Updates from the Captains:

Welcome to the November edition of the Longhorn racing newsletter. There has been a lot going on in the garage over the past five weekends and progress on the car is moving ahead nicely. The new members have really helped out and continue to contribute their ideas, skills, and time. The veterans and team leaders have stuck to their roles with minimal overlap; I believe organization will be the key to our success.

Progress

Frame

The fabrication of the frame is nearly complete with only a few tubes left that need fitting and welding. Then the joints can be welded as much as possible allowing us to remove the car from the steel table, turning it over, and welding the underside. Plans are to perform torsional rigidity testing to compare to our FEA numbers. Cory Pew is also investigating underbody aero and depending on his conclusions we may use the frame as a plug to lay up a composite mold. From there we will jig the suspension tabs for welding and begin building A-arms.
Controls and Ergonomics
This section is also split between leaders. Alex Miller and Cory have been working on the seat mold and hopefully can lay up within the month. The goals of this year’s seat are to be lighter, more comfortable and allow easier access to the harness to facilitate quicker ingress and egress of the driver. I have been working on a steering system which is near complete. Currently the rack extension and guides have been machined and installed; I am only waiting on some linear bearings that Igus has donated to complete the steering. The adjustable pedal rig has also been started, with various parts being machined by new members as they learn new skills.

Engine
By rebuilding one of the spare engines from last year we hope to save the $1000+ dollars on a new-to-us engine. Craig, Jonathon and Mark have been working on replacing parts that were scavenged from the engine last year. After analysis of our intake is completed and a header has been fabricated will be able to begin tuning the engine on the dyno.

Website
The website is now being constantly updated by second year member, Ryan Dillender. He has done an excellent job revamping the site and adding a forum for discussion of the car. Please visit www.longhornracing.org and tell us what you think of the site.

Sponsorship:
As always we are looking for more sponsors to support our program. Just by applying a discount to our purchases can make your company a sponsor. Monetary donations are also extremely helpful. Benefits of sponsorship include space on the 2005 car for a company decal, a logo and link on our website, and recognition in our newsletter and on competition T-shirts we plan to purchase later in the year. We would like to thank Don Artieschoufsky and his staff for their advice and support of the Longhorn Racing team.

Special thanks to our current sponsors:

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