

# QMA to Adopt Spec Tire

*An interview with Scott Benning and H.R. Cook*

Many Racers are hearing rumors, spreading rumors, and wondering just what is going on with the whole Tire Issue in QMA.

At the 2007 QMA National Meeting, held in Las Vegas in February, discussions were held regarding tire costs in QMA. A committee was formed by Charlie Cagle. Leading the committee is Scott Benning, RD10, along with Scott Tankersley, Scott Caldwell R3, Tony Verardi R5, Jerry Mostek, Dave Preston and Dave Michaels, R4.

The purpose of the committee is to recommend to the QMA Board, a Tire Vendor, that will fulfill the needs of QMA. Basically the Vendor will have to ensure 3 major factors.

- 1) Durability - the durability of a tire, meaning the tire should be well built and should be worthy of lasting a fair amount of racing time.**
- 2) Availability - the vendor will ensure that tires are available to everyone, including local parts sellers in clubs and regions.**
- 3) Costs - the vendor will have to create a SET price for everyone no matter the quantity sold. Costs will be same for every tire. Costs would vary only because of shipping and taxes, depending on the destination.**

Seven Vendors submitted a request for a bid package and 6 of those companies returned their proposal to the committee. The 7th company did not return a proposal because they could not meet the requirements. Dunlap, Bridgestone/Firestone, Burris, Vega, Hoosier, and Maxxis.

First, Burris and Hoosier are American made tires. These vendors are already experienced with and participate with other racing entities in Spec Tire Programs. There are pluses here in that availability is assured. That doesn't mean that these two companies are first on the list, though. The committee intends to fulfill all the requirements when choosing the Tire Vendor for QMA.

Federal Laws protect organizations with these types of programs, so be assured that the Spec Tire for QMA will be handled in a professional manner.

QMA has long been an organization about Children. One that's mission is to promote friendship, moments, & memories in an environment fit for children and families. *Officially the QMA Mission Statement is* - The purpose of Quarter Midgets of America (QMA) is to create and maintain a clean, safe, healthy sport, which may be enjoyed by all family members in a close relationship with good sportsmanship toward all. To teach the younger generation about the proper handling of mechanical devices, coordination, self-reliance, alertness, and ability to hand motor-driver vehicles.

To impress upon the younger generation the idea of fairness, generosity, good sportsmanship, and a sense of responsibility, without envy of others. To develop, direct, and promote the objectives of associated Quarter Midgets Clubs and their members on a National basis.

*The objectives are:*

- \*uniform engine, car, racing and safety rules
- \*coordination of racing events
- \*maintain records of members addresses, track locations & capabilities
- \*publish a QMA Rules & Procedures Book and send one copy to each member
- \*make available insurance for drivers and tracks
- \*communications for information & interpretations through Regional Directors
- \*publish and release a newsletter covering areas of interest to QMA membership
- \*preside at an annual meeting of QMA
- \*the Board of Directors, Regional Directors, and Representatives will coordinate QMA activities.

***The Goal*** (as stated in the QMA Mission Statement)

**The goal of QMA is to build and strengthen the Association through unification by conformance to rules and regulations under one jurisdiction.**

Over the years the organization has experienced many changes. Costs have become prohibitive.

There are some people in leadership roles that want to preserve the QMA for many generations to come. They feel that a Spec Tire is just what is needed to control escalating tire costs making it almost impossible to compete for some families. Having a specific tire that is used by everyone is the first step to bringing parity back to Quarter Midget Racing. It is the *hope* of the committee, that local and/or regional clubs will take this *Spec Tire concept* even further by creating their own spec tire rules. Suggestions might be, to force drivers to race with the same tire they qualify on. If a tire is no longer useable, changing the tire could be enforced in much the same way as engines are changed. This is just an idea and is NOT in the decision making process at this time.

It is the hope of both the Tire Committee and QMA, that members review this Spec Tire concept and realize that a Spec Tire Program for QMA would significantly save members money on their entire racing program. QMA, as an organization, will also benefit.

There have been discussions about choosing a specific tire that is useable for both Dirt and Asphalt racers. At the 2007 Dirt Grands, it was a 50 - 50 split between two types of tires on A Main drivers cars. Firestone YFA and Vega Yellow were the tires of choice and the final stats showed the use of both tires. The vast majority of A Main Racers were on Vega Tires at the 2007 Western Grands.

By September 1, the committee will submit their recommendation with a proposed contract to the QMA National Board. At that time, the National Board will have the authority and responsibility to approach the suggested vendor and/or negotiate specifics of the contract. The committee feels the contract should be for three (3) years.

It is the desire of the committee to gain valuable feedback from the membership. Please take the time to read about the Spec Tire Proposals and the entire program at [www.quartermidgets.org](http://www.quartermidgets.org)  
It is very important that members take the time to participate and make their voice heard.  
This is the time to preserve the history of QMA.

Please make your voice heard.

***Very specifically* - we want to know WHICH Tire vendor you would choose?**

Monies coming back to QMA from the Spec Tire Program - Would you like it earmarked to a specific cause or program and what would that be?

Do you have any concerns with the Spec Tire Program?

**Please call Scott Benning at (408) 799-5345 or  
email your feedback to Scott Benning  
- [scottbenning@comcast.com](mailto:scottbenning@comcast.com).**

**Please talk to the Spec Tire Committee Members  
at the Eastern Grands.**