

NCR 13 Hour Enduro Event Summary
10/28-29/11

The 2011 North Carolina Region “13 hour Charge of the Headlight Brigade” was another fun event for most, but marred by the untimely death of one of the competitors from a medical issue. The competitor was driving, and was one of the leading cars, when he unexpectedly slowed, went off course without contact, and stopped. A corner worker responded, and immediately called for an ambulance. Full details are in the Safety Steward report.

Unlike previous years, the weather was challenging. Friday evening qualifying and practice was in the rain and dark. The Saturday race began under wet conditions which later turned to sunny and cold, then into a cold night.

Due to the wet conditions, sound measurements could not be taken. The Executive Steward has waived sound enforcement at this track.

The event was run under the successful prior years supplementary rules. Per the supps, penalties for pass under yellow, fuel spills in the pits (approximately 4,400 gal was consumed by the 58 cars!), metal to metal contact, were administered immediately by assessing the team a stop and go, or time penalty. Due to the length of the event, and multiple actions, a penalty log rather than standard CSA forms were used (attached). No protests arose.

The official pits staff was small (2 people), but once cars were on course the Grid Staff, Course Marshal Staff, and SOC all manned the pits for the race to monitor and enforce pit stop rules. Each team was required to designate a Designated Team Representative (DTR), who was formally registered with race control, and was responsible to know at all times which team driver was in the car. The DTR was the contact point for the operating steward via SOC to deliver penalties and other communications. The DTR would convey instructions to the driver via their team radio. This professional race mode of operation worked very well.

From a worker volunteer standpoint, turnout was fantastic: 62 corner workers covered the 13 hour race.

The race chairman, who stepped in just a few days prior to the event when the designated chair became unavailable, did a great job making all have fun. Food was the focus of the event, which included a full hot buffet breakfast on race morning, excellent box lunches and dinners for those who wished, or the option of a pulled pork bar-b-que done onsite. Also, a corner station cooking contest provided a full range of other foods ranging from stews to a full turkey dinner. And in the pits, the race team focus was also on food, with some teams having one table for car parts and tools, and three tables for food.

The VIR Emergency Services and Medical team are to be commended for their fine work throughout the event. This included efficient “hot pulls” of disabled vehicles under local yellows at times, in the dark and rain.

R. Horansky
Chairman SOM
10/30/11