE

### ***PDNR – Best Represented Club***

*-- Report by Steve Valletta --*

Round one of the 2008 Meca Challenge has been run and won, up for grabs once again is a split system air conditioner for both tourer and pullstart divisions.

Once again PDNR was the club best represented. Tourer class was won by Moorebank driver Andrew Bardetta with Phil Woodbury second and Ric Bartolozzi third. Ric also took out Top Qualifier with his CRF powered Kyosho RRR.

Pullstart was another hotly contested event, with the likes of Matt “Mussel” Russell, Chris “Sarge” Stanley, Steve “the deve” Valletta, Sean “cool as a cucumber” Kaltenbacher and young rookie Daniel “Yet to get a nick name” Miner.

With Matt Russell in TQ and hot favourite to win, it all went to plane with the 25 minute final was won by Matt, a great result for Chris Stanley with a second and Steve Valletta third.

The next round of the MECA Challenge is to be held at Moorebank (Helles Park) on the 31st May 2008.

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## PDNR TEAM WEAR

PDNR have a variety of merchandise available for purchase. See Race Control for more information.

Race Jacket	:	\$90.00
Polo Shirt	:	\$35.00
Moto (Torque) Shirt	:	\$60.00
Race Cap	:	\$15.00
Stickers	:	\$ 2.50



## 2008 RACING EVENTS – *Put em in ya diary!*

<b>Saturday 14-June</b>	PDNR Drag Night - Round 3
<b>Friday 27-June</b>	Practice – HPI Winter Champs
<b>Saturday 28-June</b>	Nitro Only – Round 7 Nitro Interclub Series
<b>Sunday 29-June</b>	Electric Only
<b>Saturday 12-July</b>	PDNR Drag Night - Round 4
<b>Saturday 23-August</b>	PDNR Challenge (SIRC - Penrith)
<b>Sunday 24-August</b>	- <i>Round 1 - 2008/2009 Nitro Interclub Series</i>
<b>Saturday 30-August</b>	PDNR Drag Night - Round 5
<b>Saturday 27-September</b>	PDNR Drag Night - Round 6
<b>Saturday 4-October</b>	Lithgow Grand Prix (Lithgow) - TBC
<b>Sunday 5 October</b>	Round 2 - 2008/2009 Nitro Interclub
<b>Saturday 11-October</b>	RC Bathurst 1000 (Bathurst)
<b>Saturday 8-November</b>	Mingara Cup (Mingara)
<b>Sunday 9-November</b>	- <i>Round 3 Nitro Interclub Series</i>
<b>Saturday 29-November</b>	PDNR 3 Hour Classic
<b>Sunday 21-December</b>	PDNR Charity Challenge (Oran Park)



## **PDNR PIT CREW IS BACK!**

As part of the updates to the PDNR website, the PDNR Pit Crew email list has made a triumphant return. If you want to be kept up to date with news and events you can join the Pit Crew to receive emails about PDNR's activities.

**Join Now at: [www.pdnracing.org.au/pitcrew](http://www.pdnracing.org.au/pitcrew)**

*Graham's*  
**HOBBY CENTRE**  
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Open 7 Days  
[www.grahamshobbies.com.au](http://www.grahamshobbies.com.au)

Also keep up to date with all the information, updates, rumours, gossip and sledging on the PDNR RC Tech thread at [www.rctech.net](http://www.rctech.net).

**FREESTYLE BARBER SHOP**  
Shop 4, 429 High St, Penrith  
**Ph 4722 8884**  
Mention PDNR when you visit Roger for your next hair appointment and you will receive a DISCOUNT RACE FUEL VOUCHER TO THE VALUE OF \$5.00  
(See in store for full details)

## CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

The 2008 Summer Championship has concluded, with many feeling that the weather was the winner. 7 of the 14 Rounds were cancelled due to rain, leaving only 7 actual racing rounds. Here are the Summer Championship Results.

Division Sponsor <b>JPM RACING : RB : ATS : CASTER</b>		
<b>OFF ROAD BUGGY</b>		
P	Name	Pts
1	Chris Young	216
2	Allan Crane	170
3	Nathan Egan	160
4	Chris Abela	152
5	Flavio Cataldo	142
6	Nathan Ryan	122
7	Jamie Fellowes	92
8	Joel Casey	89
9	Charles Pilotto	87
10	Darrel Knight	82
11	Matthew Oxford	49
12	John McIlwman	44
13	Greg Rossiter	40
14	Michael Fellowes	39
15	Philip Lauer	38
16	Ron Sant	35
16	Stewart Kayesmith	35
18	Don Bishop	34
19	Anthony Siljeg	33
20	Graham Fletcher	28
21	Michael Cairns	25
22	Shaun Osbourne	20
22	Nathan Johnston	20
22	Josh Crow	20
22	Daniel McCarthy	20
22	Scott Manning	20
27	Daniel Trouve	13
28	Ashley Crowther	12
29	Craig Campbell	5
30	Karl Reeves	0
30	Anthony Ryan	0
30	Dean Webster	0
30	Ryan Osbourne	0
30	Dennis Mitchell	0
30	Brendan Conlen	0

Division Sponsor <b>AUSWIDE HOBBIES</b>		
<b>OFF ROAD TRUCK</b>		
P	Name	Pts
1	Graham Fisher	214
2	Roy Hanmore	205
3	Allan Crane	175
4	Nathan Egan	164
5	David Bush	161
6	Darrel Knight	145
7	Jye Laidler	60
8	Rod Albronda	50
9	Nathan Johnston	21
10	Thomas White	20
11	Ryan Richardson	16
12	Aaron Atienra	8
13	Nick Allison	0
13	Cameron Spriggs	0

Division Sponsor <b>PIRTEK AUSTRALIA</b>		
<b>PULL START</b>		
P	Name	Pts
1	John Bates	236
2	Shaun Kaltenbacher	213
3	Steve Valletta	206
4	Graham McMillan	174
5	Joe Patane	147
6	Chris Stanley	130
7	Nathan Johnston	119
8	Scott Harris	40
9	John Newham	35
10	Anthony Ciappura	30
11	Barry Gavin	20
12	Chris Earl	7
13	Charles Pilotto	0

Division Sponsor <b>FREESTYLE BARBER SHOP</b>		
<b>OUTLAW</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Chris Young	204
2	Desmond Schneider	195
3	Rod Morgan	170
4	John Reilly	164
5	Scott Marks	96
6	Chris Stanley	95
7	Graham Fisher	93
8	David Bush	91
9	Jonathan Lo Iacono	84
10	David Lo Iacono	77
11	Kevin Maton	65
12	Scott Van Der Draay	58
13	Grahame Jones	49
14	Adam Heaney	44
15	Charles Pilotto	43
16	Ray Azzopardi	40
17	Barry Gavin	26
18	Rod Albronda	24
19	Brett Quarm	20
20	Glen Hartley	14
20	Ronald Clare	14
22	Flavio Cataldo	12
23	Joel Casey	10
24	Anthony Ryan	0
24	Ron Clare Snr	0
24	John Trotter	0
24	Brad Stuart	0
24	Ray Wallace	0

Division Sponsor <b>GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE</b>		
<b>PRO TOURER</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Tony Firth	238
2	Philip Woodbury	220
3	Ray Azzopardi	166
4	Jonathan Freund	161
5	Wayne Thomas	112
6	Shaun Kaltenbacher	110
7	Matthew Russell	104
8	John Bates	95
9	Luke Gunton	92
10	Steve Valletta	84
11	Ray Wallace	79
12	Shane Middlemass	68
13	Nathan Ryan	51
14	Brad Stuart	32
15	Steve O'Connor	27
16	Flavio Cataldo	26
17	Charles Pilotto	20
17	Joe Ivastinovic	20
17	Alex Koussas	20
20	Michael Stone	14
21	Rod Morgan	13
22	Mark Ballentine	10
23	Matt Leeming	0
23	Barry Gavin	0
23	Cameron Downing	0



Division Sponsor <b>TOOL AUS</b>		
<b>OPEN PAN</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Steve Valletta	240
2	Jonathan Freund	184
3	Matthew Russell	169
4	Steve O'Connor	167
5	Darrel Thompson	135
6	Kevin Maton	110
7	Graham Fraser	107
8	Michael Turner	94
9	John Mc Ilwman	79
10	Philip Lauer	74
11	Barry Gavin	64
12	Ronald Clare	58
13	Ray Azzopardi	57
14	Ray Wallace	36
15	John Trotter	20
16	John Reilly	6
17	Ron Clare Snr	0

Division Sponsor <b>GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE</b>		
<b>NITRO KIT</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	David Ryan	242
2	Paul Checuti	226
3	Andrew Thackray	162
4	Darrel Knight	153
5	Daryl Kaltenbacher	136
6	Daniel Miner	125
7	Greg Rossiter	112
8	Andre Lo Iacono	102
9	Mark Ballentine	46
10	Chris Pett	39
11	Glen Hartley	36
12	Russell Bennett	35
13	Don Bishop	21
14	Joshua Freund	20
15	Kris Albronda	7
16	John Newham	0

## NEXT CHAMPIONSHIP – AUTUMN 2008

The next championship is the 2008 Autumn Championship which will run over 14 weekly rounds from May 20 to August 19. There are again two practice nights leading into the new championship and these are on May 6 & 13.

This is another 14 Round championship and hopefully the precipitation will be less frequent this time around! Up front registrations will be taken on the practice nights and drivers are encouraged to have everything finalised by the start of the championship where possible. Entry forms will be available from the PDNR website in the coming weeks, so if you want to save time filling in the paper work on a Tuesday night download one before you arrive.

# THE DRAG LOUNGE

## RACE REPORT – DRAG NIGHT SERIES : ROUND 2

-- Steve O'Connor --

It's been a long time coming, but Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April saw the successful completion of a PDNR Drag Night. The rain stayed away and there were no equipment malfunctions so the boys could attempt to lay down some fast times.

The cobwebs were apparent with most entrants struggling to get the speed they were after. I think everyone was just relieved to get a run.

The Kids were up first with Kris Albronda, Zac Laidler, Corey Fraser and Rhys O'Connor to contest Junior Dragster. Kris Albronda showed some great pace to hold Corey at bay with Zac not too far behind. Rhys only had one run and decided it was past his bedtime and went to sleep in the car.

In top fuel it was all Leigh Naylor with a best pass of 1.928 and a speed of 116.1 km/ph. The other competitors have plenty to do to try and catch up to Leigh. We will have to wait until next round to see if anyone else can step up.

Doorslammer was a bit disappointing with none of the cars really able to show much at all. David Bush set the fastest ET of 2.707. We are all expecting a better showing next time out.

Super Stock GP had 2 standouts, old campaigner Rod Morgan and young first timer Jake Cash. Jake took TQ with a 2.443 at 93.7 km/ph. He jumped the light in the semi allowing Rod to take the win in the final. Look forward to round 3 to see this pair slug it out again. Will Jake learn from the experience or will the old fox take the Chockys again.

Super Stock EP and Matt Chesser was again the man to beat taking TQ. 2.157 at 97.3km/ph. Matt blew it in the semi hitting the timbers to leave the final to be contested by Steve O'Connor in the tiny little M18 and Clinton King. Clinton took the win with a .15 second gap with speeds 91.13 and Steve 87.8. This class is shaping up to be a ripper, if the boys can get the power down.

What would a PDNR event be without Off-road and again these lads didn't disappoint with plenty of thrills and spills. Matt Oxford was the quickest of these beasts with a 2.787 at 75km/ph.

All up a good night was had by all and it was topped of with Rod Morgan letting rip with the rocket rail, this thing needs to be seen to be believed. So you will all need to come the round 3 in June to check it out.

The interest in the scale ¼ mile style of racing is growing and we hope that many of our club members, as well as visitors from near and far, can attend a PDNR Drag Night and see what all the excitement is about first hand!



If you would like to get involved below is a list of dates of upcoming events that should go straight into your diaries.



### **2008 PDNR DRAG NIGHT SERIES**

<b>Round 3</b>	<b>Saturday June 14</b>	Round 4	Saturday July 12
Round 5	Saturday August 30	Round 6	Saturday September 27

## **HANDY MUST HAVES**

### **PERSONAL TRANSPONDERS**

The club has personal transponders for sale at \$155, and I can tell you they are worth their weight in gold. Many drivers don't appreciate their convenience, however like a lot of things in this world, once you've had them you never go back. If you would like to purchase one just see Race Control and they will be able to help you out.



## LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

### PDNR TO HOST 2008 WINTER CHAMPS

The 2008 Winter Champs, the sister event to the Summer Nats which are organised and promoted each year by *Racing Lines* magazine, will be held for the first time at PDNR. Naturally PDNR are excited to announce that they have been given the opportunity to host this major event, and are looking forward to putting on a great meeting - as PDNR have a reputation of doing! More information will be available closer to the date, but make yourself available on June 28 (GP - Nitro) and June 29 (EP), with practice scheduled for Friday June 27.

PDNR will be calling on help from Members to assist with many duties on both the Saturday and Sunday, so if you are able to volunteer your services for this event, please talk to Race Control.

### PDNR WORKING BEE – MAY 25

PDNR are holding a working bee on Sunday May 25 and the committee are seeking the help of all PDNR members (and any other volunteers that may be available). The track equipment is in desperate need of a overhaul and a good tidy up, especially with preparations well under way for the biggest event ever to grace PDNR - The 2008 Winter Champs (June 27 - 29)

The Working Bee is being held at the Sydney Internation Regatta Centre over at the clubs shipping container (near SIRC maintenance sheds - if you don't know where that is, head towards the P5 RTA car park - South bank - and keep going past the sky diving marquee) There will be many jobs that need hands so the more helpers the better - even if you can only spare an hour, it all adds up!

If you would like more information or have access to equipment that may assist with the maintenance, please see a PDNR committee member.



**[www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au)**

The PDNR website is updated regularly with news and results.  
You can also download entry forms and event calendars.

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