



Tue, 2 Jun 2009

THE FIRST NAME CALLED IS THE CAPTAIN.....

We've all heard that before and whether you've been that name, are waiting for a chance to try it, or are a novice, just getting started and looking to your Captain for leadership, this season's Advanced Worker Training is not to be missed. Mark **Sunday, July 19th** on your calendar and come out to Waterford Hills for a day of insight into the operation of a corner station from Michigan Turn Marshals most experienced group of Captains.

Being made Captain of a corner station is anything but simple and straightforward and even those who have been doing it for a long time will tell you that there a lot of variables, always in different combinations, that effect the operation, the efficiency, and even the safety at the station. From a day at your home track with a station full of old friends to an out of town race that ended up with very few workers on hand, making you Captain of a corner you've never worked with a handful of inexperienced volunteers, every race has something different to offer.

Club Race?, Student Competition?, Big time TV Pro Race?

Is it a Street Circuit? A Permanent Race Track?

Who are these workers and what is their background?

And what about ourselves as Captains? We all come from different experience and have different management styles. How do you get the job done, share your experience and keep your crew safe, happy and having fun under so many different circumstances?

Join us that morning for a Captain's Roundtable hosted by Ed Arthur, Chief of F&C for the SCCA Detroit Region. Ed and his panel of Captains will respond to various questions prepared in advance, as well as those from all of us who attend on all of these and many other topics and considerations. Expect a lively, interactive discussion filled with lots of great scenarios, strategies and, likely, some "war stories" that will really turn your head.

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After the Roundtable, we'll adjourn for a catered lunch from Janie and her OCSC kitchen. I'm not even going to try to find the right superlative for the meal we have planned but I promise you won't go home hungry. Just ask anyone who came to last year's training.

Following lunch, we'll divide into smaller groups and explore more topics:

We'll look at what constitutes a good write up when we (big groan!) get asked to do so. Let's take a look at how we can all make this as to the point and painless as possible.

We have a great field exercise that will allow some of you who haven't tried being Captain, or done it very little, to step into those shoes for some practice. There's nothing like having the confidence of good training when the time comes to step up on race day.

And, because we've been blessed with so many excellent new workers this year, we'll revisit the hand signal exercise. Without much chance to use this important skill at our local tracks it's a good opportunity to get comfortable with signaling or just stay in practice. And, all you experienced workers, I'm counting on you to share some tips and some of the humorous aspects of hand signals with our new workers. Come on, admit it, you all know a few signals that aren't in the book.

Plan on the day running from 10:00 until about 4:30 with registration opening at the base of the tower at 9:00. Parking will be in the paddock.

This time it's important to sign up in advance. **We need an accurate count for lunches by July 10th.** You can sign up on the registration page at Michigan Turn Marshals or drop me a note at mysticracn@aol.com. You can also sign up in person at either day's worker registration at Waterford Hills Race Two. Just let me know and I'll add you to the list.

We've got lots of valuable information to share and I hope to hear from all of you soon,
Lynn