

Internet Committee Report
Proposed Rules for the VKA Forum
January 11, 2009

To the Board of Directors:

In June of 2006 at the Quincy event, the VKA board held its monthly meeting with one its priorities to develop a VKA website. Jeff Campbell was invited to attend the meeting as he had developed a terrific site for REAR. We had a situation were two race promoters had first class websites and we as an organization had only a newsletter. Jeff agreed to do the Website provided he could pick up a little advertising money to offset his personal investment costs for developing the site, the same arrangement he has with REAR. He receives a small amount of hit compensation from the EBay and other ads. Over the last 2 years, Jeff has spent \$3,000 of his own money, to develop the current and next generation VKA websites. I doubt, we could attach a value to the many hours of Jeff's time that has been donated to the cause. Jeff spends many hours each week maintaining the website, developing new features, working on the next website, and maintaining registered users accounts.

The VKA is set up as a non-profit organization, for the ease of financial accounting purposes; Jeff has set up the website as a separate entity under his vintagepowersport.com domain. The VKA website is provided entirely by Jeff, as a free service for the general public. Purchasing a VKA membership does not provide any special access to this website, since it is a free public website. Jeff has been providing the undisputed best and most popular vintage karting websites for the past 6 years, and plans to continue this effort.

We have reviewed several sites and rules on forums. The outcome is that forums are not truly a place for unrestricted free speech. In our study we came up with different types of forum behavior that is not allowed on many forums.

In 2008 there were 24,276 unique visitors (Not registered) which was up 50% from the previous year. The Website is mainly being used by non-members watching or looking into what we are doing as an Association. Unfortunately, many visitors enter through the home page and exit through the forum thread. December was a record month for Visitors and January is projected to be 47% higher.

The data indicates we have a lot of people watching us. We must have a presence of a welcoming attitude to the newcomer. Discord and contradiction are not the greeting cards we want to have the newcomers see.

We have examined postings by a recently deactivated forum user, who was a VKA member, and concur with Jeff Campbell deactivating their forum access. A copy of those postings are available for board review, including those removed from public view on the forum. If at some future date, this former VKA member becomes a VKA member again, the Board should be involved in reviewing and approving their forum registration request.

The REAR. Site which Jeff Campbell also developed, has a zero tolerance for negative commentary. The minute a posting which is not in the spirit of the REAR appears, it is immediately censured by Mr. Voska, the forum moderator. This has been by far the most popular and successful forum.

We also recommend removing the newly created “VKA Club Discussion” area of the forum. From experience, the postings there will only unfavorably portray the VKA to the public. We noted that this section of the forum has seen little activity over the past month, since the majority of registered users are not interested in the topic. Also, some members are mistakenly assuming this newly created area is for directly communicating with the VKA Board of Directors, which is creating additional member frustration.

We recommend implementing the follow set of forum rules:

Proposed Forum Rules

1. The forum is for the discussion of Vintage Karting and is restricted to the discussion of events, technical exchange, resources, where to acquire parts, sharing of historical information, and karts & parts wanted or for sale.
2. The Vintage Kart Association has set down guidelines for class structures and eligible years. The guidelines are not always followed by the Race Promoters. Discussion of Race Rules is prohibited on the forum and should be directed to the Race Promoter.
3. The discussion of VKA Guidelines or Operation on the forum is prohibited. Any VKA Guideline or Operations questions, concerns, or suggestions should be directed to the VKA Board of Directors.
4. No profanity or foul language.
5. All postings shall be written in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie. Be polite and respectful if correcting someone’s information.
6. No inappropriate topics

7. The forum is not a vehicle for contacting or communicating with the VKA Board. A Membership Input document is available in the download area of the website for that purpose.
 8. Posts contrary to friendly discussion will be removed.
 9. The site administrator or moderator, will remove a posting at their discretion if the above rules are violated. The board will review the administrator's action at the next monthly meeting.
- Note: This is a public forum that requires registering for full access, VKA members are not entitled to any special services or status. All registered users will be administrated the same. Administration actions taken against a registered forum user, do not influence VKA membership status. A VKA member may appeal any forum administrative actions taken against them, to the VKA Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted

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