

R.M. Hess

1968

**SOAP BOX DERBY
CLINIC GUIDE**





ENGLAND CO
EWER

RMERS
PRESQUE

6

DERBY CLINICS HELP BOYS GAIN THE CONFIDENCE TO BUILD THEIR RACERS.

Building a Soap Box Derby racer is no easy task for a lot of boys. They're swept up in the enthusiasm generated by the movie and promotion. When the time comes to start building, sometimes a boy's first wave of enthusiasm can turn into confusion and discouragement. That's where a Derby clinic can prove very helpful. With help from the clinic, friends and parents, boys who otherwise might not finish a racer can be encouraged to complete a car in time for race day.

The clinic should be designed as a working classroom where boys can learn, step by step, how to build their Soap Box Derby racers. More important, the boys should learn how to build the racer themselves. They should learn woodworking techniques and correct tool usage as well as some very important answers to what they think of as tough racer construction problems.

Clinic organizers have found the most effective response to clinics comes when parents and friends attend the clinic, too. Their enthusiasm helps a boy along over the rough spots.

Boys who start their racers only to give up on the project are what we call "Derby dropouts." A good series of Derby clinics will often help boys who would drop out stay in the program and finish their cars. And who knows? One of those potential Derby dropouts could be your local champ!

Clinic Committee plans, staffs and operates clinics:

The Chairman of the Clinic Committee should select his personnel with an eye toward manual arts aptitudes and an ability to work easily with groups of inquisitive and questioning Derby entrants. An industrial arts instructor would be ideal.

Times, dates and locations for all clinics will be set by the Clinic Committee. This information should be given immediately to the Promotion Committee so that each clinic session receives the proper amount of publicity to assure strong attendance. A window

easel is being supplied to further promote your Soap Box Derby clinics.

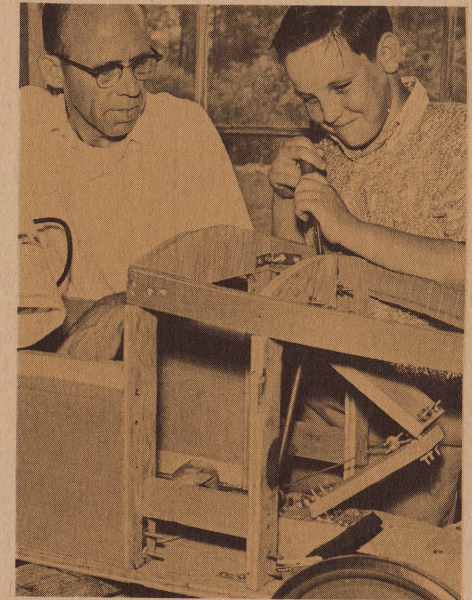
All members of the Clinic Committee must be *thoroughly* familiar with the official 1968 Soap Box Derby rules and be prepared to answer boys' questions about them. Request a member of the Inspection Committee to be on hand during all clinic sessions to clear up any questions about the rules that might arise. All 1968 rule revisions must be carefully reviewed at every clinic session. Special attention should be given to existing racers to assure they coincide with the new rules.

Personal contact subcommittee spurs building progress:

In an effort to stem the tide of drop-outs and increase the competition roster on race day, we suggest that every Clinic Committee chairman appoint a personal contact subcommittee—or, to put it another way, a follow-up group. Men who will call on Derby entrants, house to house, and offer advice or encouragement. The goal we're striving for, of course, is to have 100% of the boys who enter compete. And our experience shows that the personal contact subcommittee is one of the best ways to bring the percentage of completed cars up and the dropouts down. It is recommended that one personal contact committeeman be assigned to four or five boys, checking on their cars at least five times during the building period. This committeeman should, if possible, attend the clinics and be familiar with Derby construction and rules.

Everyone must thoroughly understand the rules:

To insure a fair, safe and exciting race, be sure everyone understands both LOCAL and NATIONAL rules. Every phase of your Derby activity depends on this complete understanding.



USE THE CLINIC KIT TO ACHIEVE A WELL-RUN PROGRAM:

The kit contains slidefilms designed to stimulate enthusiasm and show boys how to build a qualifying racer. No special knowledge is needed to set up a clinic program with these films.

The slidefilms illustrate such construction steps as the layout of the floorboard, rigging of steering and brakes, mounting bulkheads and axles, body construction and many other elements. Also included are detailed instructions for organizing, promoting and conducting comprehensive Derby clinics based on the use of the kit's slidefilms. The official Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit is available without charge to all Derby Directors who plan to hold clinics. Because the supply is limited, orders will be filled on the basis of date received. Write: All-American Soap Box Derby Headquarters, General Motors Building, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

Pattern your clinic program on this schedule:

In using the Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit, the number of clinics can vary from one to as many as five or six. The suggested number of clinics is four. These should be spread out over at least one month's time, preferably six weeks, so the boys will have time to complete the work covered by one clinic before attending the next one. It is important that the series of clinics be planned and announced well in advance of their actual date. Sending announcement postcards is an effective way to remind boys of upcoming clinics. Be sure that your clinic program is completed one month before your scheduled race.

1st clinic:

Go all out to promote your first clinic. A good turnout will assure strong and steady attendance for the remainder of the clinic series. Door prizes (usually model kits or woodworking tools), soft drinks, sandwiches, cookies and favors will help draw entrants to this, the initial and most important of your clinics. The date and time for the first clinic might be best selected if all

entrants were asked, when they sign up, what day and time would be most suitable for them to attend clinic sessions.

Begin the first session with the sound slidefilm *Finish First* to impress the boys with the importance of starting right. Then follow up with *Building the Floorboard*.

2nd clinic:

Continue all methods of promotion used to gain attendance for the first clinic. Lead off the instruction with a review of the opening clinic to help set the stage for the second session pertaining to axles and bulkheads.

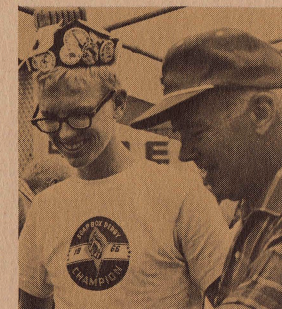
By this time, a question and answer period will be needed to help the boys with problems on car construction. Remember, your committee **MUST** know the rules. An error in rule interpretation at this stage may cost a boy his right to race.

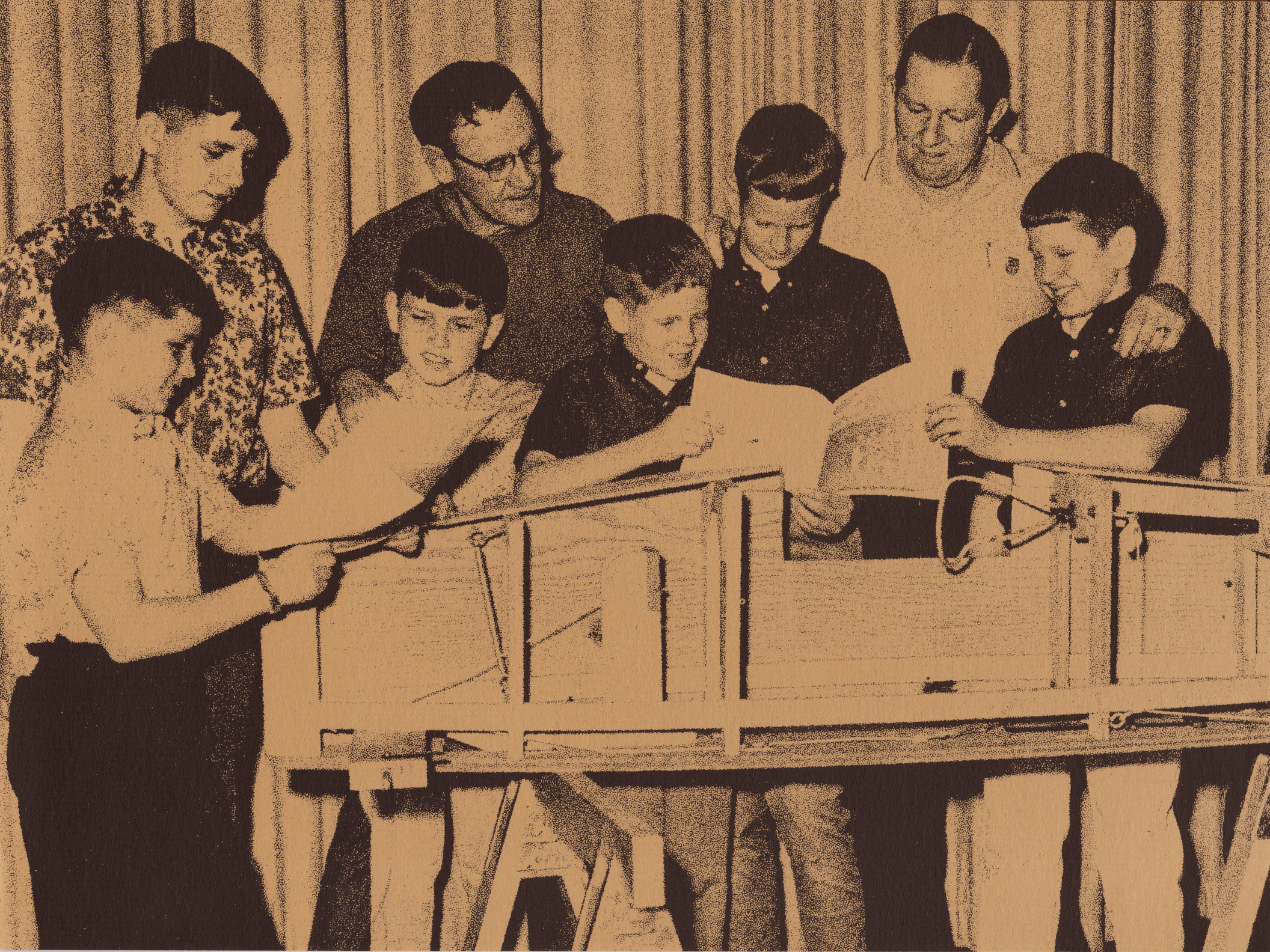
3rd clinic:

Information covered by the third clinic slidefilm deals with the installation of steering and braking systems. These must be installed correctly and safely. Stress the need for safe steering and braking to all the boys. Be prepared for an extended question and answer period because the boys' enthusiasm will be building rapidly as their cars take shape.

4th clinic:

This should be the final clinic session, covering the completion of the car. The awarding of prizes for the best attendance during the clinic program should be the finale. After an instruction and question and answer period, have a member of the Inspection Committee give a talk on the importance of having followed the rules. Then inform the boys when final inspection will be held. Stress the need for safety and fair play. Wish them luck and thank them for attending the clinics.







CLINIC CHECKLIST:

1. Have you ordered the Official Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit?
2. Did you select your committee members with the job and the boys in mind?
3. Has the Clinic Committee's function been explained to each member of your committee?
4. Have you defined each committee member's area of authority and responsibility?
5. Have the dates, times and places of your clinics been selected?
6. Is a member of the Inspection Committee scheduled to attend each clinic session?
7. Has the Promotion Committee been advised of your clinic plans, allowing plenty of time for advance publicity?
8. Did you notify your guests, speakers and other participating specialists of your needs and requirements?
9. Have you arranged for door prizes, refreshments and gifts?
10. Are all tools and materials needed during clinics on hand, including projector and screen?
11. Are you holding rehearsals before each of your clinic meetings to insure that the presentation will be accurate and polished?
12. Are your instructors enthusiastic during clinic presentations?
13. Are instructors stressing safety during each clinic?
14. Are all questions being answered to the boys' satisfaction?
15. Are the date, time and place of the next clinic announced at the end of each clinic session?
16. Have you assigned an able man as Director of Personal Contacts?

Organization chart:

This organization chart will help you keep in close and constant contact with other committee chairmen. Use it often!

