

# Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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July, 2019

## Notes from our President Jim McDermott

It's the 4th of July already and good time to reflect on the freedoms that we all enjoy. I think we all are very blessed to be able to enjoy participating in our "Travelling Museum of Vintage Racing Cars". The season so far has been a very good one for us even with the weather being so rainy and unpredictable. It is good to see so many of the members showing up in spite of this. I am looking forward to the rest of the season as some of the top tracks on our schedule are coming up: Oakshade, Attica, and Wayne County to name a few.

We have started using RACEciewers for our safety while on the tracks. They are a good way for us to keep informed while on the track. The tracks are expecting us to be using them. VARC is a dealer for RACEciewers and I will have a supply with me at the track if you need one. Many of the tracks now require them for any type of car that goes onto the track.

Our vintage shows have been well received at the tracks this year. I find that when we are able to get our cars on display the fans show a real interest in the history of the cars. I have had a lot of older folks stop by and talk about seeing our type of cars racing in the past. Younger fans who have never seen the older type of cars also express an interest and the very young fans love sitting in real

race cars. The static display is a very important part of what we do. This is when you have the opportunity to have face to face contact with the fans and offer them information on your car. Don't miss out on this. I find it very enjoyable to share our passion with the fans. I hope you also find this enjoyable and fun as this is part of our mission to educate today's fans about the history of oval track racing. As part of our show I also like to see the fans reaction when we are lining up for our racing events. I wave to the crowd so they can connect with us. I hope you also will take this opportunity to get them involved.

Well now that I have my hauler repaired it will be OFF TO the races for me and I hope you will meet me at the tracks left on the schedule. Remember, if you are planning on going to an event drop me a note or call me so I can have a list of drivers and assistants to send to the tracks. They use this when you get to the pit sign in window. If you are not on the list, it might be a problem getting in. Well thanks for all your support and looking forward to seeing you

Jim McDermott

## Notes from our Vice-President John Morton

Just a few brief words. It's been a good start to the year. I have seen some good race cars and some good "racing" on the track. I love to see some of the old modifies that were built prior to "cookie cutter cars". There was a great looking but simply constructed modify at Fremont with a Jeep Tornado 6 cyl engine. Now if you know what a Jeep Tornado 6 cyl engine is then you are telling your age. This was a 6 cyl over-cam engine that Jeep tried in the early 60's. I had a 63 S10 pickup with one in it. Not the best of engine but a try by Jeep.

I have some concern about cars breaking down on the track. I know this can happen to anybody but let's try our best to be ready and put on a show for the fans. Caution laps rob us all of some "sprinted" traffic time.

Also I like the addition of radios for on track communications. I am glad we voted on this at the board meeting so now all is ok. The sooner we get all used to it the smoother it will go for all.

Got to close for now-on my way to the JAB auction, hoping to come home with some good scores.

See you at the track

John H Morton



Jeff Morton at Winchester

## 35 Raceway May 18

The first event of the year was indeed a good one. It was Veterans Appreciation Night and our partnership with Michigan Veterans Association were on hand to help honor the vets.

We had a good car count with a nice display of cars. It was good to see John Lawhorn make the show. He is a real dedicated member of the group and nothing keeps him out of the show. We seemed to have been scattered around the pits but the regular racers went out of their way in helping us find places to park our trailers. The regular drivers were very friendly and were interested in our cars. They asked a lot of questions about the types and age of the cars. The track had a good turnout of cars and the program ran smoothly with a great deal of on track action. This is a great track for dirt track racing and one that you should put on your list of things to do.

From my seat it looked like a good show and when I went through the stands and asked the fans about the vintage cars they really seemed to enjoy our seeing our cars. I would like to thank the track management for their efforts in getting us on the track for a heat race and a feature.

Since it was Veterans Night at intermission the track management with the help of MVA put on a very nice program for all the veterans. All veterans were invited to come up to the front of the grandstands and be honored for their service to this country. Each was given a certificate of appreciation and was interviewed and asked about their time and branch of service. The Veterans covered every branch and many different years. They even wanted to know who the oldest veteran was and our member Terry Wells topped the list at 78 years young. I think the veterans truly appreciated the honors they received from the fans. Our partnership with Veterans Motorsports Association is planning more Veteran's nights at other tracks this season. So if you are a veteran come on out we would love to have you there.

Thank you to Mickey Thompson for adding some pictures to our facebook page. If you have not checked out the facebook page take the time to look it over along with our website.

By Jim McDermott

## Angola Motor Speedway May 25 & 26

Weather was a bit iffy for the Angola Raceway show. Great weather prevailed and the racing was fun. There were 9 cars from the Michiana Vintage Racers group. Unfortunately there was no one to represent VARC. I take that back Mike and I were there.

They were able to get in some hot laps and a feature. There was 3 open wheel cars and 3 stock type cars. With a 15 lap feature it only took Hank Lawer about 10 laps to pass everyone and win. The fans really enjoyed seeing a hometown racer win.

Sunday's show was cancelled due to the weather.

By Melinda Ahleman



## Moler Raceway Park May 31

*Rained Out*



## Portsmouth Raceway Park June 1

Saturday at Portsmouth Speedway turned out to be a great night for racing. The weather was good the track was in great shape and our members put on a good display of vintage racing. Carl Robinson had his beautiful Trevis sprinter running like a sprinter should. He stole the show winning the heat and feature.

In the heat race he outran my old big block modified from the start. At the drop of the green he pulled away and I never got close to him again. The track was smooth with good traction. John Lawhorn and Butch Evans were right behind me and I kept waiting for one of them to blast by. It was a fun race except for poor Terry Wells. It seems we have not gotten the fuel injection adjusted right and he could not get the darn thing to fire up. After a week of trying to set and reset the barrel valve we still don't have it right.

Clark Moore had his modified in great shape and was running it with style. Walt Campbell was there with his very neat midget race car. I love the injector stacks sticking up from the hood. We all came in from our heat race and were sitting in our cars waiting to run our feature. Terry decided to skip the feature as his car would not accelerate and felt he might be a hazard to the other drivers. While I was sitting in my car a young fan came over and pointed out that my right rear had gone flat. Well I was able to get air into the tire but discovered a good size hole in it. They were calling for our cars to head to the track and I didn't have the time to change the tire so I too missed the feature. Darn how that happens some nights. It gave me the opportunity to watch the feature and it was really a good race.

Once again Carl took off and set the pace with Johnny Lawhorn fast on his bumper. Butch Evans was working his way up through the field trying to catch the two leaders. He was stretching out the straightaways and powering through the corners until he was right on John's bumper. Carl used one of John's moves and took away his line in the corner and was able to hold them both off for the 15 laps. If you think 15 laps on a dirt track is an easy drive through the park just ask Carl. He did a great job as did all the VARC members.

Now if we can just get a few more cars to the show next year it would really be a great event. Those of you that didn't make this show you missed out on a top quality track to race on with the best support from the track's staff. They were very helpful and pleasant to work with. They always kept us informed when we were going to run. They fit us into the schedule for hot laps, an 8 lap heat race and 15 laps for the feature. It doesn't get much better than this.

Check out the video of the feature on the facebook page. You might also see a photo of the driver's meeting. Yeah that's me standing there, I am the short guy with the fat tummy. Terry and John are sitting on the 4 wheeler and the rest of the guys are hiding somewhere in the picture. Come on Butch which one is you?

By Jim McDermott



## JOHN FORK AT HOOSIER 100



## Fremont Speedway June 8

The Fremont show was a look at the past with a great number of top-quality vintage cars. Thanks to the North Coast Vintage Oval Track organization for inviting VARC to participate in the show. There were over 20 vintage cars from both clubs and a great variety cars. Many of the cars are driven by "Vintage Drivers". I am not going to say who they were and you could not tell by watching them run. The action was quick and furious with so many cars of the various types on the track at the same time. Everyone managed to drive watching out for the slower cars and it was indeed a lot of fun. The VARC members that were there were treated to a good time and were well represented. The track management was extremely helpful in keeping us posted so we were ready on time. Thanks to Randy Mapus for his effort in keeping things organized and moving.

The feature event was a blast from the past with

the drivers battling each other for the bragging rights and putting on a great show for the race fans. It is a



good event for all the vintage cars owners. It is encouraging to have such support from the track management so we can put on our "Traveling Museum of Vintage Racing Cars". The effort that is necessary to put a vintage race car on the track might go unnoticed, but it seemed that the Fremont fans really enjoyed the old cars. We are looking forward to running here again for the Johnny Auxter Day in September.

By Jim McDermott

## Springport Speedway June 15

*Rained Out*

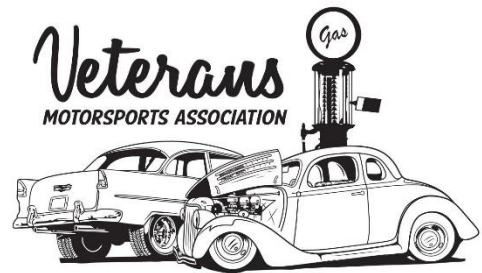
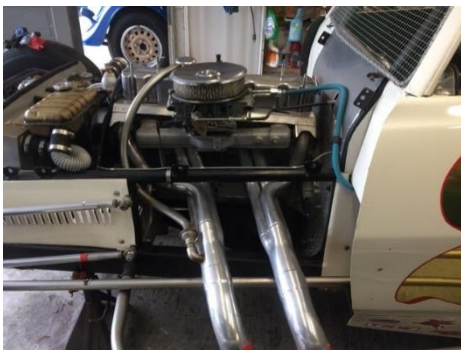
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**August 9, 2019, Spartan Corrigan Oil Speedway,** Mason, Michigan, which is dedicated as Veterans Appreciation Night.

**September 20 and 21, 2019, Allen County Fairgrounds,** Lima, Ohio, Rebel Run Car Show and Races, which is dedicated as Veterans Appreciation Night.

To enhance planning purposes of each event, the VMA non-profit organization would like to know if you and your family members will be attending as a large military group or detachment and approximately how many people will be attending which race.

Please R.S.V.P. approximately seven days before each race with an email or phone call to one of the Board of Directors listed below only if you will be in attendance with a group. Otherwise, it is not necessary to R.S.V.P.

Gayle Brock - brock4619@gmail.com

Charlie Brock - cbvmsami@gmail.com

Jeff Hannak - HannakJ4425@Hotmail.com

Each military personnel and family member will be able to visit the owners and drivers, as well as, have your picture taken with a race car while sitting in the vehicle. Please bring your camera.

During intermission, selected veterans will be interviewed by the track announcer. Before the race or intermission, each military personnel will be given a Certificate of Appreciation for their continued support while serving in the U.S. Military home or abroad.

All military personnel and family members should check in with the VMA two hours before the race starts.

# VARC SCHEDULE

July 6 & 7 Oakshade Speedway  
July 12 Attica Speedway  
July 20 Wayne Co Speedway  
July 26 I-96 Speedway  
July 27 Butler Speedway  
Aug 9 Spartan Speedway  
Aug 10 Shady Bowl Speedway  
Aug 17 Atomic Speedway  
Aug 24 Sandusky Speedway  
Aug 31 & Sept 1 Angola  
Sept 6 & 7 Fremont Speedway  
Sept 20 & 21 Rebel Run Car  
Show (Allen Co Fairgrounds)

## Reminder

Call or Email Jim at  
least 3 days prior to  
each event  
440-552-8149  
jbmcflyboy@yahoo.com

# Souvenirs

## NEW

T-Shirts & Hats

Lots of New Colors

Collared Shirts are available

See Gene Steele at a race near  
you or email him  
genesteele@gmail.com

Decals - Small & Large &  
Trailer Size  
License Plates

See Jim or Melinda at the track  
or email Melinda at  
vintageracecars@hotmail.com



Winchester Speedway