

Slalom Committee Report – JCNA AGM 2010

Prepared by
Steve Weinstein, Chair

The 2009 slalom season went extremely well. Participation in the program continued to increase in 2009 and the number of events being run has grown as well. It seems that club members enjoy driving their cars and the events have attracted many non-members, as can be seen by looking at many of the individual event results. A number of local clubs have reported that the slalom events are attracting interest outside of the clubs, and they have used them to recruit new members.

On October 4, 2009, Dean Cusano of Connecticut (longtime JCSNE member) set a new national record, driving the course in 38.317 seconds. Dean drove his customized XJS in what can only be termed a stunning performance! Congratulations to Dean on this outstanding accomplishment. The Committee, as has been done in the past, will prepare a separate award for Dean to commemorate this outstanding achievement.

The Slalom Committee is not making any proposals for changes to the slalom rules this year. Several issues have come before the Committee that are currently being reviewed and considered.

One local club has raised an issue about multiple drivers using the same car at the same event, but that issue has not yet been formally submitted to the Committee for consideration. Also, there has been some discussion about splitting the XJS class, perhaps between 12 and 6 cylinder cars, or pre- and post-facelift, as this class has a large number of entrants each year. A similar issue has been raised regarding the XJ6/8 class, which spans a long time period. Newer cars have much more horsepower than earlier cars, which may cause an unfair advantage. The Committee is reviewing this as well. No decision has been made by the Committee on these suggestions, however.

Also, the Committee has been asked by several people to consider an alternate course for running the slalom, as we have been using the same course for almost 20 years. Because there are a number of members who have been doing slaloms for upwards of 10 years or more, they have a distinct advantage over newcomers. It was suggested that if we could come up with a different course which could be run in alternate years, it would, to some extent, level the playing field and allow those newer to the slalom to compete more effectively with the veterans. A different run sequence had been proposed several years ago, using the same cone configuration as the standard slalom course. The Committee is currently reviewing possible alternative run sequences with the idea that the alternate sequence could be run in odd number years and the "standard" course run in even number years. We might be able to implement that in 2011. Ample notice will be provided to clubs in the event of a change for next year.