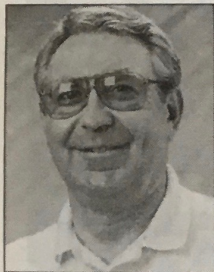


East Meets West



Team Rules

American City Racing League
by Roger Diez

News Flash: American City Racing League Moves East. Yes, the ACRL will hold its inaugural ACRL East pro event at Heartland Raceway Park in Topeka, Kan., on May 16-17 as part of the SCCA Pro race weekend show with NASCAR Winston West, SCCA World Challenge, Spec Racer Ford and GT America. The ACRL Hoosier Tire-sponsored race will be the first

SCCA-sanctioned Pro Sports 2000 race since the North American Pro series ended in 1993.

The ACRL East-Topeka race will feature only the S2000 class (no Super Sports 2000 Cosworths), and is intended to revitalize interest in Pro S2000 racing in the Eastern

United States. Probable entrants include **John Fergus**, 1988-'89 Sisapa Pro Champion; **David Downey**, 1997 S2000 National Champion; **Duke Johnson**, **AJ Smith** and several ACRL West drivers.

In other news, ACRL is pleased to welcome back Daeco Racing Gasoline as the "Pole Perfection" sponsor and provider of the series' spec fuel. And ACRL congratulates 1998 Driver Champion **Jeff Glenn**, who was awarded the "Road Racer of the Year" title by the Motor Sports Press Association in January.

Like most professional series, the emphasis in ACRL is primarily on the drivers. But the crews also make major contributions to the success of the teams, and no one more so than the crew chief. The ACRL is fortunate to have many professional crew chiefs, whose engineering and organizational skills give their driver the best possible car with which to do his job.

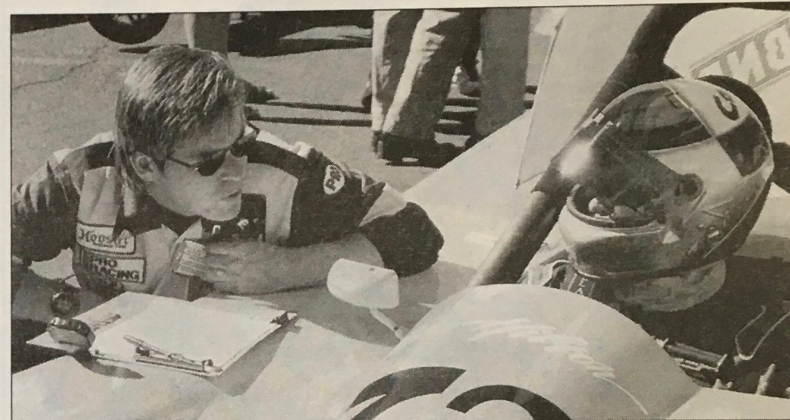
Crew Chiefs Make It Happen

Doug Esterbrook, the 1997 "Crew Chief of the Year," has spent the past two seasons preparing the Team Wilsonville Sports 2000 and Super Sports 2000 cars for **Bill** and **John Bachofner**. In addition to ACRL, the team has

run a full SCCA club race schedule, logging 50 races in 41 weekends in the past two seasons. Esterbrook has been in racing nearly his whole life. Starting at age eight with Soap Box Derby cars, he progressed to karts and then to road racing cars. He has been working with Sports 2000 cars for eight years and they are his favorites.

"I like open-wheel cars, too, but sports rac-

ers are just so neat," he says. Doug considers himself fortunate to make his living doing what he loves. He single-handedly prepares the cars in the shop, drives them to the track, and maintains them through a race weekend with only a little pickup help from friends. At Vancouver, he performed a near-miracle getting one of the cars into the race after a serious practice crash. "Part of being a good crew



Crew Chief Eric Purcell consults with 1998 ACRL SS2000 champ Jeff Glenn before a race.

chief is making sure we have all the parts to repair the cars," he modestly states.

Eric Purcell was the engineering wizard behind Jeff Glenn's driving championship last year, which saw Jeff achieve three wins and six poles. Purcell was team manager and chief development engineer on the team, after several years engineering for **Lee Lucas** on Team San Jose. He was in charge in 1993, when Lucas and Team San Jose won the ACRL Driver and Team titles, in addition to Regional, Divisional, and National S2000 championships, a Pacific Coast Road Racing Championship victory and the Illgen Enduro win. Not a bad year.

Prior to his involvement in ACRL, Purcell had his own race consulting firm, advising Renault and Nissan factory teams in IMSA and Trans-Am. His experience includes open-wheel cars with Cameron McGee Motorsports and the Russell Racing School, and he worked with noted aerodynamicist **Tony Cicale** on the Cribari Racing Can Am team. Much of Eric's knowledge base comes from his coursework in mathematics, physics and mechanical engineering at MIT. He also has considerable driving experience, racing Formula 3 and Formula Renault Turbo in Europe. He was the British Jim Russell School Runoffs Champion, and first runner-up at the famed Elf Winfield School.

Steve Raymond headed up City Champion Team Fresno's technical and preparation

efforts. Working out of his Auto Spa shop at Sears Point, Raymond prepared the green machines that propelled **Steve Romak** to the "Rising Star" award, **John Ostlund** to "Most Improved Driver," and **Frank Arnold** to the S2000 championship. Raymond's Auto Spa business, which also prepares cars for SCCA Club racers and owners of exotic street machines, is the culmination of a long career in the sport, both as a driver and a mechanic.

Son of racer **Dick Raymond**, Steve raced production cars and Formula Fords and scored a podium finish along with his father at the inaugural Pacific Coast Road Racing Championship in 1978. Although 1997 was only his second season in ACRL, Steve was prominent in its forerunner, the Westpro S2000 series. Working for **Dominic Dobson's** Zephyr racing, Raymond was voted Mechanic of the Year in 1986, and led the Crew of the Year in both '85 and '86. He also did test driving for the team. Steve followed Dobson into Indy car racing, helping Dominic to achieve the fastest rookie qualifying effort in history in 1988. He also engineered **Pete Musser's** Trans-Am effort, and the IMSA Pontiac Fiero of **Dobson** and **Leonard Moore**.

These are only three of the many talented crew chiefs and engineers who prepare the cars and support the ACRL drivers. Next month we'll fill out the roster of crew chiefs and try to feature a few more. ■

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