

Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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Notes from our President Jim McDermott

Wow is all I can say about 2020. I was looking forward to another great season for our organization. I started off with a fresh engine in my truck. We spent much of the winter changing out the old tired power plant. The job of swapping out the engine seemed easy enough. Well looks can be deceiving. There was absolutely no room to get tools in and bolts out. After unbolting the cab from the frame and jacking the cab up three feet off the frame we were able to get the old one out and the new one in. It was accomplished with many skinned knuckles and a few choice words. It fired right up. Amazing, I thought, so we set upon doing some refreshing on the race cars. Nothing major just repainting the sprinter and cleaning up the Modified. I was still healing from my shoulder replacement surgery but getting things done.

At the end of February we shared a booth with Veterans Motorsports Association at the largest car show in the country, The Detroit Auto Rama. There were lots of impressive cars and interesting people. Thanks to Charlie Brock, Mike and Melinda Ahleman, Terry Wells and John Morton for their help in this venture.

We had our schedule almost set by this time and just as things were starting to look good the virus pandemic threw a wrench in the gears. The

tracks were forced to close or alter their programs and as you know we got cancelled for several shows. Some of the tracks kept up on their efforts to remain open and we did have a good season after all. We were able to race at Sandusky, Angola, 35 Raceway, Oakshade, and Atomic. To The promoter and staff at these tracks we all say, "Thanks".

I got my truck ready to go to Oakshade. Made it to the track only to find out the engine was leaking oil all over the front of the trailer. Then the race car fuel I bought had a large amount of water in it. Spent most of the time cleaning the carburetor and draining the tank. Only to get a few laps before it stopped running. Oh well, that's racing for you. Thinking everything is ready to go



and then boom something sneaks up and grabs you. Loaded up and headed for home on Sunday, after traveling for several hours on the turnpike my trusty new engine quit running. Had to have it towed off the turnpike, then had to get someone to pick up the trailer. This was all while maintaining quarantine due to the rapidly spreading virus pandemic. This all made me think of the trouble Gene Steele had a couple years ago with his transmission and Bob

Shelhorne's truck fire and blown engine. I was wondering what else could go wrong

With freshly repaired truck we went to Angola and had a very good time. I enjoy talking with the people there. I was looking forward to going to Atomic Speedway. After spending all Friday changing tires on the dirt modified. I started to pull the truck up to finish loading I moved about 20 feet and it quit. No fuel pressure, and of course, the fuel pump is in the gas tank which is full of gas. Once again luck foiled all my plans. Carl Robinson took over as the VARC representative at Atomic and the group put on a great show. We got very nice compliments from the track promoter. They are looking forward to us coming next year.

Like I said in the beginning 2020 Wow!!!! With the virus pandemic, political craziness, crazy people in the news, protest, riots, quarantine, shut down economy, record forest fires, record number of hurricanes, our President catching covid-19. Makes my truck problems seem like nothing.

Next year can only get better and we can get back to our exciting, fun times at the tracks. I sincerely hope and pray that this year will be just a crazy memory that we can look back on as "unbelievable" !!!!

Sincerely hoping and praying for better 2021...



Notes from our Vice-President John Morton

Well here it is the end of the season, only the banquet left. It seems like it went by fast and also slow. We were able to salvage a season with 8 shows and all were well attended.

I would like to say thanks to all who helped out. We had good volunteers for pit stewards on nights when travel was hard to do. Thanks Carl, Butch, John and Mike. Special thanks to Melinda, who without her help most of us old men would be lost trying to do this. Special Thanks to Jim who seems to always go out of his way to keep things going. Also, Gene - what can I say- without Gene there would be little thought process going on. He can keep you on your toes. Thanks "Brother".

Thanks to all who go out of their way to help promote VARC. Keep us in touch throughout this winter season. We want to know of your special projects. Mine is a Kurtis Kraft Midget that I am



restoring to be a tribute to my uncle who ran sprint cars in the 50's. What is yours??

John how is that modified coming? Gene has a special project in a sedan that he is building. How goes the battle Gene? I know there are others. Send pictures and in so we can all enjoy and encourage you in your project.

Enough rattling on for now. Be safe, use good judgment and keep the shiny side up.



Oakshade Raceway July 11 & 12

What a great turnout for our first race of the season. There were 18 cars on hand.

We were able to run 3 Heat races and a Feature. Carl Robinson, Randy Tussing and Bob Shelhorn won the Heat races.

The feature was a give and take battle between Carl Robinson and Hank Lower. When the checkered flag flew Hank came out on top.

Sunday had 10 cars on-hand. It was fun to see Jeremy Lawhorn in his Grandpa's car. Bernie Morton got to try out John Lawhorn's and Gene Steele's cars. Randy Tussing put his Grandson in his sprint car. Seth Smith got to try out Ron Gunderman's car. Scott Shelhorn tried out Bob's late model.

Thank you to the promoters at Oakshade for having VARC at the track. As usual they welcome us with open arms.

By Melinda Ahleman



35 Raceway August 8

It was a hot day with the temperatures in the high 80's at 35 Speedway. The pits were crowded with a total of 119 race cars running 5 classes along with the VARC racers.

We had 2 heat races with Walt Campbell winning the first heat followed by Bob Shelhorn, Gene Steele, Mike McWilliams and Mike Swain. Scott Shelhorn could not start because he had a power steering leak.

The second heat was won by Butch Evans followed by Carl Robinson, John Lawhorn, Jack Rich, Bob Debolt and Mike Thompson

The feature saw 10 cars starting the 15 lap race with Butch Evans Winning. A close battle for second between John Lawhorn, Bob Shelhorn and Carl Robinson kept fans pulling for Bob's big block camero to pass the open wheels cars. Bob Debolt rounded out the top 5 for the night.

By Carl Robinson



Sandusky Speedway August 15

What started out to be our last race at Sandusky Speedway turned not to be. They are planning on racing next year.

What great day for racing. Weather was really nice. We have a great car count. There were 12 cars on hand.

We were able to run some hot laps, 2 heat races and a feature.

Heat races were won by Butch Evans and John Lawhorn. 11 cars started the feature with Jamie York coming away with the win.

A big thanks goes out to the track officials for allowing us to display and show off our Vintage Race Car Traveling Museum.

By Melinda Ahleman



Angola Speedway Sept. 5 & 6

Angola Speedway opened their arms of hospitality, as always, for a great weekend of racing. We had 16 cars on Saturday and 14 on Sunday. We were able to have two heat races and two features each night. We split the cars into open wheel sprint and midget and modified and stock cars. We had some spirited racing both nights.

Ron Gunderman brought his beautiful modified out again and it sure looked good on the track. Jeremy Lawhorn drove his Grandpa's car and got that three wheel feeling coming out of turn 2. All worked out ok.

We had a great pot luck with Hank and Jeff Lawer furnishing that scrumptious corn on the cob. We might have to start calling Angola weekend the "Corn Fest".

Good times, good food, good fellowship and a great weekend. I am looking forward to next year already.

By John Morton



Atomic Speedway September 19

It was a great night for racing as the temperatures went down the horse power went up. The 9 VARC teams had a practice session on the newly resurfaced track and they found out it was even better then had hoped. You could run 3 different grooves which made for great racing.

The first race saw many races within the race itself. The battle for the lead was between Bob Shelhorn and Carl Robinson at the drop of the green flag with Robinson taking the win. He was followed closely by Bob Shelhorn, John Lawhorn, Jack Rich and Mike McWilliams to round out the top 5 spot. Unfortunately, Walt Campbell dropped out with engine problems and Butch Evans did not start due to an oil leak.

The feature saw 8 teams take the green flag with Carl Robinson leading the first four laps and John Lawhorn leading the last 4 laps for the win. John was followed by Bob Shelhorn, Carl Robinson, Walt Campbell, Mike McWilliams, Jack Rich, Gene Steele and Curt Peterson.

The track was really fast and had a great smooth surface. Maybe next year we can have more cars as the crowd loved the race VARC put on.

For Sale

T-Shirts – Lots of Colors and Sizes

Hats – Lots of Colors

License Plates

Decals – 3 different sizes

Contact Gene for Shirts and Hats

Contact Melinda for Plates and Decals



2021 Dues

If you have paid your 2020 dues they will carry over to the 2021 season.



Walt Campbell & Hank Lower
10th place in Points



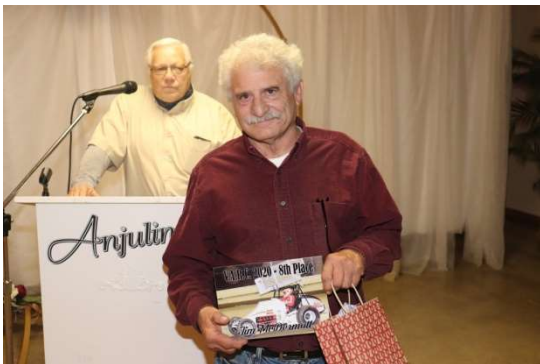
Seth Smith
5th place in Points



Bob Shelhorn
9th place in Points



Ron Gunderman
5th place in Points



Jim McDermott
8th place in Points



Carl Robinson
4th place in Points



John Morton
7th place in Points



Butch Evans

2nd place in Points



Gene Steele
2nd place in Points



Gene Steele
Driver of the Year



John Lawhorn
1st place in Points



Mike Ahleman
Spouse of the Year



Donations for the Banquet

Notes from our Secretary
Melinda Ahleman

Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Museum
National Corvette Museum
NASCAR Hall of Fame
Rock Auto
The Henry Ford
COSI- Columbus
National Packard Museum
Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum
Lucas Oil Products
Continental Services/
John & Jeff Morton
Melinda Ahleman
Edelbrock Corp
Imagination Station
Yankee Air Museum/
Thunder Over Michigan
Kear's Speed Shop

I would like to "Thank" everyone for treating me as one of the guys. I really enjoy what I do for your organization. I look forward to another great season.

I have one thing I need from all of you. I need stories and photos on how and why you got involved in racing from your first car to your current car. I know some of you have already done that and I say "Thank You". If you do not want to brag about yourself have someone else do it.

Thank you to Rhonda Robinson for providing photos and videos from the tracks that I cannot attend. If you go to a race and have photos/videos please share them with me. I will give you credit for them. Thank you to Mike Ahleman and Bob Shelhorn for the photos. If I missed anyone I am sorry. Thank you Mike for being my proof-reader and co-editor of the newsletters.

Have a great rest of the 2020 year. Hopefully, things will get back to some kind of normal and we can get more racing done.

Thanks Melinda Ahleman

Please visit these places and say
"Thank You" for their donation
to VARC's Banquet.

