

Slalom Committee Report for 2004 Season
Submitted by Steve Weinstein, JCNA Slalom Chair

The year 2004 was another successful year for the JCNA slalom program nationally. Twenty separate slalom events were held all across the US, and in Canada, with over 170 participants, many of whom participated in multiple events and some even participating in several different cars. As in the past, JCNA slalom events welcomed participants from outside the Jaguar community, and we saw other cars ranging from Ferraris to Audis to Subarus.

The new slalom rules worked well, as did the realignment of classes that were made at the 2004 AGM. Even though we were working with a major re-write of the rules, things ran smoothly with no major issues arising from the new rules. Only two issues came before the Committee in 2004, neither of which was presented as a formal “protest”. One involved issues related to the cancellation of an event and the award of local prizes. The slalom committee ruled against the protest, upholding the decision of the local steward and the local club. The other issue involved the use of non-standard, oversized tires in a stock class. The slalom committee ruled that the use of oversized tires beyond those in a range “appropriate” to the class properly placed the car in question into “street prepared” class, as the oversized tires contributed to improved handling and performance. Again, the action of the local steward was upheld.

The slalom committee considered but rejected several suggestions for modification to the rules, including one that would allow the use of polyurethane suspension bushings in stock classes. The committee wished to avoid going down the “slippery slope” of making exceptions to the rules that would erode stock classes.

The one modification that the committee has considered and is proposing for a vote of the AGM involves adding a formal protest procedure to the slalom rules. In light of the issues raised last year, it became clear that there was no “official” rule allowing protests or setting forth a procedure to handle them. Using the concours rule as a model, the committee has developed a protest procedure that will be presented to the AGM for consideration that sets up a methodology for members to raise formal protests related to the slalom rules and for the committee to deal with such protests.