

Tim's Corner – Scotia Racers Keeping Busy in the Off Season

As the winter wears on in the Maritimes, race fans continue to ask the age old question – are we there yet?! The countdown is on to May 23rd opening day at Scotia Speedworld when the CARQUEST Pro Stock and Maritime Legend Tours will run their first features of the season. Drivers and teams have been busy preparing (and racing) their way to the '09 season in the Maritimes, here are just a few examples!

Brad Eddy had a busy month of January. Following the 2008 Scotia Speedworld Awards Banquet, he was off to Concord, North Carolina to accept his winnings as the Canadian Bandolero Champion from the folks at INEX. Not only did he enjoy the banquet held at the Speedway Club at Lowe's Motor Speedway, he got the opportunity to hop on the track's infield road course in a Bandolero car out of the Kendall Seller's stables in Kannapolis, NC. He was in the thick of the battle in all races he competed in and even captured an 8th place finish in his first main feature run! Brad plans a move to the Legends division in 2009 and you can track his off season progress at his newly launched website – bradeddy.com

Another Scotia Speedworld driver making waves down South is "The Legend." Cy Harvey recently took part in the US Winternationals at Orlando Speedworld and finished 7th in points at the end of five nights of competition. Harvey, the former Scotia Speedworld champ from Elmsdale won a heat race and bagged one top five finish during his run in the "Sunshine State". Also joining him down South were Maritime League of Legends Tour drivers Darren Sherwood and Gary Bursey, both from the Greater Moncton area.

Gammon-Parks Racing is getting a facelift! A note from Ross Parks at the start of the month says that the team has taken the name of Boulton Racing but will be back to fight for a Miller Tire/BFGoodrich Thunder Car title – with an impressive seven car line-up. Stephen Morrell, Brandon Crawford and Tim Tanner will join '08 drivers Sean Peddle, Brent Saulnier, Garry Withenshaw and Kyle Gammon in an attempt to race the title away from Lower Sackville's Derek MacCallum. Gammon finished 2nd in points last season behind MacCallum and collected the Most Sportsmanlike Driver and Best Looking Car award at the '08 banquet. Boulton Racing will also field a Hobby Stock car for former multi-time champ Mark Wilson. The car is no stranger to championships either – it is the same car Mike Alexander drove to the title one year ago!

It is a rare occasion when 2006 Bandolero Champ DJ Casey is left speechless. One of those situations arose at the 2008 Awards Banquet when Casey was voted by his peers as the Most Sportsmanlike Driver of the Sojourn Signs Bandolero division. Prospect Road's Casey was honoured to win the award following a successful season but his focus shifted quickly to '09. "We'll be back

next season to run for a second championship, we came too close this year,” said Casey at the banquet.

Finally, keeping with the theme of drivers returning to get second championships, Truro's Andrew Starks will be one of those trying to go back-to-back and win two titles in as many years. The '07 Rookie of the Year and '08 Overall Champ in the Miller Tire/BFGoodrich Lightning cars told us he likes the looks of the rules package for the upcoming season and is in the process of building his #104 Cavalier for May 30th. When asked what he thought about the new rules following the November meetings, Starks said, “they're allowing us a full six point (roll) cage now, so we have some pretty solid ideas for next season.” The team is currently building a new car following some tough racing with their championship car at the Centre for Speed in October.

That's it for now! Next time we will cover what is developing to be one of the greatest C&R Auto Supply Sportsman Rookie of the Year races as well as other winter updates throughout the Maritime racing scene. If you have any news you'd like to pass on, feel free to email Tim at tim@timterryonline.com