We are rapidly approaching the 2016 Roos F-2000 Racing Series. This year will mark the 33rd anniversary of the series making it the longest continuously run formula car series in North America.

In a recent interview, Dennis Macchio, President and CEO of the Bertil Roos Racing School, the series’ sanctioning body, was asked why the program has been so successful for so long.

“Probably too many reasons to give an interview”, Macchio explained. “I guess it all starts with money. We have strived over the past three decades to make this the least expensive formula car series in all of racing. Unlike other spec classes, we own and maintain all of the cars used in the series. In addition to the obvious economies of scale, that strategy also insures that no driver can buy an advantage. This keeps the price of our series extremely low, while insuring the most even playing field possible”.

Macchio goes on to explain that while the racing is extremely competitive, the group mentality of participants, and the fact that it is administrated by the Roos Racing School personnel, results in a high level of clean racing. “The series is monitored from within the competitors and from outside”.

Macchio explains “As a result, the racing is done right; as clean and safe as it can be done in this sport. Crash damage and injuries are probably the lowest of any series in existence. Cost and safety are two of our biggest selling points.”

Driver mix is also a contributor to the success. “Each year, our entry list is filled with an eclectic mix of one year thrill seekers, hardened hobbyists and aspiring professionals, eager to begin climbing the ladder to the big time” says Macchio. “We have drivers who have enjoyed our format for a decade or longer, returnees from higher levels of racing who want to return to the fun of roots racing, and of course, those seeking to build a career.”

Dozens of current and past pro drivers have driven in the Roos schools and series. Oddly, Macchio eschews name dropping. “We don’t like to drop names. Our successful clients have gotten where they are by their own hard work and while we may have played a role, even a significant one, the credit should go to them. Name dropping, and even worse name buying, is better left to our competitors”.

And lastly, is the equipment. Macchio explains that the cars used in the series are “drivers’ cars”. “In our series, Macchio says, the emphasis is on the driving. The cars are all about the
driver and his skill set. You can’t hide mistakes with horse power and technology, while at the same time, you are well rewarded for technique, knowledge, experience and guile.”

“Our school mandate is to teach everything we know to develop a driver and provide the guidance that will insure that his or her potential is fully realized. Our series is designed to provide a format for the execution and enjoyment of those developed skills.”

One of the final questions of the interview was how Macchio felt about the quality of driving in the series. “Funny you should ask, Macchio exclaims. Our motto is “Do it right or don’t do it at all”. A large percentage of drivers in other series are ill trained, and lack both judgment and technique, mostly due to poor education. Even in our school, we have been forced to license drivers for other race series, like the S.C.C.A, who are not nearly as prepared as they once were, or still should be. Ironically, the requirements to be in our series remain the same. This probably has a lot to do with the minimal crash, and negligible injuries associated with our series.”

The 2016 Roos F-2000 Race Series will launch its season in West Palm Beach in March, and will visit a number of venues up and down the East Coast during its 16 race season. For more information, you can check out the website at www.racenow.com or call Roos at 1-800-722-3669.