



Cliffhanger 4WD Event

Newsletter January '20

Happy New Year to our huge Cliffhanger family. This is our year off so we can prepare for next year's event. Already planning is well under way and so far we have already done the following ...

- In Nov last year a Lawrie Sternbeck, Steve Graham and I went to Mt Gap to do some equipment maintenance and also had a poke around in them big hills. We linked the sunset ridge trail to the bigger ridge overlooking the road in and we also discovered a few new winch stages. Hope you like rocks.
- In Dec last year Aaron Hopfner (AKA Jim Craig) and Mick Hingerty met at my place and we went through roll cage and vehicle specs. We are adopting the AASA vehicle specs and rules which is appropriate given they sanction and insure the event and the teams. And the good news is that their requirements are very very close to what we have had in the past and although we might have minor changes I can't see anyone not being able to comply. Here is the link to their specs and you have to read it in its entirety to work out it all applies and not just sections apply. In the coming month I have to get a few exemptions (or sup regs) passed by AASA and shall print it all out and circle the bits that are important and I feel people could otherwise overlook.

https://aasa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/181024-01-AASA-Safety-Cage-Regulations-V1.1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0_zrI21ed3CsrGmxoKamNqr9eGWE-8481N7oDoEYxRIAXEJiPeMdrEqF4

I have updated the vehicle specs table showing what's required for each class and that's now linked in the downloads page on our web site. Note all the changes are in red.

Also linked in the downloads page is our current list of entered teams. Not surprisingly it's an impressive list given racing doesn't start for another 446 days but who's counting?

Some people have just paid the deposit while others are making weekly or monthly payments. The balance is due end of November this year so pretty much in 10 months. Seeing most people have paid the deposit and owe \$1850 then 10 monthly payments are just \$185 each. Let me know if you want me to do monthly cr card payments or you can set it up in your internet banking. The bank acct is on the statement.

Speaking of statements, I have just now got my accounting system up to date and emailed all teams their statement.

We have a bunch of new ideas and things we want to achieve at the 2021 event.

- Rallysafe will be used to start and finish all stages so rather than calculating Marshal chicken scratching having used stop watches the Rallysafe system can give our scorer a spreadsheet of start and finish times.
- To make all the data for the event including start and finish locations fit in that little Rallysafe box we need less navigating waypoints. So you guessed it – that means less navigating and more winning.
- We are going to make 2021 exceed 1,000 klm of racing. Last year it was about 800 klm and so that's a red flag to this bull. The 100klm long stage will be 150 klm long and we hope to do more creek runs and make them even longer.
- All teams and marshals will be given the stage book for the entire week when they register. Some stages like the 100 waypoint stage will have all the waypoints in it so you can punch those at camp in your own time.

- We will have 7 marshal groups and each group will only do 3 stages and they will be on alternate days. They too get the stage book at the beginning and not only do they have a week to familiarise themselves with their stage but they also have the day before free to set up and be ready. Why didn't I think of that like 15 years ago?
- In addition to having class scores we will also calculate the scores for those stages that are all done the same by all the classes (about 80% of them) and so we can come up with a score regardless of the class – hmm so what does this mean? Well it means we can see if the Buggies really are better than the Winch Trucks because for that scoresheet you are timed and scored as one group. We now have a **Battle of the Codes**. And don't discount the Super Tourers as we now have more 60 series entries and they are out to show up the big coin with their \$5,000 builds.

Some will already know I have offered a \$500 discount to Cliffhanger teams who race at Outback Challenge in September this year. Pretty much if teams do both events they get a \$500 discount from Cliffhanger. I will be there racing with Sam and I'm happy to help the Cliffy teams with their OBC preparations and also support them at the event.

So there's plenty to look forward to.

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