



FEMA INFO LETTER

To all FEMA members

January 01, 2024

Dear FEMA members

The end of a year might seem bittersweet, but it is also a new start and brings new opportunities. With the end of last year, new possibilities open up and it is our all responsibility to create and use those opportunities to meet, foster our friendship, promote our sport, find new members and keep our sport alive and thriving.

2023 review

Looking back on our 2023 racing season, I would like to thank all of you who have organized and hosted, with great effort and dedication, races on your facilities. Those races, we all love to attend, are building the core of our sport and give us the possibility to meet and introduce our sport to the public. Designing, building and improving our models in our workshops takes a lot of time and gives us the opportunity to keep busy between the races and sometimes escape the daily hustle around us. All efforts cumulate at a race when we succeed in a friendly and fair competition.

At this point I would like to specially thank all of you, who spare some of your time to introduce and teach the young and new members in our clubs. Your work is of outmost importance and absolutely crucial for our sport. I would like that all of us, spending endless hours in the workshop, preparing our own models, to dedicate some of these times to promote our hobby and pass on our enthusiasm to new members.

Age is not sparing anyone, not even in our sport which shall keep us young and enthusiastic. Every year we have to say goodbye to dear and sometimes lifelong friends. Last year we lost our friends Lothar Runkel and Peter Rischer, two very creative and much apricated friends who both leave a legacy behind. I think I can speak for all of us, that we would like to express our condolence to all the families and friends, Lothar and Peter leave behind.

Due to the fact, that we have lost more friends in recent years than we could find and motivate new friends who share the passion for our sport, it is more important than ever before and more important than any personal success, to promote our sport, find new members and supporting everyone who likes to get involved. It basically comes down to "no one around to compete with, no one around to succeed with". Unfortunately, most of us have understood that, but we are still not using every opportunity to act and prevent it.

2024 outlook

FEMA's main effort for 2024 will be the promotion of our sport and getting more / new people involved in it. Most important to do so, is the intrinsic motivation from every FEMA member. It is not FEMA's responsibility to acquire new members, first and foremost it is our all responsibility, every single one of us.

Due to different reasons, such as property sold to third party, use of property revoked and planned for different use, lack of members to maintain the race track, our sport lost or will lose soon the race tracks in Gallarate, Monza and Gävle. The above-mentioned closings are sadly due to a lack of members in the respective clubs, a lack of solidarity to help each other or the lack of initiative to keep our sport alive and could all have been avoided.

It is my personal regret that we as Speedmodelcar community were not able to save these race tracks, as any race track is the nucleus to keep the sport alive and finding new members.

It must be in each FEMA member states intrinsic interest to promote our sport and keep it alive.

Our sport is an individualistic sport. Most of us focus on our personal success, on our speed, on our engines on our models and risk thereby to lose the view on the bigger picture. Over our own success and ambitions, we sometimes lose our ability and willingness to work for the common good. Only a few of us spare a significant amount of their time for the promotion of our sport, take time to explain our sport to spectators, invite friends to a race or write an article for the local newspaper/website, visiting events from similar sports like control-line flying, RC car races or participate in local model-engineering expositions in order to introduce new people to our sport.

As outlined at the delegates meeting and in the previous point concerning the closing of race tracks, knowing that I repeat myself, finding new members for the Speedmodelcar community must be the main focus for us all.

With the example of the FEMA members Great Britain and Lithuania, it is clear that it is never too late to bring our sport back and thriving. Sometimes it needs only the lead and enthusiasm from one or two persons who can motivate, lead and gather the support from others who then help to bring the sport back. Therefore, identifying these leaders and accruing new members will and has to be our main focus.

We can go down in the Speedmodelcar history as the generation who have let the sport die, or we can go down in the Speedmodelcar history as the generation who kept it alive and promoted it to stay relevant and be a vital sport/hobby.

Unfortunately, our history, old minutes from delegates meetings and articles written in FEMA Info's show that reports like this one, trying to emphasize on the importance of finding new members, begging everyone to refocus their main effort to find new members, are often in vain and do not find any resonance. Therefore, we have to find new ways to provoke reactions from the Speedmodelcar community to promote our sport and acquire new members.

My preferred option would be that all FEMA members and every Speedmodelcar racer would have the intrinsic motivation to go out and do whatever they can to be the spark igniting the fire for our sport in someone else and pass on the Speedmodelcar virus to new people.

The next step is to highlight the good examples by publishing all the efforts which have been undertaken by FEMA members and hoping to motivate everyone else to follow the good examples and copy it.

And the third step is to make it public which FEMA members pro-actively work to acquire new members and which FEMA members decide to surrender to their avoidable destiny.

A FEMA guideline with ideas on how and where FEMA member states and individuals can, should and have to promote our sport and acquire new members will be published and send to all FEMA delegates in the next few days.

Furthermore, it is important to increase the collaboration between the Tether Race Car Association of Australia (TRCAA), the American Model Race Car Association (AMRCA) and the Fédération Européenne du Modélisme Automobile (FEMA), it is the intent from all three Associations / Fédération, to organize each year a designated international race on each continent, with the aim to gather as many friends from around the world and race with each other.

- The TRCAA aims to organize an international race in March / April as racing season opening event.
- The FEMA organizes usually the European Championship in late July, beginning of August and gladly welcomes guest drivers from around the world.
- The AMRCA aims to organize an international race in early November as racing season closing event.

The race calendar on www.speedmodelcar.org will reflect those races.

Race Calendar 2024

The current FEMA race calendar 2024 is published on www.speedmodelcar.org.

European Championship & European Trophy 2024

The 2024 racing season will have two main events. The European Championship in Pecs / Hungary from 26./27./28. July 2024 and the European Trophy race series consisting of the following six designated races.

Venues

18./19. May 2024	European Trophy	Kapfenhardt	Germany
01./02. June 2024	European Trophy	Tallinn	Estonia
15./16. June 2024	European Trophy	Oerebro	Sweden
29./30. June 2024	European Trophy	Cekiske	Lithuania
24./25. August 2024	European Trophy	Basel	Switzerland
07./08. September 2024	European Trophy	Hannover	Germany

European Trophy Rules

Out of the six designated races, the best four will count for the final ranking.

At the first five European Trophy races the following points can be earned in each class.

First place	10 points
Second place	8 points
Third place	6 points
Fourth place	5 points
Fifth place	4 points
Sixth place	3 points
Seventh place	2 points
Eighth place	1 point

At the last European Trophy race the following points can be earned in each class.

First place	20 points
Second place	16 points
Third place	12 points
Fourth place	10 points
Fifth place	8 points
Sixth place	6 points
Seventh place	4 points
Eighth place	2 points

All competitors of each European Trophy race will be included automatically but only with one model car per class. Each of the six categories will be counted on its own. If two racers finish the European Trophy with the same amount of points, the one with the better ranking at the European Championship will get the better place.

European Trophy Awards

European Trophy Diplomas are awarded to the first five places.

The European Trophy Diplomas from last years will be awarded at the European Championship awarding ceremony in Pecs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any question.

Sincerely

Michael Schmutz
FEMA President