



National Control Line Racing Association
456 Garvey rd SW
Palm Bay, FL
32908

TO:

Torque Roll Issue #101
April 2012

Special Issue – Torque Roll – April 2012

This issue of the *Torque Roll* is vital to the organization. Please read the contents carefully.

Note that the format is totally different, there are no District reports, there are no contest results, no record listings, no suppliers advertisements, etc.. Only some very important words and a list of the officers of the organization.

2012 NATs

We need a volunteer to be the Event Director for the 2012 NATs. As you may recall, Brian Silversmith had previously agreed to be the ED, but circumstances caused him to withdraw from that role. So the same offer that was made to Brian is now open: If you ED the NATs, all of the NATs proceeds after paying for trophies for the unofficial events will be yours to do with what you want. That will be a few hundred \$. If you're interested, contact Bob Whitney, Dave McDonald or Bill Lee (e-mail addresses in this document).

Annual NCLRA Meeting

According to the Bylaws, NCLRA is required to have an annual meeting during the month of the NATs at a time and place as determined by the Officers. The 2012 meeting will be held Sunday, July 15, at 4p.m. under the tent at the McCool Flying site. Short, sweet and then go to dinner! There is no banquet scheduled.

EDITORS' COLUMN

Tim Stone

Sadly this will be my next to last column as Editor for the Torque Roll. Since last August I have been having health issues that force me to retire from racing.

It has been my honor for the last 8 years to work with some of the best minds in racing and I will miss it profoundly. My thanks to all the contributors over the years. My best wishes to the yet unnamed person that will be replacing me.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave McDonald

1/6/2012 – 3/31/12

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	Balance as of 1-6-2012			12,580.59
02-03-12	Transfer to F2C Team fund			
			8,400.00	4,180.59
03-07-12	Dues Income			
		20.00		4,200.59
03-23-12	Bill Lee (Expense)			
		250.00		3,950.59
03-31-12	Transfer from PP			
	Dues income from 1-08->3-21			
		279.63		4,230.22

AMA, NCLRA and the F2C Team

Bill Lee

There is a lot of confusion about the relationships between the various parties that result in selecting and supporting the F2C team for the F2 World Championships.

AMA is the designated organization representing the United States for aeromodeling activities of the FAI. The actual “National Airports Control” for the U.S. is the National Aeronautics Association, with AMA being designated by them. In this capacity, AMA deals with FAI matters which include, among many, the specification of how teams are selected for World Championships events. AMA's “bible” where the specification is written is the so-called “Blue Book” which may be found on the AMA website. A link is also available on the 2012 F2 team website at <http://www.2012CLWC.org>

AMA's process requires that a “Team Selection Committee” (TSC) for an event be formed, and that committee is charged with the responsibility of formulating and running a “Team Selection Program” (TSP). Membership in a TSC is by way of nomination by a District VP, by nomination of the TSP participants or by the President of the appropriate SIG (NCLRA in our case for F2C). If necessary, the representative will be elected by the TSP participants in the AMA District. When the TSP is completed, the team for that event has been chosen and will be funded in part by AMA to attend the World Championships for that event.

AMA's funding includes the entry fee, room, board and banquet for the World Championships, plus a small amount per team member (\$400 at the current time) to cover all of the rest of a team member's expenses. Those expenses are substantial: Air fare from the U.S. to the location of the World Championships, car rental while there, team uniforms, transporting fuel to a site overseas, etc. Needless to say, AMA's \$400 is helpful but woefully less than the actual expenses incurred.

Outlined in the Blue Book is a set of criteria that AMA applies for justify funding a team. That criteria is based on two things: participation in the TSP, and performance at the World Champs. If one or the other (or both, hopefully) are satisfied, AMA will provide “full funding” as described above. If a team program does not meet either criterion over a couple of cycles, funding is halved, and ultimately terminated. At the current time, the F2C team is only half-funded by AMA.

Another source of funding is the “Team Fund”. As AMA establishes the TSC for an event such as F2C, they also establish a “Team Fund”. The Team Fund, while held by AMA, is totally and completely owned and managed by the Team Selection Committee. (Please read that again! This is NOT AMA MONEY!) All entry fees from the TSP Finals are placed in the Team Fund, and disbursements for expenses are authorized by the TSC chairman. By the Blue Book, the Team Fund “are intended to be used for the team selection expenses and expenditures associated with team travel and team manager requests.”

As you can see, a source of funds for the Team Fund is the entry fees from the TSP Finals. But it is quite common for donations to be included from several sources. More later.

Now we come to NCLRA. NCLRA was formed back in the early 90's to represent CL Racing's interests to AMA. Over the years, NCLRA and its officers have done a lot of work in this regard. E.g., running the NATs every year, publishing the newsletter, building and managing a website, sponsoring member committees to establish nation-wide rules for non-AMA rule book events, etc.

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Income for NCLRA is from two primary sources: membership dues and NATs proceeds. And for many years that was pretty close to a break-even with expenses. But in the early/mid 2000's, we got a sweetheart deal with AMA where the newsletter was printed and distributed for us, and consequently the treasury of the organization grew quite substantially. (BTW, this happened over a period of several years.) In 2006 that deal evaporated and we reverted to printing and mailing the newsletter ourselves. Since that time the treasury has grown slightly but has been essentially stagnant, a lot of \$s sitting idly by.

You should note from this short description that NCLRA is really NOT directly involved with the selection of the F2C team! Although the organization has ALWAYS been a big part, the responsibility has always rested with the TSC, and the team funding has ALWAYS been from AMA and the Team Fund. However, it is and has always been customary for a SIG to give additional support to the team that represents them. NCLRA is no different in that regard and we have given support to teams in the past.

Late last year and in January, AMA went through their budgeting process, and the result was that the FAI program took a significant hit. There simply isn't enough money to do everything that is needed and/or wanted. The major hit was to the U.S. representation on the F2 Technical Subcommittee where funding for the F2 Technical Specialist was axed. I was able to get half-funding from AMA by justifying why I needed to be there, and all of the F2 SIGs have together covered the rest. It has been rumored that the complete World Champs support may be dropped in 2014. Draconian measures for sure, but absolutely representative of the direction of model aviation in the United States.

As a result, the current F2 team manager (me, as it turns out), asked the NCLRA officers for support for the 2012 F2C team. The discussion among the Board members ultimately realized that the NCLRA funds that were being unused, with no real future plans, could be best used by making a major support for the F2C team, not just for 2012 but also for 2014. To that end, the officers agreed to transfer \$700 per team member for each of the next two teams to the Team Fund. That transfer was done in early February.

I hope this (not so) brief summary will clear the air on how the F2C Team, NCLRA, AMA and the F2C Team Selection Committee interoperate.

The Future of NCLRA

Bill Lee

As you probably know, Control Line Racing as a national activity is essentially dead. The NATs have eroded in attendance to the point that it makes little sense even holding CL Racing there. The only other event that had a sort of national flavor was Cabin Fever, and when attendance for that event evaporated over the past few years, the Phoenix club decided that they would no longer sponsor the contest. No one in the area picked up the sponsorship. There was no Cabin Fever contest in 2012.

CL Racing has evolved to a few local areas where folks like to gather and compete with only the other local fliers. Traveling to a contest outside their own small locale is just not done. And these areas also typically have their own local events that they like to fly and are not in any way concerned with attracting “foreigners” who may fly a similar event back home.

NCLRA was an attempt to draw all together, and perhaps that worked for a while although there have always been some who would not participate, would not contribute to a national organization.

Well, now it's time to fish or cut bait.

According to the Bylaws, this is the year when we elect the President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer of the organization. Nominations are now being accepted and the period for nominations will end on April 30. This year, the current office holders for those three positions have all said that they will NOT accept a nomination and will NOT continue in those positions. In addition, the current newsletter editor and the current webmaster have also said that they will resign those responsibilities concurrent with the end of this cycle of officers, August 1 after the conclusion of the 2012 NATs.

Given the history of membership support, it is likely that there will not be nominations for all three offices. However if there is, there will be an election in June as per the Bylaws, and the newly elected officers will be given the organization at the conclusion of the 2012 NATs. Keep in mind that the officers are responsible for many things that any new officers will have to continue: running the NATs in 2013 and beyond, preparing a newsletter, printing and distributing the newsletter, assuming ownership and responsibility for the NCLRA website, etc.

However, in the likelihood that there is NOT a full complement of three officers available to assume responsibility for the organization, the current board has decided that the organization will be disbanded and its assets distributed as follows.

Every member as of April 1 (subject to the following paragraphs) will be given the opportunity of accepting an equal share of the NCLRA treasury as it may exist at the time of disbanding, or else giving instructions where his “share” can be sent.

Any new member, i.e., a person who was NOT a member at the end of 2011 but who has applied for membership after January 1, 2012 will have their membership dues refunded and will NOT participate in the distribution.

Any member who renewed on or after April 1 will not participate in this distribution but will simply have their membership fees returned to them.

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All life members will participate in the distribution.

Any member not responding by some cut-off date will forfeit the distribution and their portion will be placed in the F2C Team Fund. Any funds remaining after the distribution is complete (e.g., checks not cashed by some date TBDL, etc.) will be transferred to the F2C Team Fund. All physical resources of the organization (i.e., the PA system and a set of dial bore gauges) will first be sold and proceeds placed in the treasury before distribution.

O.k., members, it's up to you. Nominations are open. If you want to see the organization continue, get together a slate of officers. Otherwise: it's history.

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Torque Roll is the official publication of the NCLRA. Published bi-monthly. All submissions are valuable & will be considered for publication subject to editing. Preferred format for publication is as a MS Word document using 10 point Times New Roman font. Any photos should be sent as a separate jpeg file, medium res. Email all as an attachment to Tim Stone at the address given on this page. While this is preferred format, we will take submissions in just about any format, they can be written, typed or mailed to Tim Stone.

Apply for membership by mailing annual dues of \$20.00 to the Secretary/Treasurer at the address on this page. Make checks out to the order of " NCLRA" and be sure to provide the correct address for receiving the newsletter.

USING PAYPAL-To pay dues with PayPal, first log in to your Paypal account, then send dues to; Treasurer@NCLRA.org

Note that a \$.90 (\$1.10 for foreign membership) surcharge is added for the PayPal charges.

OR VIA THE WEB: Membership renewal can be easily done via the NCLRA web site at

<http://www.NCLRA.org/>