

The Racer's Edge

December 2008

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



Merry Christmas

From PDNR



El Pres – WORDS OF WISDOM

Well, it's that time of year again, Christmas sure does roll around quite fast. It has been good to see most drivers from the last two divisions on Tuesday nights staying back to help bring the track in and pack away in the trailers, this helps everyone get home earlier and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank all the drivers that help week after week with setting up the track, without your assistance the nights would run much later. If other drivers could spare ten minutes of their time at the beginning of each night and help out we could start the racing earlier and who knows maybe get more drive time!

A big thank you to all the sponsors that have supported us through 2008: Graham's Hobby Centre, Auswide Hobbies & Collectibles, Pirtek Australia and JPM Racing. These four sponsors have supported PDNR for a number of years now and all drivers are encouraged to show your appreciation by supporting our sponsors.

Once again I would like to thank the outgoing committee members for 2008. Without the efforts of these people the club would not be able to function properly and achieve all that was achieved in 2008.

Well done to all drivers that during the year went and competed at race meets outside the normal PDNR events, I know that this has improved your skills and knowledge greatly and will help with your driving and set up skills.

I would like to on behalf of the 2008 and 2009 committee wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2009.

Until the next issue – **Smile & the world will smile with you!!!**

El Pres

Kevin Maton



EDITORS BLURB

What a year, if you blinked for even a second you may have missed some of the highlights of the year, but don't cry just yet, because we will be recapping them this issue. PDNR made a monster turnout to some big events this year with some even bigger results and you can read more about them in this issue of *The Racers Edge*.

On behalf of *The Racers Edge* and PDNR, we wish all members and guests, a happy Christmas and a wonderful new year, and we hope to see everyone return for a Bigger better 2009.

2009 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The PDNR Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Tuesday December 16. Another excellent attendance by members with a number of new faces being elected to the Committee for 2009. Here is your committee for 2009:

President: Kevin Maton – president@pdnracing.org.au
Vice President: Rod Albronda – vicepresident@pdnracing.org.au
Secretary: Daniel Miner – secretary@pdnracing.org.au
Treasurer: Michael Turner – treasurer@pdnracing.org.au
Competition Secretary: Tony Firth – racing@pdnracing.org.au
Registrar: Greg Rossiter – registration@pdnracing.org.au
Publicity Officer: Steve O'Connor – publicity@pdnracing.org.au
General Committee: Grahame Jones
Steve Valletta
Nathan Ryan
Rod Morgan
Don Bishop
Roy Hanmore

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!*”

2009 EVENT CALENDAR - Summer

Here is the calendar for Summer 2009. The full PDNR Event Calendar will be available on the PDNR website early 2009.

Summer		
Tue	13-Jan-09	Registration & Practice 1 (South Bank)
Sat	17-Jan-09	<i>Team Orion - Summer Nats (Fairy Meadow) -- Round 3 - 2008/2009 Nitro Interclub Series --</i>
Sun	18-Jan-09	
Tue	20-Jan-09	Registration & Practice 2
Thu	22-Jan-09	<i>2009 AARCMCC VIC IC On Road State Titles (Lillydale)</i>
Sun	25-Jan-09	
Mon	26-Jan-09	Australia Day 2008
Tue	27-Jan-09	R1 (South Bank)
Tue	3-Feb-09	R2
Tue	10-Feb-09	R3
Tue	17-Feb-09	R4
Fri	20-Feb-09	PDNR Drag Night - Round 1
Tue	24-Feb-09	R5
Sat	28-Feb-09	<i>Sydney Grand Prix - GP (SORMCC - Whalan) -- Round 4 - 2008/2009 Nitro Interclub Series --</i>
Sun	1-Mar-09	
Tue	3-Mar-09	R6 (South Bank)
Tue	10-Mar-09	R7
Tue	17-Mar-09	R8
Fri	20-Mar-09	PDNR Drag Night - Round 2
Tue	24-Mar-09	R9
Tue	31-Mar-09	R10
Tue	7-Apr-09	R11
Thu	9-Apr-09	<i>NSW State Titles (Moorebank) -- Round 5 - 2008/2009 Nitro Interclub Series --</i>
Sun	12-Apr-09	
Tue	14-Apr-09	R12 (South Bank)
Tue	21-Apr-09	R13 (South Bank)
Sat	25-Apr-09	PDNR Pro-Line 2.4 Hour Le Mans
Tue	28-Apr-09	<i>Summer Presentation Night (Rowing Club)</i>

HANDY MUST HAVES

PERSONAL TRANSPONDERS

PDNR have AMB-it personal transponders for sale at \$155, and you can be sure 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. These are an awesome last minute Christmas gift for any RC racer.



www.auswidehobbies.com.au

AUSWIDE
HOBBIES AND COLLECTABLES

199 High Street , Penrith (near jaycar)
02 47 325 133
www.auswidehobbies.com.au

PDNR TEAM WEAR

PDNR have a variety of merchandise available. See Race Control for more information or to try a size. The back page of this newsletter has an order form if you are interested in purchasing any PDNR merchandise.

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



PDNR PIT CREW – Email List

The PDNR Pit Crew email list has made a triumphant return, so if you want to be kept up to date with news and events join the Pit Crew to receive emails about PDNR's activities.

2008 PDNR CHARITY CHALLENGE



Hi Tony,
PDNR would like to let you know about their 7th annual for 2008, the Charity Challenge. The event, which is held in the form of a 24 hour race, will be on the 29th/30th/31st of December 2008. The event will be held at the 2008 Pro-Line 2.4 Hour Le Mans. The event will be held at the 2008 Pro-Line 2.4 Hour Le Mans. The event will be held at the 2008 Pro-Line 2.4 Hour Le Mans.

Event Details:

- 2008 Charity Challenge
- Sunday December 29
- 24 Hour Race
- Part of Ride Race Day
- All Proceeds Directed to Rotary Club of St George

ENTRY FORM (DOC)
ENTRY LIST (PDF)

Penrith District Nitro Racing Inc.
CHARITY CHALLENGE

2008 PRO-LINE 2.4 HOUR LE MANS



ENDURANCE REQUIRED

Hi Tony,
PDNR would like to let you know about their next major endurance event, the 2008 Pro-Line 2.4 Hour Le Mans. This event is being held on Saturday April 26th. This will be the 8th time this annual event has been held, and it's shaping up to be bigger than ever!

Once again this is a 24 hour event, with a maximum of 12 hours able to complete. Should in the past years you have been better than most, 12 hours already completed in the time the event is over. If you have never part in a 24 hour event, before you will know the challenge and mental they can be. If you have never done this type of event before, you really should consider trying it at least once. (You might not!)

More information and entry forms are available from the links below.

Hope to catch you at the Track!

PDNR Pit Crew Chief

ENTRY FORM (PDF)
ENTRY FORM (DOC)
MORE INFORMATION
ENTRY LIST

Thanks to the Sponsors



Join Now at: www.pdnracing.org.au/pitcrew

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

Graham's
HOBBY CENTRE
67A Queen Street St Marys NSW 2760
02 9833 9044
Open 7 Days
www.grahamshobbies.com.au

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS – Spring 2008

What a year of racing for 2008, and the Spring Championship was a great way to finish the year. Many divisions had places decided on the final night. Well done to all drivers who made the podium. Here are the final Championship Points after Round 14.

Division Sponsor JPM RACING : RB : ATS : CASTER		
OFF ROAD BUGGY		
P	Name	Pts
1	Rick Seymo	326
2	Flavio Cataldo	281
3	Matthew Oxford	261
4	Michael Fellowes	173
5	Jamie Fellowes	154
6	Ron Sant	143
7	Dean Micallef	135
8	Graham Fletcher	134
9	Rhyce Taylor	107
10	Scott Palmer	105
11	Tim Linos	92
12	Chris Kalimeris	78
13	Stewart Kaye-smith	73
14	Tom Harrison	68
15	Thomas White	60
16	Bruce Downes	41
17	Joel Casey	36
18	Matthew Downes	27
19	Kris Clarke	24
20	Allan Crane	21
21	Darren Lavender	20
21	David Troitsin	20
23	David Jameson	8
24	Daniel Trouve	5
24	Don Bishop	5
26	John Stuart	0
26	Lachlan Priestley	0
26	Philip Lauer	0

Division Sponsor AUSWIDE HOBBIES		
OFF ROAD TRUCK		
P	Name	Pts
1	Roy Hanmore	363
2	Allan Crane	296
3	Charles Pilotto	226
4	Graham Fisher	219
5	Don Bishop	216
6	Adrian Isacks	137
7	Scott Palmer	92
8	Jamie Fellowes	46
9	Cam Follett	42
10	Scott Marks	16
11	Michael Fellowes	12
12	Scott Web	9
13	Adam Van Velzen	0

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS Cont'd

Division Sponsor PIRTEK AUSTRALIA		
PULL START		
P	Name	Pts
1	Steve Valletta	334
2	Shaun Kaltenbacher	308
3	Jonathan Freund	248
4	Scott Palmer	192
5	Frank Deak	181
6	Charles Pilotto	157
7	Michael Turner	126
8	Ryan Palmer	105
9	Thomas White	73
10	Andrew Thackray	42
11	John McIlwhan	30
12	Joshua Freund	28
13	Rhyce Taylor	15
14	Corey Gurney	10
15	Russell Morris	0

Division Sponsor		
OUTLAW		
P	Name	Pts
1	Ray Wallace	318
2	John Reilly	264
3	Rod Morgan	228
4	Daniel Miner	169
5	Graham McMillan	141
6	Ryan Palmer	137
7	Grahame Jones	109
8	Luke Gunton	108
9	John Mc Ilwhan	98
10	Joel Casey	89
11	David Lo Iacono	67
12	Steve Podmore	62
13	Philip Lauer	60
14	Nathan Egan	57
15	Laurie Grima	52
16	Thomas White	49
17	Scott Marks	48
18	Darrel Thompson	39
19	Chris Stanley	34
20	Barry Gavin	33
21	Daryl Kaltenbacher	32
22	Mark Ballantine	26
23	Jamie Clarke	20
24	Brad Stuart	14
25	Russell Morris	9
26	Maurice King	0

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS Cont'd

Division Sponsor GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE		
PRO TOURER		
P	Name	Pts
1	Tony Firth	372
2	Jonathan Freund	296
3	Chris Young	276
4	John Bates	226
5	Steve Valletta	191
6	Nathan Egan	165
7	Shaun Kaltenbacher	135
8	Matt Ferguson	70
9	Joel Casey	55
10	John Mc Ilwhan	53
11	Laurie Grima	35
12	Phillip Lauer	34
13	Nathan Ryan	14
14	Darrel Thompson	8

Division Sponsor JPM RACING : EDAM		
EDAM EXER		
P	Name	Pts
1	John Bates	332
2	Nathan Ryan	304
3	Steve Valletta	248
4	Rod Albronda	202
5	Darrel Knight	178
6	Kevin Maton	170
7	Andrew Thackray	155
8	Greg Rossiter	149
9	Shaun Kaltenbacher	126
10	Jonathan Lo Iacono	104
11	Matt Ferguson	74
12	Jason Priestley	26
12	Michael Turner	26
14	Mark O'Connor	17
15	Daryl Kaltenbacher	8
16	Corey Gurney	0



CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS Cont'd

Division Sponsor		
OPEN PAN		
P	Name	Pts
1	Michael Turner	319
2	Rod Albronda	261
3	Nathan Ryan	244
4	Grahame Jones	219
5	Kevin Maton	197
6	Darrel Thompson	192
7	Steve O'Connor	144
8	Graham Fraser	133
9	Barry Gavin	70
10	Charles Pilotto	24
11	Graham Fletcher	19

Division Sponsor		
GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE		
NITRO KIT		
P	Name	Pts
1	Darrel Knight	295
2	Daniel Miner	255
3	Roy Hanmore	242
4	Greg Rossiter	224
5	Steve Pastega	144
6	Bruce Berg	136
7	David Lo Iacono	135
7	Allan Crane	135
9	Steve Podmore	119
10	Trevor Hodges	101
11	William Wilson	69
12	Kris Albronda	41
13	Barry Gavin	31
14	Emma Gallagher	29
15	Rhyce Taylor	26



2008 CLUB CHAMPION

2007 saw the introduction of the Inaugural PDNR Club Champion. In 2008 this honour was hotly contested and the top 20 PDNR members are below.

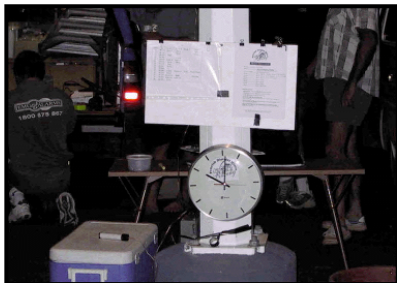
The Club Champion recognises the most successful member at PDNR during a year of competition, and it is calculated by adding the points scored in all three championships together. Drivers competing in multiple divisions, only have their primary division counted.

2008 PDNR CLUB CHAMPION					
Name	RANK	TOTAL	TOTAL SUMMER 2008	TOTAL AUTUMN 2008	TOTAL SPRING 2008
Roy Hanmore	1	1028	205	460	363
Steve Valletta	2	990	240	416	334
John Bates	3	951	236	383	332
Shaun Kaltenbacher	4	938	213	417	308
Jonathan Freund	5	854	184	374	296
Nathan Ryan	6	822	122	396	304
Michael Turner	7	815	94	402	319
Darrel Knight	8	771	153	323	295
Chris Young	9	747	216	255	276
Flavio Cataldo	10	705	142	282	281
Rod Morgan	10	705	170	307	228
Steve O'Connor	12	686	167	375	144
Ray Wallace	13	682	79	285	318
Andrew Thackray	14	667	162	350	155
Nathan Egan	15	665	164	336	165
Daniel Miner	16	644	125	264	255
Allan Crane	17	618	175	147	296
Darrel Thompson	18	617	135	290	192
Tony Firth	19	610	238	0	372
Charles Pilotto	20	575	87	262	226

PDNR – The Past to the Present

Penrith District Nitro Racing, or PDNR as it's better known has been around for over 10 years in one form or another. This may come as a surprise to many drivers who may not have even been into RC that long. Over the years the activities of PDNR have evolved into what you see every Tuesday night at their current home the Sydney International Regatta Centre, and it's no fluke that PDNR are today one of the most successful and respected RC car clubs in Australia.

For anyone not aware of PDNR's origins, they began many moons ago as a group of enthusiasts who would meet on Sunday mornings at Penrith train station car park. This soon changed to Tuesday nights at the Harvey Norman car park where PDNR really began to grow. The casual unstructured race meetings soon became more organised as more and more drivers wanted to participate in the growing hobby of racing nitro powered radio control cars.



PDNR's first Race Control was a clock, and a few plastic sleeves



PDNR's first track trailer looked like this when they purchased it!

Before long organisers decided to make PDNR official and formed a Not-for-profit volunteer Incorporated Association, named (you guessed it) Penrith District Nitro Racing Inc. This was the first big step for PDNR, and the first Annual General Meeting was held in a stuffy garage smelling of nitro where the founding committee members were elected. Two of these founding members still hold positions on the current committee, Kevin Maton (President) and Tony Firth (Competition Secretary).

Over the next 7 years PDNR would continue to grow, attracting more and more drivers to the hobby. Many drivers would come and go, but the new drivers outnumbered the departing and PDNR continued to grow with the demand. You can view the Honour Roll on the PDNR website and see that the first PDNR Championship had only 3 divisions: Single Speed / Novice, 2 Speed, and 2 Speed Pro.

From the very beginning, PDNR's approach was simple – “run what you bring” – with virtually any Nitro RC car accepted. This is still a key ingredient to PDNR's success today, with Tuesday night racing catering for 9 divisions. The difference being that now PDNR have enough drivers to have heats of each division, with up to 13 races being squeezed in. Back in 2002, a T-Maxx truck would run in Single Speed! You would be hard pressed to find another RC car club that regularly runs as many divisions as PDNR.



PDNR's first dunny and caravan derby at a display day in 2002



The 2008 PDNR Challenge was the 3rd running of this annual weekend event

Another ingredient that helped PDNR grow to where it is today is the sense of comradery and mate ship. Many drivers have been hot under the collar during a race, but one of the most frequently heard comments about PDNR is how strong the club spirit is. This is evident by the number of PDNR drivers that regularly attend other race meetings, and not as individuals but as a club. This is especially evident in the recent Nitro Interclub Series which was another new initiative started by PDNR.

Anyone who has attended a recent race meeting, will have noticed PDNR are still employing these key values. More experienced drivers will regularly lend a hand to the novice drivers, and organisers will still try to accommodate any nitro RC car that turns up.

One of the biggest changes over the years is the standard of racing at PDNR. In the early days PDNR were viewed by many other clubs and drivers to be a “bunch of hacks” racing in a car park, but today this is certainly not the case. PDNR drivers have raised the bar, and many drivers who learnt their craft with PDNR are matching it with the best the country has to offer. PDNR are now viewed as a very reputable RC car club, capable of running great events on one of the best car park tracks in the country. The appointment of PDNR to host the 2008 Winter Champs which was promoted by Racing Lines magazine is testimony to this fact.

PDNR have tried many things during the last eight years and you can be sure they will continue to try new ideas in the future. If they worked, they kept them, and if they didn't, they tried something else – in some cases they have tried something more than once. It must be said that overall PDNR must be doing something right to consistently have 80 to 100 entrants every week of the year! Over the years there have always been feedback and opinions from drivers on the way PDNR is run. This has been both positive and negative, but one thing that can't be ignored is the fact that PDNR's patronage and achievements when compared to many other clubs – many of them more established – demonstrate an unmatched level of success.

PDNR remains under the control of a dedicated management committee who volunteer their time and skills. The committee is elected by PDNR members each year at the Annual General Meeting, and if you are interested in getting more involved with the behind the scene running of PDNR you are encouraged to talk to one of the existing committee members, or even better attend the AGM.



Does anyone recognise this PDNR driver nick named Mr Armour all?



PDNR drivers pose for a Sydney newspaper photo shoot

NEW PDNR TRAILER DRIVER'S STAND

Tuesday November 11 was the official launch of the new PDNR drivers stand. The new trailer/drivers stand is by far PDNR's biggest ever project, being built from scratch by PDNR members. The pictures speak for themselves!

The ribbon cutting opening ceremony was a milestone in PDNR's history. The height of the stand is over 2.5m for perfect viewing of the track. The trailer is also used to store and transport the track timbers and reduced the time and effort required to set up and pack up the drivers stand.

Special mention was made of the effort (and countless hours) put in by Michael Turner, Nathan Ryan, Ron Sant and John Bates, plus all the other helpers along the way.

The First Setup of the New trailer.



View from the top down the ramp.



The Ceremony



The Ribbon Cutting



In Use by Drivers



2008 WINTER CHAMPS – Hosted by PDNR

The Gods must have favoured PDNR for this weekend, with beautiful sky's, Great track conditions, and enough edge of your seat racing to make any racer step back and admire the racing quality from every racer during the 2008 Winter Champs which are promoted by Racing Lines Magazine.

PDNR was graced with competitors from near and far, even from across the borders of NSW. Which made this winter champs the one not to miss.

Friday practice saw, a lot of frustrated faces from local drivers, who found the track Very different from the usual surrounds of Tuesday nights, meaning for a lot of tuning and setup being done by all. With Traction from Laps being laid in Practice, the track was looking to be a great track for all competitors of all Experiences. A Welcome sight for the track was the ever so quiet yet quick Electric Mod cars zooming around with the noisy nitro boys. Having quite a few volunteer Marshals baffled as to why the car seemed flamed out yet was driving away from them. With the sun setting on Friday practice, every one was anticipating a great day for Saturday racing.

Saturday morning was welcomed with bright warm sun, and a slight chill in the air, but racers were arriving in there droves and all seemed excited to be racing on Penrith's home track. Qualifying got under way; with most drivers unaware how slippery and tedious the ripple strips can be, adding for a bit of excitement for the spectators. Nitro Sport was hotly contested by new and up coming youngsters who showed the crowd they were on there way to the top.

Pullstart was a sure fight for placing, with a lot of well known pullstart drivers battling it out for TQ making for very exciting racing.

Open Tourer showed the crowds just how Fast paced nitro racing can be, with some spectacular driving from home grown Hero, Phil Woodbury and Out of Towner's, the jovanovics, but not to be out done, the local Tourer boys were hot on there heels, making them Work hard for Every lap and Every millisecond of Time.

1/8th Open pan not wanting to be out done, decided to turn the pace up another notch, Tearing up the tarmac, with blistering speeds and times that make you gasp.

Electric mod, not wanting to be Over shadowed by the Nitro cars, showed Penrith and the Spectators, why Electric Racing is still Very popular and Very much a Racing Class. With Qualifying Finished, racers were reading themselves for a Great Battle in the Finals.

Nitro sport top 3 qualifying

- 1: Rhys OConner
- 2: Ray Zarb
- 3: Mark OConner

The 30 minute A final was going to be a task for the Nitro Sport Racers, With the Race under way, it was a fierce battle for the top 3 with Positions changing more time then you could count due to Flame outs, Damaged Cars and Race incidents The race looked to be sure fires win for who ever could just stay out there for 30 mins with 2nd and 3rd being sorted in the very last lap by only seconds

Final Placing:

- 1: Mark OConner
- 2: Graham McMillan
- 3: Kris Albronda

Well done, especially to the youngster who raced and raced extremely well.

Pull start Qualifying was fought hard and finally decided the following Top 3

- 1: Steve Valetta
- 2: Chris Stanley
- 3: Shaun Kaltenbacher

The 30 minute A final was going to be a Race of MAN and Machine, with all drivers on fire during Qualifying. After a lot of Car problems the final Looked to be a 2 car race with most cars 10 or more laps behind the Lead cars, especially after Chris Stanley had a few problems with his car and lost Critical time which put him of Lead laps, yet a Quick Pit Repair left him still in contention for 3rd

Final Placing:

- 1: Shaun Kaltenbacher
- 2: Steve Valetta
- 3: Chris Stanley

Well done to all drivers of pullstart for a great race.

Pro Tourer was definitely the cars to watch with Racing that was so smooth in the top 20 of the field it looked like most cars were on Rails.

Qualifying Placing:

- 1: Peter Jovanovic
- 2: Phil Woodbury
- 3: Ric Bartolozzi

With the racing from the lower finals being fast and exciting with lots of memorable moments, and some not so memorable, the Top10 were ready to race and the racers and spectators were lining the barricades for a better view.

The racing was Top Notch from the start till the final moments, with the lead cars making the pace very fast, and the excitement almost over shadowed by PDNR driver Steve Valetta who was in his second consecutive 30 minute final, and was making his way thru the traffic at blistering pace.

But it was PDNR drivers Phil Woodbury and Ray Azzopadi who would round out the top 5 drivers with Steve in 7th.

Pro tourer placing

- 1: Peter Jovanovic
 - 2: Phil Woodbury
 - 3: Ric Bartolozzi
- Well done to all Pro Tourer Drivers

1/8th Open Pan, being the big boys of racing they were Definately out to impress with times to scare most drivers.

Qualifying top 3:

- 1: Ric Bartolozzi
- 2: Leigh Dytor
- 3: Steve Valetta

Now the Drivers and Spectators Really had something to Watch, Blistering Fast racing and a man who just raced 2 , 30 Minute finals, Taking the Stand once again for another 30 minute final, PDNR's own Steve Valetta
The PDNR drivers made there assault on the 1/8th A main but Appeared to be Plagued by Problems and Moorebank Rocketed home to a 1,2,3 Victory.

1/8 Scale placing

- 1: Ric Bartolozzi
- 2: Leigh Dytor
- 3: Alex Yousif

Well done to all Drivers, and a big Effort to Steve Valetta, completing 3, 30 min A Mains concurrently.

EP Modified – Being a strange car to Penrith, the electric boys had everyone's attention and they did not disappoint,

Qualifying.

- 1: Andrew Abbot
- 2: Steven Jovanovic
- 3: Simon Feigl

Being 5 minute Split finals due to Battery restraints, 3 x 5min finals are held, with great driving displayed from all, but a 2 final win from Andrew Abbot saw him to victory. Well done to all

The Winter Champs was a Great Success for PDNR and we would like to thank all Drivers, Spectators and Racing Lines for their Support for the 2008 Winter Champs.



2008 WINTER CHAMPS – RACING LINES REPORT

The following are extracts from the *Racing News* section of *Racing Lines* Magazine – Issue 146 – November 2008.

IMPRESSIVE PDNR

IT DOESN'T HAVE top quality bitumen, it doesn't have perfectly manicured grass infields and a dedicated under cover pit area, hell, the track isn't even a permanent one but the Penrith District Nitro Racers circuit—located within the Regatta Centre at Penrith in Sydney's west—does have one important ingredient which sees it with probably the largest racing membership of any RC car club in Australia.

That ingredient is club spirit and on any Tuesday night, racers flock to the foothills of the Blue Mountains to enjoy racing and the social activity which goes with it.

This year it was host to the Winter Champs and our report starts page 104.



ABBOTT, PEEJAY WINTER CHAMPS

ANDREW ABBOTT seemingly has his Team Associated TC5 working sweetly at long last and demonstrated it with a fine win at this year's Winter Champs, held on the PDNR circuit at the Regatta Centre, on the Nepean River, at Penrith in Sydney's outer west.

Sharing honours with Abbott was Peter Jovanovic, driving his new XRAY NT-1 ride and powered by his ever faithful Novarossi.

On a cool morning, drivers from interstate and local gathered to race the day away in one EP Touring class and four GP classes.

The entire event ran smoothly, something for which

host club, PDNR, are famous for and again can be proud of their achievement this weekend.

Qualifying

This turned out to be a reasonably tame period with nothing special, certainly nothing to hint at what was to come once the real battles—the finals—commenced.

Abbott had TQ in EP Modified sorted while Peter Jovanovic simply dominated the Nitro Tourer Open class.

He's undoubtedly the number one Nitro Tourer driver in the country at the moment.

Jovanovic junior was close to a full lap on the field in qualifying and he showed no mercy in the A Main either.

Pull Start saw Steven Valetta in top spot while evergreen Ric Bartolozzi and his Kyosho was in control well and truly of the 1:8 runners.

The new Nitro Sport class has some entertaining qualifying with TQ coming to Rhys O'Connor, however it was seven year old Kris Albronda who was the crowd favourite for those honours amongst the junior drivers.

Finals

The Mains kicked off in the afternoon and the A Mains were a treat, for the most part.

EP Modified, these drivers know what's what and they showed it on the track.

Abbott took full advantage of his TQ spot in A1 and shot to the lead, however Steve



Jovanovic (Hot Bodies) was not going to let him get away and one of the better cat and mouse chases ensued.

Abbott pulled out a bit of distance only to run slightly wide, allowing Jovanovic to catch up again.

Then the reverse happened, giving Abbott a buffer again... great stuff.

Darrin Campbell (TC5) was pushing hard and catching the two dueling positions (as is often the case) but he came to grief on the unforgiving barriers about mid race, allowing the field to slip through.

Jake Zarb (Team Magic) eventually picked up third

A2 was another dominant display for the Reedy powered TC5s and Abbott, the same chase from Steven ensued but the outcome was the same.

The real battle was for the minor places with Jack Zarb showing his consistent speed to lead home Simon Feigl (Hot Bodies).

A3 was in completely different conditions with the lights on and the sun gone, Abbott did not switch on this race and came to grief, pulling out early to leave Jovanovic in

control with his Cyclone.

He had it in the bag finishing ahead of Zarb and Tim Lee (XRAY).

Abbott though claimed a very welcome overall win from Jovanovic with Zarb picking up third.

Nitro Open was a lay down for Peter Jovanovic and his XRAY NTL1.

From the start of the 30 minute race, he cleared out.

Darrin Campbell and his Serpent pushed hard and were in touch with the leader for the opening stages of the race but it didn't take too long for Jovanovic to hit his straps to lap the whole field.

Campbell came to grief after six minutes or so, letting local hopeful Phil Woodbury (Mugen) into second with the ever competitive, Ric Bartolozzi (Kyosho) slotting into third after running last in the early stages of the race.

It wasn't all plain sailing for the TQ though, with about nine laps remaining his car had clearly developed problem (we suspect stripped second gear from the noise), however with a significant lead he was able



to cruise over the line over two laps ahead of Woodbury with Bartolozzi third and ahead of Chad Donnelly, Ray Azzopardi, John Germanos, Steve Valletta, Andrew Bardetta, Chris Russell and the hapless Campbell.

Earlier, James Sabolki led throughout to win the B Main from Matt Russell with Wayne Thomas finishing third while in the C Main, Shaun Kaltenbacher took a five second in over Chris Young after a chequered run in the early stages of the ten minute race.

Third in the C was Lance Nunn who was three seconds behind Young, meaning all three drivers finished on the same lap with Andrew Le and Joe Ivastinovic less than a lap further back.

Nathan Egan scored a comfortable win in the D Main from Robert Bullimore and Steven Cornell.

1:8 was really a Bartolozzi benefit, even though Leigh Dytor (Kyosho) jumped to an early lead after 'Bart' started from the pits.

It didn't take the top qualifier long to reel in Snowy and from there he was never headed except for one refuelling stop.

Snowy had his own trouble in the closing stages with a battered Kyosho coming home two wheel drive.

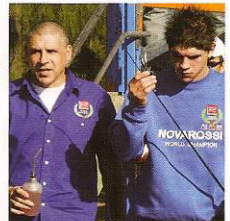
He had just enough of a buffer over Alex Yousif who was a very happy campaigner in third.

Interesting to see the podium full of New South Wales drivers.

It's hard to believe the speed out of the Pull Start class cars, with the levels of modification to get the speed you have to wonder why the guys don't step up to open—the speed differences are ultimately very small.

The top two pull start cars would not have been shamed in the open class!

In any event it was an entertaining race with the cars of Shaun Kaltenbacher



(Kyosho) and Steve Valletta (Kyosho) having a great tussle for basically the full 30 minute race duration.

These guys swapped the lead on no less than a dozen occasions, making for very entertaining racing.

At flag drop, Kaltenbacher held a very skinny 1.061 second lead around the 17 second per lap track.

Third place Chris Stanley, also driving a Kyosho, was there for about three quarters of the race but had problems and

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WINTER CHAMPS RESULTS

EP MODIFIED: 1st Andrew Abbott, 2nd Steven Jovanovic, 3rd Jake Zarb, 4th Tim Lee, 5th Simon Feild, 6th Darrin Campbell, 7th Michael Stone, 8th Damien Zarb, 9th Chris Hamilton, 1:8: 1st Ric Bartolozzi, 2nd Leigh Dytor, 3rd Alex Yousif, 4th Steve Valletta, 5th Rod Albronda, 6th Steve O'Connor, 7th Kevin Maton, 8th Andrew Le. **NITRO TOURER OPEN:** 1st Peter Jovanovic, 2nd Phil Woodbury, 3rd Ric Bartolozzi, 4th Chad Donnelly, 5th Ray Azzopardi, 6th John Germanos, 7th Steve Valletta, 8th Andrew Bardetta, 9th Chris Russell, 10th Darrin Campbell, 11th James Sabolki, 12th Matt Russell, 13th Wayne Thomas, 14th Jim Cranston, 15th Alex Novasos, 16th Rod Morgan, 17th Matt Ferguson, 18th Jonathan Freund, 19th Chris Stanley, 20th Nathan Ryan, 21st Shaun Kaltenbacher, 22nd Chris Young, 23rd Lance Nunn, 24th Andrew Le, 25th Joe Ivasinovic, 26th Ray Wallace, 27th Scott Marks, 28th Luke Ganton, 29th Joel Casey, 30th Tomas Buratovich, 31st Nathan Egan, 32nd Robert Bullimore, 33rd Steven Cornell, 34th Brad Parker, 35th Barry Gavin, 36th Alexander Siddique, 37th Rob Cornell, 38th Flavio Cataldo, 39th Rob Parrington. **NITRO TOURER PULL START:** 1st Shaun Kaltenbacher, 2nd Steve Valletta, 3rd Chris Stanley, 4th Richard Deger, 5th Nathan Johnston, 6th Joshua Freund, 7th Matt Ferguson, 8th Joe Patana, 9th Jim Cranston, 10th Charles Pliotto. **NITRO TOURER SPORT:** 1st Mark O'Connor, 2nd Graham McMillan, 3rd Kris Albronda, 4th Rhys O'Connor, 5th Ray Zarb, 6th Daniel Miner, 7th Nicholas Freund, 8th Charles Pliotto, 9th Leon Kaltenbacher, 10th Steve O'Connor.

WINTER CHAMPS

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dropped out with enough of a lead over fourth to be secure and thus give the locals a 1-2-3 finish.

Fourth home was Gosford's Richard Deger, followed by Nathan Johnston, Joshua Freund, Matt Ferguson, Joe Patane, Jim Cranston and Charles Pilotto.

Nitro Sport, a class for the beginners with stock cars, was well represented and it was great to see some real youngsters putting their hand to the wheel!

To be sure the racing was not as sharp as some other classes but it was fantastic to these drivers included at a major meeting.

These guys were clearly having fun but trophies had to be given and first

went to Mark O'Connor, second going to the Graham McMillan and a youthful Kris Albronda (keep an eye out for that name over the next few years) slotting into third.

This class is less about picking up tinware and more about seeing new drivers having a go—and being encouraged to have a go—but other drivers with experience supporting them.

Hopefully more meetings will include opportunities for these drivers to experience the fun of racing.

The accolade for the success of the event has to go to the Penrith Club.

The guys at PDNR put on a fantastic show that ran without a hitch, it will be fantastic to see a full EP meeting run by this club, they no doubt will do an excellent job of it.

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THE OFF SEASON

Things to Remember for the New Year break

Change your shock Oils, if you have not changed them yet, or Ever, its time to Learn, Clean Fresh shocks respond better then old shocks.

Diff oil, same as your shocks, this too will respond better to a clean and lube then it does now, so once again take the time and oil your diff.

Now is the best time to check your car over, Clean it make it sparkle then, spend some good time examining Everything, from wheels, to the smallest nut or bolt, check for cracks, whitening of the plastics from stress, roll it in a quiet room and listen to the bearings and drive train, Find faults before they ruin your fun.

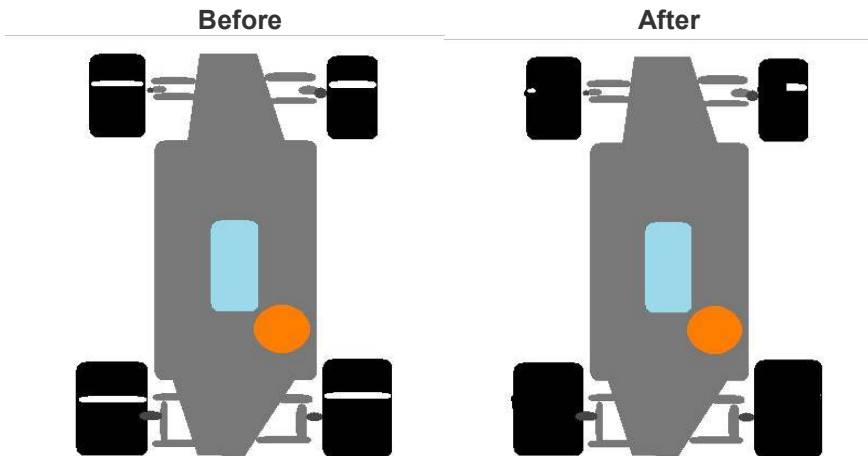
Don't forget to stock up on the parts you break the most, and some of the parts you could break, not sure what parts? Ask someone from racing that has the same car, or your local hobby shop will know what parts are common on your car

HINTS & TIPS

Camber: Do you have enough or too much

Don't know whether you have set it right? Here is quick and easy tip. Once you have setup your camber, draw a line along each of your 4 wheels, straight across the width, so you have one line on each wheel using chalk, now drive the car around the track for one lap.

When you return to pits, check to see if you have any Chalk left that has not be scuffed or removed, if you are setup correctly, you should have no chalk left or very scuffed up, if there are spots not wiped off your camber is out, see which side is not wiped and adjust it a little more towards the chalk



The displays show, the front wheels are cambered in too far for the track, and the rear wheels appear to be perfect.



www.pdnracing.org.au

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You can also download entry forms and event calendars.

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