

Hi Everyone,

The festive season is well upon us now and there is the definite feel of holidays and cheers in the air. We have received our audited accounts and will announce the Special General Meeting to all members shortly. It will happen early in the New Year, so keep an eye out for that.

2009 is going to be a busy old year for us all. We have some great initiatives that will make for a great year and for the first time in a long time we have a structured calendar that is going to enable everyone to come and join us.

We have also launched the RS Cup and a Motorsport startup package that make getting into our events real easy.

We are buying 2 of the UCOL Starlets, these will become available for sale immediately or lease if not sold for each round. Expected sale price of \$4K each, for a race ready car that will be easy to maintain and be competitive. Expect that each will have a A-frame for easy towing around.

The startup package is on the website with the RS Cup details. To know more click this link to get to that information. Could be a great Xmas present for a special and deserving someone in your life!!

<http://www.motorsportmanawatu.org.nz/files/MembershipForms/UnitedTravelRaceSeries/Startup.pdf>

More great news it that United Travel have reconfirmed as naming right sponsors for the United Travel Race Series— UTR-S 2009. Jamie Ardell has advised me that last year the sponsorship won the branch a Marketing award for Australasia! Motorsport has far reaching benefits and we hope that this years event will bring more success for United Travel and Motorsport Manawatu.

This years sponsors package will be released shortly, but expect that for no price increase you are going to be in to win a great prize if your company is selected. We will release more details as we finalize them. If you know anyone that might be interested in supporting the club, please contact me at manawatucarclub@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 523 8290. I am trying to raise the interest of 100 business. The cost is \$250inc GST for the package, so if you all talk to your bosses we will get there fairly easy. We will start to collect the money in early to mid April 2009.

The sponsorship this year will allow some prize money and prizes to be had, and to cover the costs of the extra round for 2009.

While on the Winter Series dates have had to be shuffled a bit and I would like to thank Manfeild and Central Districts Car Club for their help in allowing this to happen. Turns out I had booked the October date on Bathurst Weekend. Not good form, so we have managed to squeeze the dates up to suit our requirements.

Dates are now confirmed for UTR-S 2009 as

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| Round 1 | Sunday June 7 2009 |
| Round 2 | Sunday June 28 2009 |
| Round 3 | Sunday July 11 2009 |
| Round 4 | Sunday August 2 2009 |
| Round 5 | Sunday September 6 2009. |

The RS Cup is growing in interest and I am fielding calls about the new class almost daily now. We can confirm the first cars are the 2 Motorsport Manawatu Starlets, plus the other 2 UCOL Starlets. I have seen a FXGT being built by Mag and Turbo in town, rumors that Tony Maconachie is building a XA Falcon, Mike Price has a MZ-3 Mazda and Brent Hoare has a Fiat 850 Coupe are all being rung through. To keep the interest up if you have a car that you are intending to use send me photo and we will put in on the website to see how the lineup is looking. I expect that in year one we will have 8-9 cars and more as the season progresses ending up with 10-12.

I have been in at Turners and Jeff Braid and Mike Price have plenty of cars that are suitable at real good prices. I saw a Trueno there the other day, adjustable platforms, 17" mags, manual 1600 narrow cam engine for under \$2k. You could either warrant it really easily or de-reg it and get Timo to build a Half cage and you are going for not a lot of coin.!

We took the Corona around and it did a miserable 1.36.5 so a smaller lighter car should be a good option here.

The other great new initiative is the Road and Track Series. We are running each round with help from the other regional clubs. We have expanded how the day will run to include Single car and Multi car sprints as well as the current Dual car sprints. You need to register for the series and the registration forms will be on the website soon. I want to allocate numbers for each round so if you want a number be quick to reserve that for your self.

We have the chance to expand the rounds as well and will provide more details as they come to hand.

The sealed hill climb weekend in May is progressing well with good support from the local residents. So much so that one has brought a car and will be competing. Local support does not get any better than that. I have arranged some advertising support for this event through Classic Car magazine, so I expect that it will be well supported. We will not accept dual drivers at this event, and also limit the numbers to 50. So with national advertising make sure your entry gets in quick, or someone else may take your spot!!

All caged RS Cup cars are also eligible for the weekend, but will race in CC class, not as RS.

The hills are great and will be a good challenge for everyone. I am also in negotiation to have a invitation only "king of the mountain" drift action as well, with TV, so if that come off we will try and get some coverage for everyone else as well!!

2009 will be a bumper year of Motorsport Action., and we are catering to as many as we can. If you are not going to enter we are always looking for helpers so help us help you (huhu) and ensure we all have a enjoyable year.

Susie and I are expecting baby Mk2 on Xmas day, (not the greatest timing) so I will be busy (and tired) for a fair old part of next year, so before you start bleating that the world is not fair, just ask what have I done to help the club this year, because that is what I will ask you first before we start to have conversations!!

Last event of the year is December 21 Xmas BBQ, Sealed autocross and final of R&T Series so make sure you are there.!!!

Here are some highlights from the wide world of the web, enjoy and see you soon. Julian

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rs-jAlmScms> Ken Block Autocross. Yehah. One of the most watched You tube videos of the year I have been told. And only released last month!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrYTA71JHs&feature=related> Oh to have this car in NZ

Think my Xmas Autocross was tough! What about this one!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRaQky7eDP4>