



PMI-DVC 2009 Tools Conference

10 Ways My Hobby Made Me a Better PM

Randy Bennett

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EC Stratagems
Revealing hidden value...



Agenda

- Introduction
- Background
- 10 “Teachable Moments”
- One More for Added Value
- Conclusions
- Q&A





Introduction

- Welcome to All
- Why are we here?
 - Training dollars vanish in hard economic times.
 - Especially true for “soft skills”.
 - PM’s need training to gain new skills, maintain professional standing, and refresh existing skills.
- How can we reconcile these conflicting realities?





Background

- PM for ~20 years; PMP 10 years; CSM for 1
- My hobby is sports car racing.
- Licensed official for several specialties; have worked amateur and professional races.
- Seen examples of everything in the presentation.
- However, no drivers, crew, workers, or spectators were seriously harmed in the making of this presentation.





10 “Teachable Moments”





1) *Details Matter!*

- Remember the basics....
- The smallest issue can trip you up.
- The easiest thing to do is look foolish...
- Checking each work package is the PM's lug wrench.



2) *Tools aren't Important*

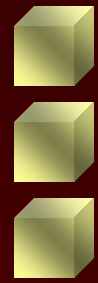
- Cars designed to go fast in different races.
 - Common thread is they emerged from the human intellect.
- PM tools are less important than using your brain.
- Less important than how you manage your team.



3) *Big Results from Small Efforts*

- \$2.4 million in damage at start of race.
- Small efforts can be positive as well as negative.
- Regular deposits in the “relationship karma bank.”





4) Counterintuitive thinking can be your friend

- Sometimes the reverse of your instincts is the best thing to do.
- In PM a solution can appear when we re-frame the issue, and going against our intuition.





5) Look Where Others Have Traveled

- In racing it's called “following the line.”
- In PM it's called “Lessons Learned.”
- And it's often overlooked...





6) You Don't Need to See the Whole Picture

- This is “The Corkscrew.”
- It takes courage and faith.
- PM's need to have confidence and faith
 - Themselves
 - Their Team
 - The metrics



7) *Even in Competition, Work as a Team*

- This is not how teamwork should work.
- Workplaces are competitive environments too.
- Team members may need help to remember who is the competition.





8) *Control is an Illusion*

- Drivers have instruments and tools for control.
- Control can vanish in .001 of an inch...
- PM's too accept an illusion of control.
- Do PM's control:
 - Their Team?
 - The environment?
 - Senior Management decisions?



9) *Because You Can do it, You Don't Have to*

- Roof rack...Rope...
Why not?
- PM's get caught up
in measurements,
tools, or techniques.
- “Can this give me
useful data to lead or
control?”





10) *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize*

- “To finish first, you must first finish.”
- The prize is at the finish line.
- Make sure a prize awaits your team at the end.
- Easy for PM’s to be bogged down in detail.
- Urgent ≠ Important





11) You Are Looking at History

(added value)

- This driver is looking at the past.
- Takes about 1 second to see a problem and react.
- PM metrics only tell us history.
- Our Team can tell us what's happening now.





Conclusions

- You can refresh what you've learned, and extend your learning while having fun.
- There are lessons and reminders all around.
- If you can do it in a noisy, dirty, hot or rainy, “stand on hot asphalt all day” racetrack, you can do it anywhere, with any hobby.





*Thank you all
for
your time and attention!*

Any Questions?

