

Bluenose Autosport Club

NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2022

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A big thank you!

Before we get started on this first edition of the Bluenose Autosport Club newsletter, we need to shout out a big, big thank you to all of you who, despite COVID-19 restrictions and calendar uncertainty, made our 2021 motorsport season a success. From our organizers and coordinators to our entrants and especially our volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all your efforts in 2021!

Meet your new Executive

As is the process every year, executive position elections are held during the BAC AGM. With our president and vice-president not reoffering, there have been a couple of changes to the executive of the BAC for 2022 and beyond.

Here, in their own words, are your new club executive members:

President – Jim Theriault



Jim and his Celica at a 2011 Bluenose Autosport Club Rally Cross, Scotia Speedworld, Halifax

“Like many, my interest in vehicles and motorsports started at a very young age. Between dinky-toys and hot-wheels, my early years were spent verbally imitating the sound of race cars. It took a couple of decades before I was able to get involved through motorcycle road racing. While taking some of a season off to recover from injuries, a friend (colleague, boss) convinced me that I should get involved with something safer – such as stage rallying – or at least come out and help score the Dartmouth Highlands Rally. Move forward a few more decades, and Bluenose Autosport Club (BAC) was organizing rally crosses. Seemed like a great way to introduce a teenage son to motorsport. And my relationship with BAC restarted. Over the years, I have competed in motorcycle racing, stage rallying, navigational rallying, rallycross, and endurance road rallying.

I am semi-retired after a career as a scientist with the Department of National Defence. In retirement, I have continued to work on projects with the Government of Canada, universities, and industry. On the volunteer side, I’ve had the opportunity to take on leadership roles with organizations focused on motorsport, recreation, performing arts, and finance. Currently, I also serve on the Board of Directors of a foreign environmental science and advocacy organization.

I look forward to learning more about BAC and its members as we move forward, building on the successes of the previous leadership.”

Vice-President - Gary Spicer



Gary and his MX-5 at the National Corvette Museum Motorsport Park, Bowling Green, Kentucky

“I became interested in motorsports in my youth, and in my early teens (and long before cable, YouTube or pay-per-view) I used to pore over dog-eared copies of Road & Track to read reports of F1, endurance races and rallies. I drove my first autocross at CFB Lahr in Germany in 1977 in a borrowed Honda Civic (yes, the owner was aware...) and became involved in NAVEX rallies and autocross in Germany, Ontario, Alberta, and the US southeast. I’m a WRC and endurance racing fan and attending both a WRC event and the 24 Hours of Le Mans are high on my bucket list. Currently, I’m a member of the Maritime Miata Club, the Canadian Rockies Miata Club (Calgary) and a co-organizer of the upcoming New Scotland Road Rally.

Recently retired, I spent the last couple of decades as an international project quality assurance manager dealing with everything from modular workforce housing to high-speed fibre optics. As your VP, I’m looking forward to increasing our membership engagement and volunteer recognition, and ensuring we have the proper procedures in place to strengthen our foundation for future success. Although I may not be very good at it, I love NAVEX rallying and I want to help expand this program within the BAC. And you may see me and our faithful Mazda MX-5 (Pedro) at a slalom near you in 2022.

I look forward to meeting you all as our motorsport season progresses. Thanks for your involvement and support of the BAC!”

Secretary - Meg Grandmaison



Meg indulging excited fans at Rallye Baie-des-Chaleurs in 2019.

"Admittedly, if you had asked me even ten years ago, I would never have guessed I'd be an active member of the local Motorsport community. Don't get me wrong, I watched F1 with my dad, I could change a tire and check my fluids, and my dad instilled in me the mantra to always read the directions thoroughly (I only recently found out this was coming from his Navex experience), but I definitely did not know what the silly seat was or that I'd soon be sitting in it. Then one day, I tagged along with a friend to try autoslalom and later rallycross and I was hooked. Since then, my Motorsport career has grown to include volunteer flag marshaling at Atlantic Motorsport Park, competing in Navigational Rallies both with and against my dad, and of course, performance rally co-driving for Cal since 2016.

I suspect sooner than I blink I'll be adding go-kart mom to the list as well...

Highlights for me include placing third in our first event together, placing 7th in the ECRC at Rallye-Baie-des-Chaleurs in 2019 and taking home the Atlantic Region Rally Championship title in 2019, plus a wicked trip attending the 24Hr at Daytona.

As I am ever the perfectionist, documenting, editing and organizing seem to find me in everything I do and as I enter my seventh year as Secretary (how did that happen?) I have a few projects in mind to help make communications and file storage easier for everyone and am excited to support our newly elected Executive in keeping a strong presence of Motorsport in our province despite the ongoing challenges we face due to COVID-19."

Treasurer - Sabrina Muise



“Rewind to 2016 when I was oblivious to the racing scene. Normal weekends involved hiking, camping, friends and family. That all changed in 2017 when I met this guy, now my husband, who has been involved in motorsports since he was a child. He convinced me to be a passenger at a rallycross event held at Conrad’s Quarry and that was it, I spent the afternoon looking on Kijiji for cheap Subarus. The next year I competed in my first season of rallycross taking home the Novice Championship. I’ve dabbled in NavX and slalom since then, but it’s racing in the ice, snow and slush that I find the most fun.

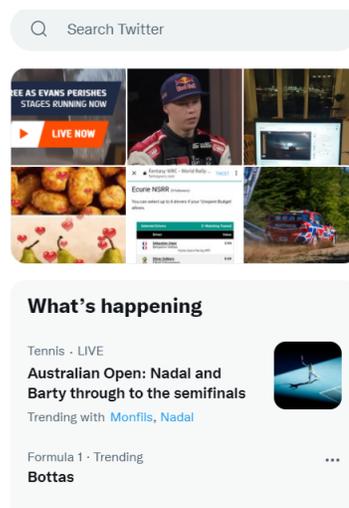
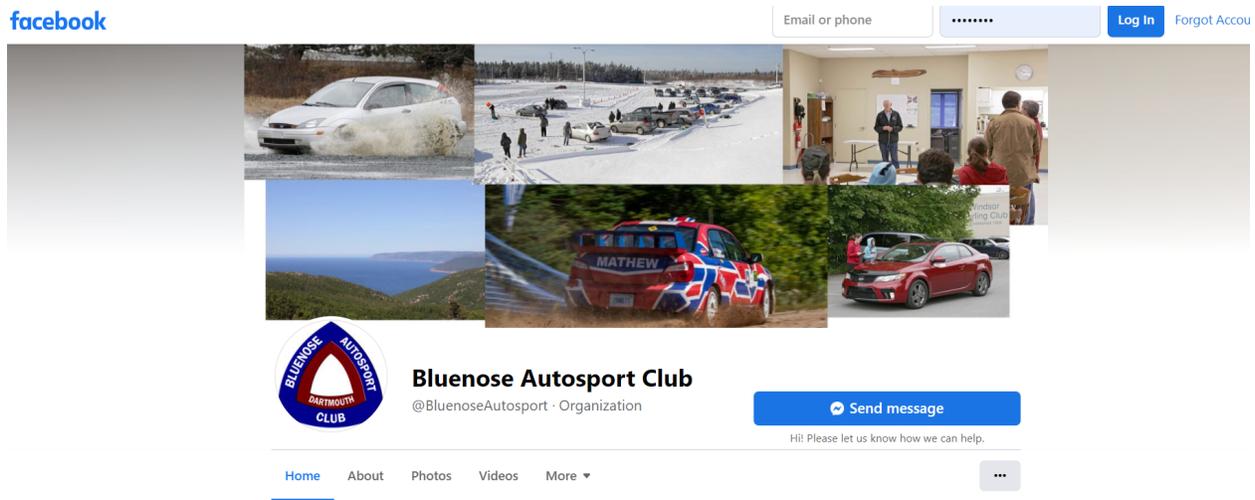
In 2021, I teamed up with Tara Pitts and entered a season of performance rally sprints. I’m told we were the first all female rally team in Atlantic Canada. It was not without its challenges, a puncture on recce – followed very closely by another puncture on recce, this time with no spare. We sat in the woods waiting to be rescued while I rewrote my recce notes. We almost missed our start time – but we made it. Our last sprint ended early with a broken subframe, but during all three events, we never stopped laughing. The highlight for me was how excited the other competitors, crew and volunteers were when we came into service having completed the first day of our first rally together.

This coming year, I’m excited to hear from our membership about fresh new ideas, things we can improve, and how we can grow this sport that I have come to love”.

Social Media/Website updates

We've done a considerable amount of work on the [club website](#) and have updated our [Facebook](#) landing page. The website will continue to be dynamic as we try to make it as welcoming and easy to use as possible. You'll find everything from event information and historic photos to links to current COVID regulations there, as well as an online membership form and other motorsport-related documentation.

As well, we now have a Twitter account! Follow us [@BluenoseAC](#) and please like and retweet our posts. If you have ideas for additional content to any of our online offerings, please let us know.



2022 Event Schedule

While it's difficult to schedule anything with vagaries of weather and COVID, we're doing our best to firmly establish event dates. While our original thinking was to list everything here, it's best to check with www.blunoseautosport.ca for up-to-date information on all club events.

We'll also update our Facebook and Twitter feeds as soon as we have go/no go decisions and link everything back to the website.

As always (and especially over the past couple of years) we appreciate your patience.

NAVEX Rally developments - the Richta Rally system

(This text, along with Richta screenshots, can be found on our blunoseautosport.ca website...)

An age-old hurdle faced by rally organizers and rallymasters the world over is the availability and willingness of volunteers for checkpoints and other functions. Scoring a rally, even a relatively simple TSD/NAVEX/Regularity, is also a bit of a chore and while competitors are enjoying refreshments (and patiently waiting for scores) at the rally finish, the rally master is slaving away over bits of paper, worn-down pencils and a calculator to try to produce scores which will stand scrutiny and not result in protests.

Enter long-time SCCA Road Rally competitor and software developer Rich Bireta. Rich saw the need for something more automated and recognized the ubiquitous nature of smartphones amongst the general population. As most (all?) smartphones utilize GPS technology, why not develop a system whereby checkpoints could be set by GPS, rally competitors could use their smartphones to record passage of checkpoints, elapsed time between checkpoints could be measured and calculated on the same smartphone, and scores and results could be displayed almost instantaneously without the need of those bits of paper, calculators and all-too-frequent headaches? And all of this on a rally timed to either the second or tenth of a second?

Through a long development period with a number of SCCA clubs and with the assistance of the SCCA Road Rally Board, the Richta (a blend of Rich's first name and the famous Curta Calculator used by rally teams in the '60s and '70s) System was developed and made public both as Apple and Android apps. The system consists of a Competitor, Rallymaster, and Scoreboard app. All are interconnected through the registered rally and everything is quite seamless.

The BAC ran a short test rally in March 2021 with a few invited teams made up of BAC NAVEX “movers and shakers.” This test went well and through some trial and error and teams trying to break the system, we learned a lot and the general consensus was that it would be a good system to use on BAC rallies. Not only does it provide instantaneous scoring - competitors who have cellular data enabled on their phones can be tracked by the rallymaster on the Rallymaster app. This provides a safety benefit and an ability to redirect teams which may be otherwise irretrievably lost.

One of the major adjustments that competitors will have to make is adopting the practice of timing to the second and not to the minute. We’re aware of some pushback on this issue, but the advantage is that checkpoints can be placed anywhere on the route and it immensely reduces (if not eliminates) the potential for ties. Experienced teams and “zero-heroes” may have the most difficult adjustment to make, but we’re hoping they’ll realize the benefit of the system once they have a couple of Richta-scored events under their seatbelts.

So far in 2022, both the Lost in Lunenburg Winter Rally and the New Scotland Road Rally will utilize the Richta Rally system. We understand there may be a couple of additional events under consideration, and the Richta system lends itself well to shorter, Friday night or “social” rallies.

Meanwhile, please download the free Richta apps from either the Apple or Android app stores and see how they look.

Membership Reminder

The BAC membership year coincides with the calendar year. There’s always a bit of leeway after the new year as new executive members get settled in and procedures are adopted.

2022 is here and while we have little idea as to how our potential calendar will be affected by COVID-19 restrictions, we’re asking you to renew your memberships and/or join our group of dedicated and enthusiastic motorsport fanatics. Thanks to those of you who have already sent in your membership applications. For those of you still on the fence, our online membership form is available [here](#) and we can certainly use your support this year. We can promise enough change to keep it interesting and perhaps even some things you wouldn’t expect.

Please join us or renew your membership and help to develop motorsport in Nova Scotia!

Finally: we can't fill every newsletter by ourselves. If you have a motorsport-related subject which you're passionate about and which would be of interest to our members, please consider writing an article for our newsletter or any of our social media feeds.

Send your text and photos to any member of the executive and we'll be honoured to publish it!

Thanks for reading. Look for our next BAC Newsletter in the early summer!



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