



The State of NCK

October 19, 2011

Hello fellow NCK members and friends:

Today we wish to give you a "state of the club" so to speak. This will go a long way in quieting rumors and setting the record straight as to exactly where your club stands.

To start, while the economy has hurt us we are not on death's doorstep as some may think. It is true that in the past few years we have used some of our financial reserves to keep the club running. The 2011 season has been stable financially. By cutting expenses as much as we could, while still being able to race, we have been able to break even or come out a little ahead on most races this year. Thanks to our January Laguna race we were even able to put a little money back in the bank in an attempt to rebuild the reserves we have lost over the prior years. The club's biggest financial risk of the year is the upcoming Thanksgiving race at Infineon. It is an expensive day and our club needs a good turnout of racers to make it a success.

We are fully aware that this year's schedule was not the best. We were attempting to conserve our funds while still having a season. We thought it best to stop the financial bleeding, get the year in as best we could and try to weather the economic storm. Financially it has worked out. Looking forward to the 2012 season we are already working very hard with the tracks to improve the schedule. Hopefully this will bring out more of our members to race. More racers, more money, better racing and races. It's that simple. There are many racing clubs of all types that are feeling the same financial pinch we are. We are hoping (and beginning to hear) that the tracks themselves will start making some concessions as their renters are finding it harder and harder to fill days and pay the bill. We have also begun to explore the possibility of sharing weekends with some other clubs in order to have 2 day races on better dates. These discussions are in a very early stage but have been positive so far. Unfortunately in the end we are still low in the pecking order and at the mercy of the tracks and the days they will make available to us.

As for your board of directors. Through attrition and resignations we have shrunk down from over ten down to six board members. We, like many other club members, are feeling the pinch of the economy too. That's why some of us have been absent at recent races. Your board members are all volunteers and are not compensated in any way. We pay all the same fees as the rest of the club does. We all work hard behind the scenes attempting to keep the club and races going. All six of us are long time racers too. Many times our personal racing program is put in the background in order to oversee and run the events. It has reached a point where we need more help from people interested in keeping this club going. We currently need help from our members, either by joining the board, or, volunteering to help in other ways. Or even just helping by recruiting others to help at the races themselves. We are constantly in need of workers on race day to help with the gate, towing, scoring, registration and scales. While we have cut back expenses as much as we can, we still reimburse people to do these jobs, otherwise we can't hold a race. We have pretty much exhausted most of our resources recruiting people to do these jobs. Most of the people we have used in the past have become unable to do it on a consistent basis now. Every race has become a last minute scramble trying to get people to help out. We are always in need of a gate person to be sure everyone entering has a pass and the insurance waiver is signed. Should someone get hurt (racer or otherwise) without signing the waiver we would be done as a club. If you are not paying for a pass for your crew or family you are risking the future of the entire club. We have also been asked for and would like to do more post race tech.

Problem is a qualified tech person is several hundred dollars a day plus expenses. That's another expense that we must cover in our entry fees (or by having more racers) if we are to go that way. Many qualified tech people we have talked to are already busy with other series and don't want to take us on too.

In closing we want to reiterate that the NCK is currently financially stable. We, your board members are now asking for help to run this club and its races. It is time for some fresh faces and new blood to keep this great club going. If you can help or have suggestions to improve this club please feel free to contact any board member. We need your help and feedback to keep this club strong. It's up to ALL of us to keep NCK road racing moving into the future.

Thank you from the board :

Mark Morrison

Chris McCabe

Roger Miller

John Stafford

Jim White

Steve Bishop

Mark Morrison

NCK President