

Dear previous Mount Equinox Hill Climb participants,

I wanted to keep you updated regarding the Mount Equinox Hill Climb.

As you may be aware by now, The Mt. Equinox Hill Climb is slated for the second to last week in August (22 and 23).

The primary reason for establishing this date is to give the Carthusian Monks a reasonable period of time for the possible paving of the worst 1.6 miles of road in the spring.

First some background information:

I and Paul Fitzgerald (a VSCCA member in the road grading business) went to the mountain in mid November and met with the Mountain Manager as well as the past and present mountain staff. At that 6 hour meeting, we analyzed the entire road and identified the worst parts and with Paul's expertise, came up with a reasonable plan to restore the road along with the cost. I presented this estimate to the Carthusians several weeks ago.

Because Vermont will have an electrical supply issue starting about 2011 (possible revocation of the Yankee Nuclear Power plant license in 2012 and export reduction by 1/3 rd of Quebec Hydro-electric power in 2011), the political winds are favoring energy production through windmills (as you may or may not recall, for many years there was a small windmill at the top. This was put in by the University of Vermont for research purposes.).

The Carthusians are currently in talks with Catamount Energy to place windmills on the top of the mountain. Act 250 prohibits the spoilage of the Vermont mountain line of sight with man-made structures and therefore, placement of windmills. A previous attempt at another mountain nearby in Londonderry (Glebe Mountain) was dropped in 2006 due to vehement local opposition. Also, the governor of Vermont has in general been opposed to industrial scale windmill farms. Battles may not happen with Equinox in that the majority of the power generated will feed Manchester and Bennington and public opinion has shifted in favor of the project.

The monks have made the restoration of Saint Bruno Drive in it's the ENTIRETY one of the requirements for allowing this power company to place windmills on top of Mount Equinox. As the political process is a long one, I recommended the Carthusians repave the worst part (1.6 miles) for safety reasons and then include this cost if the power company succeeds in placing the windmills on top. Either way, for safety reasons having nothing to do with our cars, I recommended the Carthusians restore this worst part of the road.

We are closer than ever towards the completion of a proper road restoration for 2009 and I am hoping, as I am sure you do, that it occurs. If this is done, then our cars will fare very well on Saint Bruno Drive (Jim Donick will certainly break 5).

If for some reason paving does not occur this year, I ask that all of you still consider running Equinox. Last year we had so few entries (18), that we lost money on the venue.

This is the most historic event the VSCCA has and represents a direct link to our immediate post war racing heritage. It is only by your participation it can go on. While I know the worst part of the road is hard on our cars and the time of year may not be ideal, please make your best efforts to attend. While I realize your times may suffer, prudence on the worst part of the road will spare undue stress on your car should the road go unpaved. It still remains a very social event and this part of Vermont is beautiful towards the end of August as the trees do begin to turn color. The weather last year was exceptional, being warm (not hot) at the bottom and crisp at the top. We had lovely blue skies and no flies.

Either way, as soon as I hear any news about the road, I will let you know you.

For now, I wish all of you a blessed and Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and healthy New Year,

Joseph