

# Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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November 2021

## Notes from our Past President Jim McDermott

We closed out our 2021 season with our award banquet on Oct. 30 and what a great time we had. A special thanks to Gene Steele for his effort in organizing this event. Food was great, friendship was outstanding, many door prizes and great memories. Thanks also to Melinda Ahleman, Rhonda Robinson, John Morton and John Lawhorn for their help in putting together this really great time for all the people that were there. This year's champion was Johnny Lawhorn. John has always been very dedicated and supportive of the VARC mission. John travels many miles during the season and is a wealth of knowledge about the tracks and history of oval track racing. Congratulations to John for his outstanding participation and support. The other top ten drivers are listed on the Facebook page along with pictures of the weekend activities. Take the time to look it up you will be impressed.

The weekend started on Friday with our annual pizza party which was just a good time of fellowship with a slide show put together by Mike Ahleman. Pictures and videos were from Mike and Rhonda and were super quality. Could not stop watching so I could get a glimpse of myself. I guess I am still a little kid at heart.

Before the banquet we held our annual fall board meeting. This meeting provided the organization with some changes in our structure. I discussed the duties of the president's position and the need for restructuring. The board members discussed the need to get involvement from other members in the scheduling and management of the various tracks

that we run. At the suggestion of board member John Lawhorn, we have established two scheduling commissioners. One for the northern tracks (Mike Ahleman) and one for the southern tracks (Jeremy Lawhorn). Each track has a designated person that will contact the management of the track for a date. These dates will be shared with the commissioner of that region and they will coordinate with the schedule. The person that is assigned a track will act as pit steward for that date.

I want to thank member John Morton for his stepping up and agreeing to take over the president's position. The board unanimously voted to approve his appointment. John is an excellent fit for this position since he has a great deal of experience in racing and a dedication to this organization. Congratulations and cheers to John. I have been president for five years and I feel this change will strengthen and improve the organization. Once again thanks John.

Our vice president Carl Robinson has decided to change his focus and spend time traveling with his wife Rhonda. Carl has sold his racing cars and equipment and will travel the country next year. It goes without saying that we will all miss you both but fully support your choice. Carl was a special help and an asset to this organization. I'm sure if you are in the area during your travels, there just might be an open seat in a race car for you. Bless you both.

Don't forget that the renewal of your membership is from now until the first of Jan. You should have received a renewal form and car information form. They will be available on the web site or thru the face book page. We like to get the membership

drive finished early so we can proceed with the scheduling of next year's program.

I just want to thank everyone that helped me during the years I was president. I am truly grateful for all the friends I have made with this group. All the great people that make up VARC. I will still be around so look for me in the pits.

Love ya all Jim McDermott



## Notes from our Past Vice-President Carl Robinson

The VARC 2021 racing season was one of the best anyone could ask for in the form of great looking cars, different kinds of cars and good shows for the fans. I watched the videos countless times just to see the crowd's reaction to our races. I was amazed by the reaction of some of the fans really getting into our races. This is a great tribute to all members who not only spent countless hours and money on their passion of vintage racing.

I know we all have our favorite tracks but my favorite tracks this year were Atomic, Moler and 35 Speedway for the smooth dirt surfaces that allowed close racing. My favorite picks for asphalt were Shady Bowl, Sandusky and Angola. I would have to say that my all-time favorite was Shady Bowl. What a fun track to run. If you have never been there, you should make a point to add it to your bucket list. It is so different with its smooth surface and really different shape. I guarantee you will have fun.

A few months ago, a very close friend of mine died and didn't get to live his dream. This set me to thinking about my time with Rhonda and family. For 38 years I traveled 42 to 44 weeks a year flying everywhere in the world doing my job as a hydraulics engineer. The only time I got to be with my family and friends was on weekends but that was consumed with my racing. I came to the conclusion that I owed Rhonda so much for letting me chase my passion. Rhonda didn't come from a

racing family so over our 49 years together she saw the ups and downs that goes with racing and understood my need to travel for work.

We have decided to sell everything from the house to the racing equipment to hit the road in our motorhome and see the country for a few years before we are too old to do it. Our home base will be in Jacksonville Beach Florida, but we intend to travel all around this wonderful country of ours. We plan to be back in Ohio a couple times a year and hope to visit with our VARC family.

Rhonda and I have loved every minute of being a part of VARC. With Rhonda taking many of the videos, making sure everyone stayed hydrated, getting everyone to sign the sign in sheets and being my sounding board to keep me sane. I owe her big.

We value all of the friendships that we have made with the VARC family. We found VARC to be more than racing and showing our cars. It's the friendships that make VARC fun to belong to. The many stories of days gone by and the friendly ribbing of the last race keep the members close like a traveling circus. We come to town, unload, place our cars on display, talk to the fans of all ages, race our cars and load up (sometimes in the middle of the night ) and move on to the next date. All in the name of the passion we have for our cars, the fans and friends just to keep racing history alive. We will be back in Ohio sometime next year and will hope to make a few races to see our VARC family .

We will miss you all very much.

## God Bless, Carl and Rhonda Robinson



## Notes from our New President John Morton

WOW – What a privilege to be appointed President of VARC. I hope I can live up to the Standard of the Former President to help lead this organization ahead into greater and better times. With your help we can grow stronger and bigger with more members. Let's all band together to make this a real unforgettable experience. I look forward to doing my best to represent the best – You.

What a great Banquet we had along with a great Pizza Party. Gene you have done a great job planning and pulling this off. Great pizza, great stories and great fellowship. I look forward to next year.

The Banquet had great food and a good atmosphere. Congrats to John Lawhorn for winning the Championship. Is anyone ever going to be able to dethrone him? What dedication he exhibits. Thanks, John for being such a dedicated member. We all look up to you.

Thank, Jim McDermott for your past years of dedication to the club. I know I will be full of questions and seeking your advice in the future.

Carl Robinson, you did a great job stepping up and filling the VP position. You were a real help to the club. You will be missed. But, when you are sunning yourself on permanent vacation be sure to think of us back here. We will miss you at the races but our thoughts will be with you as you travel this great nation of ours. ENJOY !!

Thanks to Mike Ahleman and Jeremy Lawhorn for stepping up to coordinate the schedule for next year. This is a change in scheduling but with the help of your team members I see this as a positive move. It should help eliminate confusion and build a team. Good Job.

And last but not least Thanks to all the ladies who allow their men to be boys again. We couldn't do it without you. You are the backbone behind the scenes.

Well, I need to get back to the garage and go to work on my project car that I call "One piece at a time" as I am building it from extra parts I have laying around the shop.

Let us know of your winter projects and how they are going so we can keep track and encourage you.

Keep in mind any ideas you have to help the club grow and we can discuss them at our next meeting.

Keep in touch and enjoy the Thanksgiving season as we have a lot to be Thankful for.

John Morton



**IT'S BETTER  
TO HAVE BEEN A  
RACER  
FOR A MOMENT  
THAN A SPECTATOR  
FOR A LIFETIME!**

# Pizza Party Fun



## Banquet Fun



THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS:

JIM PITCHFORD

TERRY WELLS

SHERRY RICHARDSON

BUTCH MCCALL

WALT CAMPBELL

JIM MCDERMOTT

MELINDA AHLEMAN

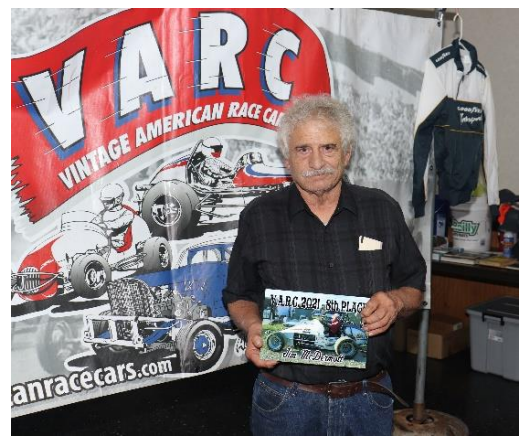
JOHN MORTON

BUTCH EVANS





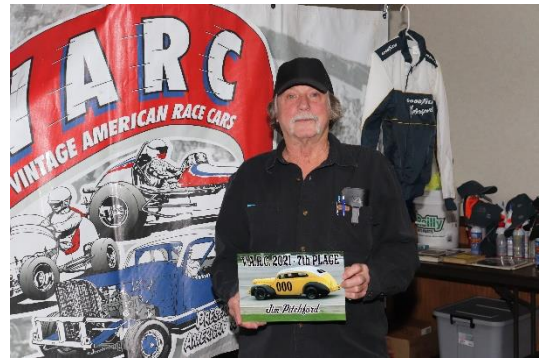
TERRY WELLS  
10<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



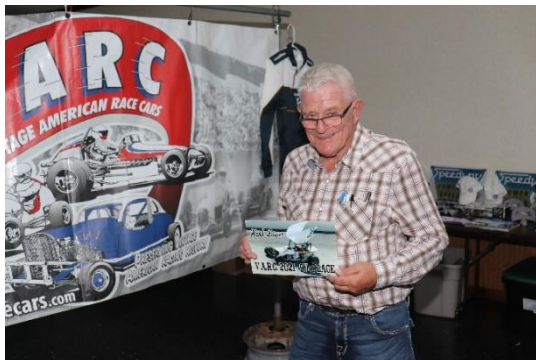
JIM McDERMOTT  
8<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



RON GUNDERMAN  
10<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



JIM PITCHFORD  
7<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



HANK LOWER  
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BOB SHELHORN  
6<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



CLARK MOORE  
6<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



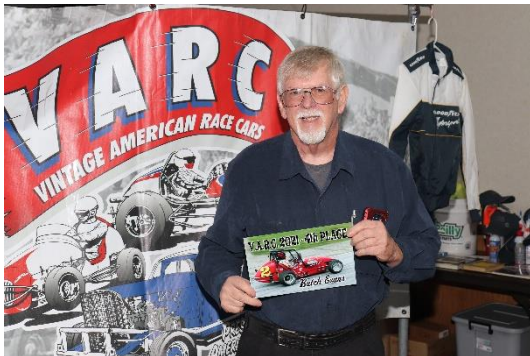
CARL ROBINSON  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE



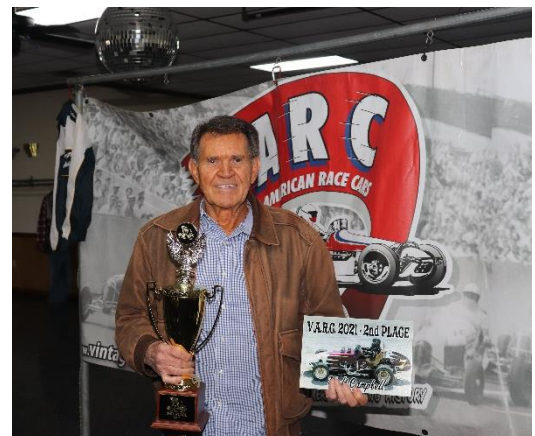
MIKE McWILLIAMS  
5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



GENE STEELE  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE



BUTCH EVANS  
4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE



WALT CAMPBELL  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE



**JOHN LAWHORN**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**



**Gene Steele, Carl Robinson,  
John Morton, Jim McDermott**



**WALT CAMPBELL**  
**DRIVER OF THE YEAR**



**Past President – Jim McDermott**  
**Future President – John Morton**



**DUANE PETERS**  
**SPEAKER**

