

SPECIALTY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA INFORMATION MEETING

Red Deer's Westerner, October 12, 2019

Meeting minutes submitted by Malcolm Fischer

Al was managing the signing-in table and unlike the Florida result in a recent US election, we can consider the results reliable. That said, however, Warren and Louise joined him at 12:12 pm..... just to ensure there were no fake sign-ins!

The Old Editor had been called into secretarial duties for reasons explained below, but his sincerity and listening diminish with time, so apologies in advance for inaccuracies that may occur.

(The Old Editor noted that, as is usually the case, many members of the Iron Indians Pontiacs clubs were present from both Edmonton and Calgary, and he was a bit disappointed that both were not wearing red and white in honour of the Stamps beating the Riders the night before, helping the causes of both the Stamps and the Eskies!)

1. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Jim called the meeting to order at 12:31 with 20 in attendance and explained that secretary Ted, having had a look at the fact that there were two meetings this day, said, "To heck with it. I'm too tired. I ain't goin'. Find somebody else." So he concocted some story about his cough causing him to have a collapsed lung, and he was purportedly confined to quarters at a hospital in Calgary. Alas, it turned out to be true! Ted says, "The food is crap." Jim says Ted's feeling better and will be out by Tuesday. **WE DO WISH TED THE VERY BEST IN HIS SPEEDY RECOVERY! SINCERELY, THIS TIME!**

(a) Charities: attendees were invited to introduce themselves and also mention any charitable causes their clubs participated in. Prepare to be impressed! SVAA club's support/participate in such things as Veterans' Food Bank, museums support, Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas charity, community food banks, Alzheimers Association, MS, hospice society, student scholarships, MADD, local football teams, playground development, Autism Society, kids' camps, family violence shelters, War Amps, Prostate Cancer research, highway cleanup, Veterans' Housing, Reset Society, Legacy Place, school lunches, hampers for needy families, Kids' Cancer research and care, Elkwater Elementary School's bathroom renovations, and more. High River's annual giant show and shine usually attracts 1200-1300 vehicles and they support 10-15 local charities with the proceeds. This year, it was a SNOW and shine, and attracted only about 30 cars, unfortunately for these charities, no doubt.

2. REPORTS

(a) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: "MG Pres" Jim and "Cross Country" Warren reported that Nova Scotia has passed a new Highway Traffic Act and regulations are now being detailed. It is expected that other provinces will use this as a template, so much good preparatory work is being done. Also, Quebec was planning to ban vintage military vehicles from highway travel as they often do not conform to civilian safety standards. That position has been "relaxed" a bit, and has led to a new military vehicle club forming in Quebec. Nice.

- (b) EVENTS: “GTO” Dave reports that page use has grown to 7.6 visits per day, with May 21st being the biggest day. Events calendar has had 25,750 visits and clubs are asked to **PLEASE SUBMIT EVENTS ONLINE** so Dave does not have to enter them longhand even though he does have rather long hands. Events can be updated and edited easily so **PLEASE SUBMIT THEM BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY**. Format has improved and all is working well. The Northwest Cruise Calendar is being taken over by Quicktimes.
- (c) WEBSITE: “Stats” Paul noted that there have been 40,373 site visits but main page use has tapered 30% to 2700. But, the events page is up 8.64% to 3200. Facebook has slowed a bit as well as “page likes.” In 2019, Vegreville Iron Runners got 2196 responses, the most to any individual post. To “share” with friends drastically increases Facebook use. There are 650 on the SVAA email list, a typical increase of 72 this year. **GET ALL CLUB MEMBERS TO SIGN UP FOR THE SVAA EMAILS – UNSUBSCRIBING IS EASY IF DESIRED.**
- (d) E-PAGE: updated every 2 months or so. Timely articles always needed!
- (e) INTERIM FINANCIALS: “Calculator” Bob made a joke about “liking figures.” After the throng realized it was numbers he was talking about, they paid polite attention to Bob’s presentation. Online Quickbooks has been having some problems but Bob noted that we have about \$50,000 in cash and no liabilities. This year we have made about \$10,000 so far so Bob will be departing for Maui to count it carefully, just in case. JUST kidding! Insurance asked for numbers estimates which are believed to be about the same as the previous year. Detailed copies are available from Bob.
- (f) INSURANCE PROGRAM: Our broker, TSG, will be starting on the renewal process now we have the financial information requested. 2,212 insured members last year and 2,339 this year. **IF REQUESTING THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATES, PLEASE DO SO AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.**
- (g) MEMBERSHIP: “Nurse-Checker-Outer” Ted relayed that 62 clubs out of a possible 68 are SVAA members and 20 clubs are also members of the National, with 919 members up from last year’s 868. **ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS ENCOURAGED.** Membership fees will remain at \$5 per club member for SVAA, \$5 for National membership, with insurance information to come as the renewal process is completed.
- (h) SEMA: starts October 29 and one must be invited as part of a company to attend. (Jim noted at this point that “there are no cars in California.” Hmmm. MGs do that to a guy!)
- (i) SAFETY CHECKS: a mere 6 clubs submitted the 92 safety checks. Very disappointing indeed. It appears clubs must clarify that these can be done quickly, they are just a safety check, and much more needs to be done on this front. Even if a safety check shows something needs fixing, it should still be tallied as a completed safety check. Jim noted that some major tours now require a pre-tour safety check before departing.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Collector Car Appreciation Day had excellent weather and a great turnout. Next year's is July 10.
ALSO LET NACC AND SEMA KNOW OF RELATED CLUB EVENTS TO BE HELD.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Elections will be done in May, and Jim's term as president is ending so an able replacement is being sought. Both vice presidents voiced that they are unable to take on additional responsibilities.

Retiring soon after many years of superb SVAA service" Peter MacFarlane will also be leaving the fold then.

5. QUESTIONS

It was noted that the 14 days allowed are wholly inadequate for failed out-of-province inspections to be rechecked because parts and freight may easily take longer than that. One month would be more fair. Two additional problems with out-of-province inspections are:

- there is no set fee or fee limit, and
- there is huge variance in the expertise of the technicians inspecting.

President Jim responded that SVAA has ongoing talks with Service Alberta on a number of concerns, out-of-province and inter-provincial inspections being two of them. Jim will work on details re: timeline.

6. NEXT MEETING

At the SACC swapmeet in Lethbridge at 12:30 on February 15, 2020.

AS A TESTAMENT TO PRESIDENT JIM'S EFFECTIVE MEETING MANAGEMENT,
ADJOURNMENT CAME AT 1:42 PM.