

ARMS Update

Hello Everyone!

I just want to take a few minutes to give you a few hi-lites from the ARMS meetings and workshops that were held November 12th-14th, in Halifax. It was my first time attending and it was a very good experience, overall. I got a chance to meet some people in the sport, but most importantly, get a better understanding of ARMS, the role they play and what they can do for our Club.

I think the most important thing that came out of the weekend, was a meeting with 4 members of ARMS, to deal specifically with issues within AMKA. There were some AMKA members who recently voiced their 'concerns', to ARMS, regarding some issues within our club. I would like to thank those members for caring enough to do that. It created this opportunity to sit down and discuss our short term and long term plans/goals with our governing body.

Jim Williamson joined me at this meeting, which was held with Dave Hall (ARMS President), Wayne Schnare (ARMS Steward), Stewart Farmer (ARMS Steward) and Emile LeBlanc (Regional Karting Director) in attendance. We discussed the issues raised by the members, what we are doing to correct them, the overall structure of the club, and Rules and Regulations...both ASN and, potential, 'Club' Rules. There was also discussion regarding 'policing' the Rules and implementing 'consequences'.

ARMS is now aware of the course we are taking to 'rebuild' the club and get more members involved. They fully endorse what we are doing and would like to assist in any way they can. (In fact, I thought they were quite excited by the possibility of a revamped AMKA.) They acknowledge that it will be no small undertaking, but that we appear to be heading in the right direction.

All four members are going to attempt to attend our AGM, which we hope to hold in January. They understand that we plan to be voting on a new Club Constitution, as well as other Club By-Laws. They have explained that they will guide us and help us along this new path. (They are only a phone call, or email, away.) That's GREAT News, for us! We will be leaning on them.

The other item that many of you will be interested in, is 'Regional' Racing. As you know, there was NO Regional Series last year, which, many feel, hurt all the clubs. ARMS tasked us with trying to figure out a solution for this in the 'Karting Workshop' on Saturday. Again, Jim Williamson joined me in this workshop, which had representation from the 3 maritime clubs and ARMS.

Some of the discussion:

-Why the events stopped? (Safety, cost, politics, Rotax)

-A Regional Series needs FULL Regional input.

-An understanding that a Regional Series should be viewed as a 'step up' from Club Racing, thus, Rules should be more strict.

-Participation would be higher if each Club could, once again, 'Host' a Regional event.

-How can we make that happen?

-Agreement that Regional Races would also count as 'Club' events for the 'Host' Club. (In an effort to get more karts to the track and simplify scheduling.)

This workshop appeared to serve as a bit of healing session between clubs, which was great! There was good discussion and an understanding that we would strive to 'work together' for the betterment of the sport. It was all very positive!

If we are still racing at SSW, this season, the plan is to work with ARMS to 'adjust' our track configuration to suit a Regional event. Their concern, with our track and Fredericton's, is Safety. We explained that we are completely open to meeting with them and solve all issues, in order to bring an event back to Halifax and promote the sport on a larger scale.

For clarification, the 'Club' event during a hosted 'Regional' event would work as follows:

Local Club members who do not wish to run the Regional Series, would still run during the event at their track, but for club points. For example, in a Regional event held in Halifax; if an 'AMKA' driver came in 6th overall in the race, but was the 3rd overall 'AMKA' driver, to finish, they would get 3rd place 'Club' points, but NO Regional points. If an 'AMKA' Driver, who has paid for the Regional Licence places 1st overall, they would get 1st place points for both Regional and Club. It would be like 2 races happening within one. (Sort of IMSA style) This should increase kart numbers, as well as making scheduling easier. There will be more discussion on this, over the winter months. Needless to say, ARMS was happy with the progress.

These are the items I thought would be most important to get out there, at this time. If there are any questions, please ask. There will be more information on our Club Progress, over the next few weeks.

Burn Rubber!

Eric
AMKA VP