RACEAMERICA

INNOVATION. TECHNOLOGY. RELIABILITY.

Race Track ScoreBoard Control Software Owner's Manual

Rev B.0.1

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PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Race Track Scorebord Control Software enables the use of a wireless RaceAmerica Race Track Scoreboard without the use of a transponder based timing system. The software can control display of the current lap, lap time, and car numbers associated with the top 10 positions on the track. The software can adjust the brightness of the display for day or night operation.

The Race Track Scorebord Control Software runs on a PC and communicates to all RaceAmerica race track scoreboards on track via a single wireless transmitter module connected to the PC via a USB port.

SET-UP

RaceAmerica designed use of the software to be as intuitive as possible, however, it is strongly suggested that the system be set up and operation familiarity be gained prior to actual use. This can be done virtually anywhere.

STEP 1-
Install the Board Control software by double clicking on the install icon. The installation program will automatically install the software program and the drivers for the Wireless Data Comm Unit in the same folder.

STEP 2-
Connect the 4520U/4620U Wireless Data Comm Unit using the supplied USB cable. Use any available USB 2.0 port on your PC. There are two rows of LEDs on the wireless unit, a yellow, green and red LED are in one row and three green LEDs in the other row. The first time the wireless unit is connected, the yellow and green LEDS will be faintly illuminated. The Windows operating system will detect the Wireless Data Comm Unit and attempt driver installation. Windows OS will generally install default drivers. After that process completes, follow the step-by-step Install PDF included with the software for your Windows OS. . The drivers are located within the FTDI DRIVERS folder in the same folder as the software program selected during the software installation. To verify the wireless unit is installed correctly, the bottom red LED should be fully illuminated and all other LEDs are off. If the red LED is not illuminated, unplug the USB cable, wait a few second and plug the cable back in. Repeat the install process above. Once the wireless unit is installed, insure plugging the cable into the same USB port on the PC otherwise the PC will detect it and attempt to install it on another USB port associated with a different COM port.

STEP 3-
Once the software drivers are installed, the Windows operating system will prompt for a second installation configuring the USB port as a COM data communications port on the PC. Dependenting on the operating system, the request for drivers may be repeated a second time. Use the same FTDI DRIVERS as prior.

STEP 4-
Double click the Board Control software icon on your desktop to begin the program.

PC SOFTWARE OPERATION
RACE TRACK SCOREBOARDS

Run the software by double clicking the Board Control icon on the desktop. Select the COM port associated with the Wireless Data Comm Unit as shown in Figure 1. The PC hardware is searched for all PC COM ports. If a port is present but in use by another program or device, *(in use)* is listed after the COM port indicating the port is not available to the software.

If a RaceAmerica model 3905 LapTimer will be used during qualifying, Lap Times can be displayed on the scoreboard after each lap completes. A 4520A/4620A Wireless Data Comm Unit must be connected to the 3905 LapTimer to transmit lap times to the scoreboard and the ENABLE TIME CONTROL function should not be checked. If Time on the scoreboard is to be manually controlled via the software program, insure the function is enbaled with an X in the box.

The Main Screen as shown in Figure 2 controls all aspects fo the RaceAmerica horizontal and vertical Race Track Scoreboards. Lap number, Time, and 2-digit vehicle numbers for the Top 10 Positions are transmitted to the Race Track Scoreboard each time the SEND button is pressed. To clear the scoreboard, click on the CLEAR button.

To increment the lap number up or down, click on the up or down arrow loacted next to the LAP box. Each click will increment/decrement by 1 lap through the range of 1 to 999 laps. Click on the SEND button to update the scoreboard with the current lap on the screen.

When one vehicle passes another and change positions, the left/right arrows located between positions can be pressed to swap vehicle number between positions. Once the position changes have been updated, click on the SEND button to update the scoreboard.
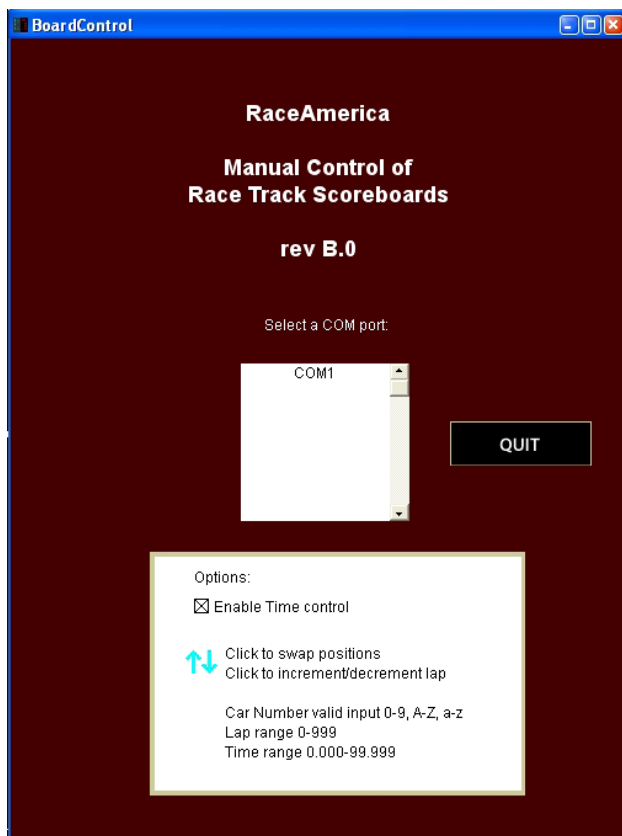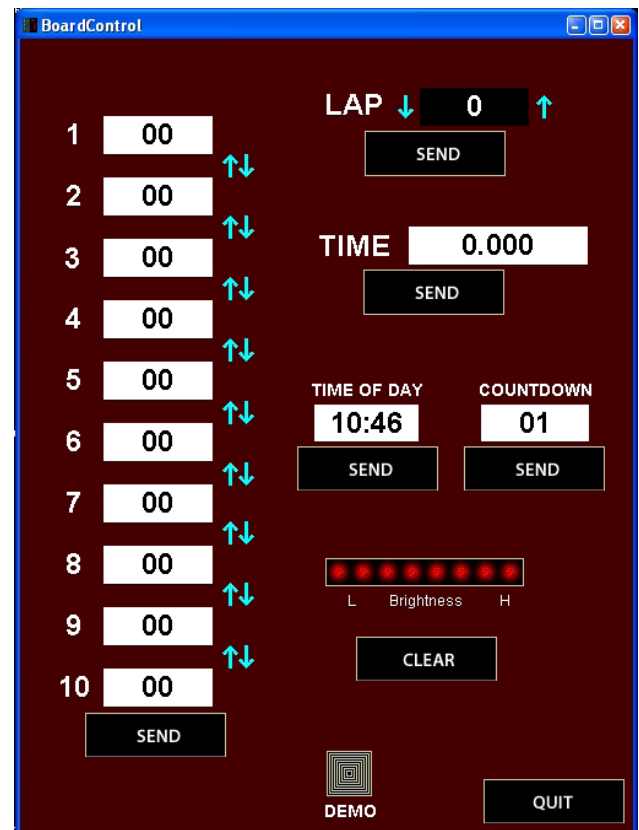

Figure 1 - Select COM port

Figure 2- Main Screen

When the track is idle between heats, the time-of-day can be displayed on the scoreboard in the TIME position. The time-of-day is displayed derived from the PC's time-of-day setting. Click CLEAR to clear the scoreboard then click the SEND button under the TIME OF DAY button to display the current time-of-day on the scoreboard. There is no need to keep updating the scoreboard, the time-of-day will be updated automatically by the scoreboard.

Many times a track is idle for several minutes. To keep the crowd updated when the next heat will occur, a countdown timer can be displayed on the scoreboard counting down in one second increments. Enter the number of minutes (1 through 59) in the COUNTDOWN box and click the SEND button located below the box. The scoreboard will count the time down in one second decrements.

Brightness level of the Race Track Scoreboards can be adjusted by clicking on the BRIGHTNESS slider. Click on hold down the mouse while dragging across the slider to continuously vary the brightness level until the desired level is reached. The brightness level is sent to the Race Track Scoreboards and stored there until the hardware is powered off. If the program is restarted, the brightness level on-screen defaults to full bright but the Race Track Scoreboards will remain as last configured.

PC SOFTWARE OPERATION
DEMO MODE

A demo mode is included to update the scoreboard every few seconds with new lap number, time, and positions. Enter the demo mode by clicking on the lined squared in the upper lefthand corner of the screen To exit the demo mode, click anywhere on the screen. This is a convenient way to test continuously the scoreboards.

MAINTENANCE

The Wireless Data Comm Units do not require any maintenance.

SUPPORT AGREEMENTS

Support agreements are available from RaceAmerica providing Telephone Assistance on technical issues and operational questions, repair and/or replacement of hardware failures, Software and Firmware updates and bug reporting. Contact RaceAmerica for more information and pricing of Support Agreements.