

by Tim Reed

Greetings fellow OVKA members! Well, we have two points weekends under our belts and things are already getting exciting! Unfortunately, the first race weekend was cut short by Mother Nature, but race weekend number two provided perfect weather for racing!

The new addition to the track provided some exciting new challenges for everyone and Max Viney and the track improvement committee did an excellent job updating the turtles and putting safety implements in place in turn 7 in time for race number 2. Way to follow through, and thank you for being responsive to the club members.

I would like to go on record with the following: although there were some glitches in the qualifying format on Sunday, I strongly feel that the racing was much safer via the qualifying format. We did not have any of the huge turn 1 or turn 3 pile ups with the large classes (Master Can, Sportsman Yamaha). Safety should be the clubs number one priority, and will be mine. Racing incidents happen, no one will deny that, but karters of equal speeds and equal ability charging into turn one in large groups (greater than 10) are much safer than randomly seeding the grid. I am in favor of *always* using a qualifying format for large groups (greater than 10 karts) for safety, if for no other reason.

I hear a lot of mention these days regarding "club" racers versus "national" racers, and I don't buy into that at all. When we all show up on Sunday morning to an OVKA race, we are all showing up as "club" racers. We abide by club rules, use the club tires, use club fuel etc. Whether or not you race nationals on your non-club weekends, I think we all have similar objectives in mind: have fun, learn, enjoy good competition and be safe! It's not any more fun for a "national" driver, than it is for a "club" only driver to put a bent up kart in the trailer at the end of the day, or to take a ride in the ambulance. With the qualifying format this past weekend, I didn't see a lot of bent up karts being loaded on trailers. I also talked to several "club" only parents of Sportsman aged kids that were much happier to see their kids having someone of equal ability to race with and learn with. I would love to know your thoughts.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next event coming up at Circleville! Feel free to stop by and say hello, and remember to support your club, and support the club's sponsors!!

Tim