

Dear fellow Racers,

As you may already know, the Mt. Equinox Hill Climb will be held on the August 20th weekend this year. Because of the limited number of cars that this course commands, I wanted to get out a communication to the general membership early on.

1.) I have not released the application yet for Mt Equinox and there are ALREADY TWO PAID applications sitting on my desk! Please DO NOT send in the generic application form on the VSCCA website as I have not yet finalized the dinner arrangements at Johnny Seesaws and there are the fees for any additional Saturday lunches and Soirée fees beyond what is included for you and one guest. I am trying to hold costs down but Seesaws may up their dinner fee slightly this year (they have held the price of the dinner at the same level for 4 years now) so I am not certain of the dinner costs. I will have the application published by the beginning of April;

2.) This Mt. Equinox will be the 60th Anniversary of the hill climb. We are hopeful that both Bill Milliken and John Fitch (John already accepted our invitation) will join us for this celebration. Bill Millikin won the first Mt. Equinox hill climb in 1950 with his FWD (when the mountain was unpaved) and John Fitch drove the Sabourin Mercury-Lagonda ;

3.) As this is the 60th anniversary of the first Mt. Equinox Hill Climb, I am trying to get another very special guest to come to our Equinox this year. Stay tuned for details;

4.) Some of you really missed the dash plaques last year so this year they will be back with a special commemorative 60th Anniversary design. In addition, racers that did not race last year and therefore did not receive a Mt. Equinox Drivers Club badge (last year was the inaugural year) will receive a Mt. Equinox Driver's Club badge as well. The dash plaque and the badge will be given out at the dinner only. I know one or two of you may have issue with this policy (no complaints please - they will be duly ignored) but it really makes for a wonderful time to see everyone breaking bread together as this is the true spirit of Equinox. In addition, as this is the 60th anniversary and as we should have a few special guests, it will be a dinner to remember;

5.) I am told by the mountain manager that the road is holding up magnificently this winter;

6.) Everyone really enjoyed the Soirée at the Toll House and this year we will do it again at the barn at the Batten Kill Inn. The Batten Kill and the Manchester Highland Inn will be our official hotels so I request that you seek lodgings there first. Also they are charging us reasonable, 2009 fees for lodging. The Manchester Highland Inn does the Saturday lunch and the Batten Kill prepares the barn for us so it is important to fill their inns as this is part of the agreement I have with them; they are innkeepers first and go to great trouble in giving us these value added services.

If you have never done the Mt. Equinox Hill Climb, not only are you missing the thrill of a lifetime, it represents a great racing value if one considers the following:

- 1.) We include at no additional fee the Friday night get together for you and one guest with wonderful Italian food from Al Ducci in Manchester and quality Prosecco Italian sparkling wine;
- 2.) We include at no additional fee the Saturday lunch for you and one guest;
- 3.) The rental fee for the mountain is SUBSTANTIALLY less than other hill climb fees; we pay less than half the fee for a full weekend as compared to what other mountains charge for just a 4 hour morning run.
- 4.) The camaraderie at the mountain (especially at the top) is unique and the dinner at Johnny Seesaws is not only a great time, but is the historic celebration locale since the first Mt. Equinox and is reasonably priced for a three course, sit down dinner;
- 5.) Fully one third of the road has been repaved and regraded last year at a cost of \$450,000, sparing our cars the repairs many of us had to endure after negotiating the previously deteriorated road. The road is now much faster and truly a magnificent drive;
- 6.) It is arguably the most historic venue on the VSCCA calendar.

See you at the top,
Joseph