

# NWR-SCCA

File: SCCA-01.pdf

March 30, 2010

## HOW TO START FLAGGING

### At PACIFIC RACEWAYS.

#### David Kentala

Acting Flag Chief

Would you like to try flagging a road race at Pacific Raceways? Corner workers have the best view of the action and provide flagging, communications and important safety functions for the drivers and others.

This article is a "How to Start" for the first time volunteer corner worker. It's written in considerable detail to make it as easy and fun as possible for you to start working the turns. See the side bars for how to prepare for race day.

Set your alarm and plan to get to the track a little after 7:00 am. You won't have any trouble finding the track off of Highway 18, east of Auburn. Freeway signs mark the exit. As you enter the track area just follow the road around as it turns left. Follow the Worker signs if they are posted. Turn right just before you come to the toll booth in the center of the road. Don't pay. Temporarily park anywhere off to the right of the road.

You will see a ticket sales booth with several windows. Go to the one marked "Workers". Other volunteers work there and will help you get registered. If you are not a SCCA member

*continued on page 2*

## THE WEEK BEFORE

### Preparation counts

First, take a look at the Region's website. E-mail the Flag Chief or any of the officials and let them know that you plan to attend. They will be overjoyed to have another volunteer. Provide a phone number if you want a little last minute advice too.

## WHAT TO BRING

The week before, go to your closet and pick out a pair of white (or light colored) long pants and shirt. White is the recommended uniform for corner workers. White increases your visibility and safety. Avoid red, yellow, black and blue as those could be perceived as flags by drivers concentrating on other cars. At the same time, pack clothes for the worst weather and then go one layer heavier.

Your membership card, a hat, rain gear and sun lotion are vital. Sturdy shoes will help keep you on your feet throughout the races. If you have a whistle, binoculars, a water bottle, folding chair, leather gloves and chap-stick, pack them too. A 5 gallon bucket is a good way to carry them, plus it's a place to sit.

## SCHEDULE – 2010

<b>Double Nationals Restricted Regional &amp; Vintage</b> Pacific Raceways	<b>May 29-30-31</b> (Memorial Day weekend)
<b>Double Regional &amp; Vintage with Big Island Hawaii</b> Bremerton Motorsports Park	<b>August 28-29</b>
<b>Regional Races with Oregon SCCA</b> Oregon Raceway Park	<b>October 23-24</b>

## FOOD and DRINK

- The club usually provides coffee and donuts for the morning meeting.
- Lunch and soft drinks are provided by the club at the concession stand.
- Don't forget to bring snacks and extra water to the turn stations.
- Dinner or snacks and adult beverages are provided after the day is over.

ask for a free temporary volunteer's membership. They'll ask you to sign a release and give you a pass and packet of information about the day's schedule and racers. Minors will need to have a parent sign the release. Ask for directions to the 8:00 am meeting Turn 9.

Drive past the toll booth and straight through the paddocks past the gas pumps. Drive out onto the track (assuming you've arrived on time). You should see a group of people wearing white off to the right at Turn 9. Here is the hard part: Get out of your car and mingle. Introduce yourself as a rookie. We try to provide training sessions before the meeting if you ask for it. Look over any handouts.

Now here is the fun part: Ask someone to take you on a tour of the track to learn the track and corner numbers. Some of us like covered corner stations or nearby portable toilets and some like more track action. By the time you get back, the various volunteer officials will have arrived and start sorting out who will work where. Be sure to introduce yourself to the Flag Chief before the meeting starts and let him know you're a rookie. If you saw a corner you liked, ask for it.

The meeting will probably include comments from race chairman and various other volunteers such as communications. You'll probably be working with some combination of corner marshal, communicator, and other

flaggers like yourself. When the meeting is adjourned, and all the corner equipment collected, follow your coworkers in your car to your corner. They will show you where to park your car safely.

Quickly move your personal equipment to the corner station and then help the corner marshal arrange the equipment around the track. Make sure you learn where the fire extinguishers are positioned. Always watch the track as there will be other workers driving to their corners. It can be like playing on the freeway.

The corner marshal should hold a corner meeting reviewing that corner's responsibilities, safety and communications. Remember as many of the flags as you can but pay special attention to the hand signals. You will have less than 5 minutes to get off the track when the 5 minute warning is given. Race cars may be on the track at the 1 minute warning. Be safe.

At noon, if the race is on schedule, you'll have time to drive to the paddock area and look at the cars. You can park in the paddock area or leave your car in the hot pits area. Remember you need to be back at the corner well before the racing resumes. After the race is over, check out the burgers, beer and wine during the social hour. It's there for you as a new "Race Official".

Drive home safely and plan on attending the next race.

## CONTACTS

### NW REGION - SCCA (Race)

[www.nwr-scca.org/race/index.htm](http://www.nwr-scca.org/race/index.htm)

### FLAG CHIEF (Acting)

[SilverSableDiner@aol.com](mailto:SilverSableDiner@aol.com)

David - (425) 822-6269

### REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION

[sherri.masterson@gmail.com](mailto:sherri.masterson@gmail.com)

Sherri - (360) 479-6082

### NATIONAL SCCA

[www.scca.org](http://www.scca.org)

(800) 770-2055

### PACIFIC RACEWAYS

[www.pacificraceways.com](http://www.pacificraceways.com)

## FAQ

**Do I need to be a member to flag?** Yes, however two free volunteer/worker memberships programs are available. Membership includes medical insurance. Contact membership for detail.

### **I'm already a SCCA member. Should I get license to flag?**

Yes, all it takes is a phone call to National. Ask for a Regional F&C license. The Region can arrange a license during registration for new members.

**Why get an F&C license?** More venues are the best reason. You will be work more races around the country including some professional races.

**What can I do as a minor?** With your parent's approval you can: If you're under 16 you can assist off-track, such as timing & scoring or driver services; flag at selected turn stations and non-hot areas between 16 and 18 years old.

**Can drivers' family or crew flag?** Yes, we can get you up to speed at a corner quickly (and you can help get your driver up to speed too). Membership required.