

Upcoming Meyerton Pre Nats and Nationals Encounter.....May 2013

As of today, 70 entries and looking good for what promises to be an event where those of you who have not ventured into the unknown will definitely have to exercise all you're driving skills and more importantly your setup skills. Forget the setup book, it Ain't going to help, forget about driving a super smooth Welkom Track, forget about driving on a super smooth MMCRC track, rather think how F1 Racers setup their cars on a super smooth Bahrain Track and then arrive at Monaco and all the setup work is gone yonder and much head scratching takes place.

What is very promising at this Nats is that the exhibition class, 21.5 entries is looking very good with a number of first time entrants to the Nats which is really what the RC Community are looking for.

Perhaps a taste of such an event will bring in some new young blood to race the Toppies and believe me, there are few of those. I am told by the under thirties that the definition of **"Toppies"** is someone who has a slight or a big **"Boep"**, little or no **"Hair"**, has to use **"Glasses"** to work on his car, has momentary **"Brain Fades"** on the track resulting in the cars spending more time than necessary skidding on its roof, substitutes a lack of Racing Speed with more power and is generally over 35. Ahhhh....These youngsters.....They don't realize that the clock counts for all and sundry. As Toppies, we detest you young upstarts who come and sometimes blow us away, knowing that eventually no matter how many new Xrays we buy, they **"WILL"** blow us away on a permanent basis.

I am sure that the racers have been very busy fine tuning, oiling bearings, checking and rechecking the cars and like myself included am waiting in anticipation for the big day.

Noticeably, each year brings new makes as the flavour of the year, it seems like Hobbywing and Xrays have replaced Tekin, TC6's and Photons. That is how fast technology is accelerating and it's an endless race for the ultimate prize.

At this event though Meyerton Raceway will at the end of the event announce which make of car has accumulated the most points for the event.

What is a National Event.....

In my opinion it is an event where the racers come and show off their prowess through their racing skills, it's an event where the many hours of practicing and doing club events shows a result and as we all know, to get a good result needs some serious work and passion.

To coin an old adage from Gary Player **"The more I practice, the luckier I get"** has to ring true in the RC Fraternity as well.

To be at a Nationals once all we fickle racers have stopped complaining about the costs, and stepping into the pit tent with its clear and crisp level of anticipation, irrespective of the laughing and jostling, each racers stomach is doing a topsy turvy spiral. You can see how many proceed to the ablutions just before their heat or when their race is about to start. It's not because they have consumed large quantities of h2O. It's because of nerves...

The Nationals is about Tension, Anticipation and the Unknown, will he be quicker, will there be a pileup at the first corner, has he been sandbagging, are the batteries up to scratch, I forgot to check the motor temp....all these factors make up the Nationals.

The Nationals is about demonstrating to all and sundry how good you really are, forget that you are a club champion, that means nothing, standing on the drivers stand just before the start, your finger is shaking on the trigger, your knees feel weak, you are slightly breathless...You screw up here and you are done.....

In a nutshell the Nationals is like performing at a Live Theatre, once the curtain goes up.....you only have one chance, there is no chance of saying "Sorry" can I start again...That's what the Nationals are, if you fail, not only will you drop your Club Champion fame status, but you will have to go home and explain to Mommy why you spent a couple of K, canceled whatever plans she had for that weekend and came home with nothing....

Anyway, who will be who at this event, and generally I am quite good at predictions and please excuse my bias for Hillcoat and Schutte, two of the greatest guys in RC, here goes:

1. 1/12th..

As of today there are only two entries which is a great pity and in all likelihood the class will be cancelled.

2. 13.5....

19 Entries so far and it looks like this class will have a A, B and C Mains with some big names. Antonio Caroli, my only Italian compatriot in the RC Game will be competing overseas and that is a pity. I am actually going to check that he is overseas on the day and not making excuses.

The main contenders here will definitely be Shaun Schutte, Jason Hillcoat and Anderton Smith, all three having had previous runs at the track. Shaun though, has a very potent 13.5 car as was demonstrated at the recent Welkom Heads Up racing as does Anderton and Jason.

Personally, I think that nobody will even come near them, unless of course we have the Gibson pitching up, but I guess that even the great Gibson might not have the necessary and requisite answers. But who knows, he might pitch up with the new MI5 and blow everyone...

So my prediction is Shaun, Jason and Anderton....

3. 17.5...

12 entries so far and here it will be a local boy in the form of Freddie Kotze who will be very hard to beat on the day. Perhaps Morne De Noon with some previous running at the track might be up to the challenge and of course Ashley Hurley and Kallin Kolmel...

My prediction is Freddie Kotze for TQ, Fastest Lap and the Wins.

4. 21.5...

19 entries so far in what looks like a Meyerton against Meyersdal derby. Clubs have always wanted an Inter Club Series and this might just be the start of such an event.

Looking at the past Sunday practice day, this event will be fast and furious with some very evenly matched cars.

Who is who in this zoo will be no doubt Freddie Kotze who is absolutely damn quick, but he won't have it easy as there are a few others who will be going for the win in the form of Craig Joubert, George Symes and Franco Gresele (if his brain does not fade) who I think will be the top contenders.

However, the Great Stock racer Kobus Botha from Meyersdal has entered after some coaxing from myself to stop being a "**Woessie**" and come prove that he is actually the greatest will be there to prove his greatness.

So, the Meyerton Challenge Squad will be Craig Joubert, Freddie Kotze, Franco Gresele and Werner Van Waaveren, the Meyersdal Challenge Squad will be Kobus Botha with his 13 team mates including Sean Vollmer who is no slouch on the track either having taken a win or two previously.

Watch out though for young Chazlee Cooper, who gave me all a handful of carrots at the last Meyerton Club Race. Great to see a youngster do well.

My prediction is Craig Joubert, Freddie Kotze and any of the remaining 17...

5. 13.5 FWD....

7 entries so far....sad to see that this class has not grown...

This one simply put, and looking at the recent Meyerton Tamiya Cup performance of Danie Botha is going to be Danie Botha for the TQ, Fastest Lap and the win.

6. Touring Modified....

12 entries so far...

Oh boy, is this going to be race of note.

The big names are all there, but beware of the local boy Wouter Ferreira who has been doing some serious work on his mod car, so Toppies, you will have to be on your toes because one mistake and the "Laatjie" will blow you away.

My prediction is either Anderton or Jason for the win followed by Wouter and Shaun...But there are others as well that can upset the Establishment. My money is also on Darren Duggan whose performance at the Welkom Heads Up Challenge was not due to only luck.

But beware, Mr. Hillcoat is always full of surprises and he might just prove to be totally uncatchable.

7. So what is this track all about....

Firstly and for the first time and because there are two track layouts, the practice sessions on Thursday and Friday will be controlled, in other words the Mods, 13.5 and 17.5 will run on their own, and the FWD and 21.5 will run together. This is a fair to both the Fast and Slower classes who can now test the cars without having to move out of the way of a mod car and vice versa.

The time allowed for the different classes will be decided by SARDA. (Jason Hillcoat)

The long track for the Mods, 13.5 and 17.5 is a total of 238m and a good time for Mods is a low 17, 13.5 is a low 18 and 17.5 is a high 18".

The short track for the FWD and 21.5 is 195m and a good time for the FWD is a low 19 and 21.5 is a high 18 and low 19.

The entire track is surrounded by slanted kerbs both on the outside and the inside, and are in tip top condition and painted. The inner track islands are grass and the track is very car friendly.

8. The Track At First Glance.....

At first glance the track looks like a nice easy and flowing layout but beware, it's not that simple as the speeds attained are very high and anything short of fast reflexes or misjudgment of the apex will leave you losing a handful of time. As a comparative note, Welkom is 174m and the best time is around 14.8 or 11.7m/sec, MMCRC is 168m and the best time is 14.1or 11.9 m/sec, Meyerton is 235m and the best time is around 16.8 or 13.9 m/sec which correlates to 2m more per second.

This track demands high levels of concentration as it is fast....very fast...and demanding..

9. The Long Track.....Clockwise

This is made up of a nice long straight of approximately 59m, two chicanes, a sweeper, 7 turns and a bowl.



10. A Lap Around The Long Track.....

Coming onto the straight which is uphill at full bore its best to stay in the middle aiming for the top right hander, once there its hard on the brakes and a sharp right turn in, if you are good you can take a deep breath and just simply throw the car into the corner, (the traction is very good), if you are not that brave rather brake, a very short straight, clip the apex on the right hand side and straight edge the first chicane downhill up to the 180 degree hairpin, if you get it right, there is a good quarter of a second to be made up there, enter the bowl and make sure that your positioning is correct as you can almost straight edge the second chicane, this is where most of the time is made up, and very few get it right, a short squirt again on a downhill to the next 180 degree hard on the brakes, round the hairpin and enter another hairpin, gas it now into the fast sweeper, but beware that the corner entering the chicane is an optical illusion from the drivers stand, it is much sharper than meets the eye, if you get it right you will approach the straight at an insane speed, if you don't get it right you will land up in the pit lane....or worse you will enter the straight sideways.

11. The Short Track.....Clockwise

This is made up of a nice long straight of approximately 45m, one chicane, two sweepers, 6 turns and a bowl.



12. A Lap Around The Track.....Short Track

Coming onto the straight which is uphill its best to stay on the right aiming for the top sweeper at full taps followed by a 90 degree hairpin and onto the next 180 degree hairpin, enter the bowl and make sure that your positioning is correct as you straight edge the second chicane, this is where most of the time is made up, and very few get it right, a short squirt again on a downhill to the next 180 degree hard on the brakes, round the hairpin and enter another hairpin, gas it now at full taps through the sweeper and onto the main straight.

13. Refreshments And Food

- i. Refreshments (No Alcohol) are available at the Track Canteen.
- ii. Food Caterers will be on hand on the Saturday and Sunday.
- iii. The caterers will be serving Breakfast in the morning and food throughout the day.

14. Air Compressor

An Air Compressor is located behind the Container which serves as the Canteen.

15. Driver Stand

The Drivers Stand can accommodate up to 15 drivers and is covered.

16. Audio System

There are speakers located around the track for Race Commentary.

17. Parking

There is ample secure parking space at the track.

18. Fencing

The entire track has a retaining fence and children should be on the outside of the fence at all times.

19. Fires

Please be aware that the surrounding area is made up of **"Dry Veld"**. Most of the grass is dry, please do not flick cigarettes into the ground and for those that will be braaiing at the track, please ensure that you braai at the supplied braai barrels.

20. Electrical Compliance

Please ensure that all electrical devices that are to be used are in perfect working order. Any extension leads that are found to be frayed or in bad condition will be removed.

21. Shops In The Area

Meyerton CBD is only 10km/s from the track.

22. Caravans

- i. There is ample parking for Caravans.
- ii. Electricity connections are R100.00 for the weekend.
- iii. Please ensure that you bring along very long electrical extension leads.
- iv. The entire area is surrounded by electric fencing at night and the gates will be locked.

23. Pit Area Tenting

- i. The normal Pit Tenting accommodation will be available.
- ii. Please ensure that you have booked for space inside the pit tent.
- iii. The Pit Tent will have lighting available during the night.
- iv. In Compliance with bylaws, absolutely **"No Smoking"** will be allowed inside the Pit Tent.

24. Ablutions

- i. There are Female and Male ablutions available at the track.
- ii. There is a shower facility but only cold water.

25. Track Times

- i. The Track will be open and sugared for practice on Thursday from 11h00.
- ii. On Friday the Track will be opened for practice at 08h00.
- iii. On these two days the practice sessions will continue until you cannot see the car any longer.

26. Emergency Numbers

- i. Meyerton Clinic_ (016) 360 5880/1
- ii. Emergency Medical Doctors_ (016) 362 0399
- iii. Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance_ (016) 360 7500
- iv. Meyerton Raceway Owners_0824426147

27. Directions

How To Get There

Directions can be found on www.meyertonraceway.co.za or if you are coming from the north take the R59 to Vereeniging, take the Meyer Street off ramp R37, go over the highway up to a T Junction.

At the T Junction turn left onto a sand road (Good Condition), take the first road to your right which is Maanhaarjakkals Street and carry on straight down for about 1km. The Track will be on your right.

Conclusion

See you all there for what is going to be another magical SARDA event. As racers lets assist the organizers of the track and the SARDA committee who have spent endless hours ensuring that we as Racers can for two days have absolute fun....and remember that this is not a Sport....it is a Hobby....and we are all friends having nothing but fun.....When on the Sunday night you place your head on the pillow absolutely exhausted, you should only have a smile on your face thinking of how much fun you had for the past two days.....If you do not have a smile on your face, then you are you doing this for the wrong reasons.....

The management of Meyerton Raceway would like to thank Danie Botha and the SARDA committee for the inclusion of Meyerton Raceway as part of the National Events and also for all their help in the organizing of the event and of course to you **"The Racers"** who will be participating in the event.

Cheers For Now.....And Let's Do It For The Right Reasons.....

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