

# Montana 500 Newsletter

Oct - Dec 2013

Volume 13 no. 4



Montana Cross Country T Assn.  
1004 Sioux Road  
Helena, MT 59602

[www.montana500.org](http://www.montana500.org)

## 2011 Officers and Directors:

President: Mike Cuffe  
Vice President: Mike Stormo  
Secretary: Jillian Robison  
Treasurer: Janet Cerovski

Directors:  
Mike Robison 2016  
Doug Langel 2016  
Mark Hutchinson 2016  
Mike Cuffe 2015  
Mike Stormo 2015  
Janet Cerovski 2015  
Nan Robison 2014  
Garrett Green 2014  
Tom Carnegie 2014

Meeting Secretary: Jillian Robison  
Correspondence: Tom Carnegie  
Newsletter Editor: Tom Carnegie

Membership dues \$10.00  
Touring class: \$25.00  
Endurance runner: \$35.00

Cover photo:  
Tom Carnegie's car in 2012



Pres Talk  
Mike Cuffe

Guys are getting anxious for June 15, the check in date for our famous Montana 500. Just had a call from the Iowa guys. We will gather in Libby, Montana, next spring for the 500.

This is a timed 500 mile endurance run beginning with the safety inspection and check in Father's Day Sunday on June 15, 2014.

We picked Libby at the annual business meeting of the Montana Cross Country Touring Association Oct. 13 at St. Regis. The 54th annual Montana 500 will be headquartered at the Venture Motor Inn. Although the group has toured through Libby, this marks the first time it has been the host city.

About 30 Model T Fords from all over the United States and Canada will travel to Lincoln County for the event.

These very well maintained vintage vehicles will drive about 200 miles Monday and Tuesday and 100 miles Wednesday with tear down inspection followed by the awards picnic. On Thursday, the group will tour local points of interest.

Toll free number for the Venture Inn and Restaurant is 800-221-0166. We are holding a block of 10 singles at \$73 each and 10 doubles (2 Queen size beds) for \$83. They will hold this block until May 15, and people are calling now. Ask for Model T Montana 500 when reserving rooms. Let me know if you have problems. Check them out at [www.ventureinnlibby.com](http://www.ventureinnlibby.com) where the website is being redesigned.

Libby is the county seat for Lincoln County in Montana's northwest corner some 2.5 or 3 hour drive east of Spokane but in Mountain Time Zone. I worked, lived and raised family there from 1972-99, and my Montana House District 2 runs from the Idaho border along the British Columbia border almost to Glacier national Park, although the populations of Libby, Troy and south are House District 1.

One leg will take us through my home town of Eureka, and maybe we will stop to scratch the head of my old gray cat!

Questions? Call 406-293-1247 or email [mcuffe@interbel.net](mailto:mcuffe@interbel.net)

Editor's Propaganda  
Tom Carnegie

This time I'm going to talk a little about Robert's Rules of Order. I think that most everyone who is in this club is also in other clubs and I think that probably every club that anyone belongs to uses some form or perversion of Robert's rules. I say perversion because I'm sure that there are constant points of order that are done wrong, but even though, it works well for most clubs that I have been in. One reason it works well is that it has built in checks and balances. Things can not be "railroaded" through because there are minutes and these need to be voted on to make things legit. That is why it is not allowed in most clubs that I have been in to conduct business outside of the meetings. In the past this has happened in this club, but not in a long, long time. The president's have not allowed it. Yay for Robert's rules, I say!

Please email montana500@antiqueautoranch.com and ask to receive the newsletter electronically if you are not already.

## **The Annual Meeting of the Montana Cross Country T Association – 2013**

The meeting was held at the Community Center in St. Regis, Montana on October 13, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Cuffe at 1:05 p.m.

Officers, members, and guests present included: Mike Cuffe, Nan Robison, Tony Cerovski, Brandon Langel, Bill Mullins, Rick Carnegie, Tom Carnegie, Dave Cooley, Doug Langel, Janet Cerovski, and Susie Carnegie.

Mike Cuffe opened with his agenda for the meeting to include the president's report, stating it's been a good and enjoyable year. We will have our annual election, treasurer's report, committee reports, as well as old and new business. He was sorry to see several people who had planned to come were not able to attend. Mike stated he felt Tom's writeup in the newsletter regarding cheating was a good dissertation. Lastly, he stated he would like to discuss what the rules are regarding impromptu inspections, E-Timers, and nitrous oxide gas.

Tom Carnegie read the minutes from the October 14, 2012 meeting. A short discussion was held. There was a motion to approve the minutes as read. It was seconded and passed.

Janet Cerovski presented the treasurer's report. There is \$3,208.00 in the bank account. The only expense outstanding is the newsletter. Janet stated she did not have a breakdown on expenses and revenues for this Montana 500, but our current total in our account is as stated. She noted money had been taken from the account to cover the picnic this year. Of note, the Rocky Mountain Club had generously provided our picnic provisions since Missoula as a contribution from their club.

The floor was opened for elections. Currently Mike Cuffe, Mike Stormo, and Janet Cerovski's terms are through 2015. Garrett Green and Nan Robison's terms are through 2014. Discussion took place to determine what positions were up for election this year. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and

Directors positions are three year terms. Every year three directors are replaced or re-elected. It was determined that Mike Robison, Doug Langel, Tom Carnegie, and Mark Hutchinson had come to the end of their terms.

Mike Cuffe stated that Garrett Green asked that he submit Sergio Hernandez's name for a Director position.

It was agreed to move Tom Carnegie's term to 2014. Doug Langel and Sergio Hernandez were then nominated to fill a Director position term through 2016. Ballots were passed out. The President counted the ballots. Doug Langel was elected for this 2016 term.

The following candidates were then nominated for the last two 2016 Director positions to be filled: Mike Robison, Mark Hutchinson, or Sergio Hernandez. Ballots were passed out to vote for two of these three candidates. The President counted the ballots. Mike Robison and Mark Hutchinson were elected.

Discussion took place to determine which positions will end and need to be filled at next year's meeting. They would include Nan Robison, Garrett Green, and Tom Carnegie's positions as Directors. However, the President, Vice President and Treasurer's positions will be up to vote on as well, so overall positions could change, depending on who is elected for president and vice president.

Committee reports:

Tony stated he has ordered a new crimper (the original crimper has been missing since Conrad).

Old Business:

Discussed this years Montana 500 in Fort Benton.

There was a motion to have Susie Carnegie send thank you cards to Jim Taylor Motors, the Grand Union Hotel, and the Museum-Upper Missouri for their kind hospitality. It was seconded and passed. Mike Cuffe plans to send a letter of thanks and review of our event to these businesses as well as to their local newspaper and Chamber of Commerce.

New Business:

There was a motion to hold the next annual meeting on October 12, 2014, the second Sunday in October. It was seconded and passed. The president chooses the location of the annual meeting. It will be held at the Community Center in St. Regis, Montana.

There was discussion about the location for the 2014 Montana 500.

Tom Carnegie suggested Libby. Rick Carnegie read a letter he received from Meghan Carnegie who suggested several locations to include: ChoctEAU, White Sulfur Springs, Harlowton, Cutbank, and Billings. Mike Cuffe suggested White Sulfur

Springs, Libby, and Hot Springs. Discussion was held. There was a motion made to run the 2014 Montana 500 out of Libby. This was seconded and passed. There was then a motion to have the alternate location of choice be White Sulfur Springs. It was seconded and passed. There was a motion to have Choteau be a third alternative. It was seconded and passed. Mike Cuffe will re-search Libby motels available to best accommodate us with the most reasonable prices.

There was a motion to have the next Montana 500 inspection held on Sunday, June 15, 2014, with the run to be on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, and the tour on June 19, 2014. It was seconded and passed. Mike Cuffe will work on finding a backup inspection location, if needed, other than the hotel parking lot, and a good tear-down location in Libby.

Mike Cuffe presented, for Sonny Bishop, that Sonny stated we have a good tear-down manual that we should either follow or throw away. We should tear the top three cars down all the way and not stop part way. Discussion was held.

Tom Carnegie read the Tear-Down Manual. There was then discussion regarding clarifying how the tear-down manual is currently worded. Specifically the sentence in the middle of the third paragraph that states: "The

inspectors may choose to forgo higher level operations on the second or third car, if they so choose, although they are free to perform all allowed operations.” This could be understood, as written, that you need to perform all three levels on the #1 car.

There was a motion to strike “on the second or third car, if they so choose,” and have the sentence read: “The inspectors may choose to forgo higher level operations, although they are free to perform all allowed operations.” It was seconded and passed.

There was a motion to include the Tear-down Manual to the Rules, adding to the Rules: “E10. The Tear-Down Manual is a supplement to printed Rules. If there is conflict then the printed Rules will take precedence.” It was seconded and passed.

Mike Cuffe brought up impromptu roadside inspections (see Rules, A12) which may take place as you are entering or leaving a town. Discussed nitrous oxide and E-Timers, their use, how to check for and test for them. Mike Cuffe and Dave Cooley will check with a couple sources regarding the availability and possibility of obtaining a testing kit.

Other:

Tom Carnegie received a phone call from Dan Brown who brought up a couple issues.

Dan suggested we increase dues of folks who don't get a newsletter electronically. This was discussed. The decision was made not to do so.

Dan has an adjustable cam gear. Is this legal? It is not specifically mentioned in the Rules. This was discussed. We've never checked for this before. It was agreed to "let it ride" and discuss it if it should come up as an issue.

Tom Carnegie suggested increasing the fee to \$35.00 for touring entrants. The touring entrants receive the same amenities, so it makes sense to have the fees the same for both racing and touring entrants. There was a motion to increase the touring entrant fee to \$35.00. It was seconded and passed.

A couple tear-down scenarios were discussed where a penalty might have been a good option for the Directors to have over disqualification.

A time penalty given by the Directors was discussed. Tom Carnegie suggested, rather than the only result being disqualification for deviating beyond what is in the Rules (per Rule A1), that the Directors have the option to give a time penalty if they so choose. Said racer may be knocked down in

placement of the race, but not disqualified.

There was a motion to have A1 of Rules to read: “Deviation beyond these practices may result in disqualification or time penalty. Directors are responsible for interpretation of all the rules pertaining to the Association and assessment of time penalties. Decision of the Directors is final.” It was seconded and passed.

Drafting was discussed. In Rule A7 tailgating is not allowed, but there is no mention of not allowing drafting. Tom Carnegie stated he would like to have included in the Rules that no intentional or persistent drafting be allowed. An in-depth discussion ensued describing various drafting scenarios, the legalities, and issues of safety. There was a motion made to add to Rule A7, “No intentional or persistent drafting allowed.” It was seconded and resulted in a tie vote, with one member abstaining, and the president breaking the tie. The motion did not pass.

Janet Cerovski asked about paying for our use of the St. Regis Community Center. Mike Cuffe will double check on the fee amount.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m. It was seconded and passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susie Carnegie for Jillian Robison

## A First Timer's Perspective Milt Roorda

Being a Grandfather is one of the greatest joys of life. The grand kids come over and we build roads and barns with wood blocks, then drive all the toy cars, trucks and tractors around the play barn.

Now that some are older, they help in the shop and 4 are driving the Model T's around the yard!

Growing up, I loved playing with toy trucks and then at 15 years old I bought my first car, then in 1996 I bought a 1924 Model T Roadster.

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For 3 years, Rosemary and I drove it around town. One day, a guy stopped us at the store and said there were Model T'ers around the area and invited us to their next club meeting. WOW, there were more people with Model T's in the area!  
Plus, we learned there were 2 National T Clubs and they enjoyed driving the cars!

One of the first things we noticed, was how helpful and friendly the Model T folks are!

Fast forward to the 2013 Montana 500. This was my first year attending and participating in the Endurance Run. Needless to say, I was a little nervous about driving "full throttle" for 40-50-60 miles at a time, but Mike and Jillian and others assured me, it could be done!

I always enjoy driving the Model T, but running the "500" added a new dimension of challenge and level of skills, plus it was a lot of fun!

The moral to this story is, on all the previous tours the great people "made" for a great tour!

The moral to this tour has 2 parts

1. great people=great tour
2. the friendly competitiveness equals great fun.

PS: After the "500" was run, George and Ramona Akin and Rosemary and I, toured Idaho, in our Model T's for 8 days and over 1,200 miles. The countryside was breathtaking, the cars preformed without flaw and wonderful memories were created!

I am looking forward to attending the "500" in future years.

Let's keep the Endurance Run viable in future years, the grand kids will be looking forward to attend and will be competitive as well.

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