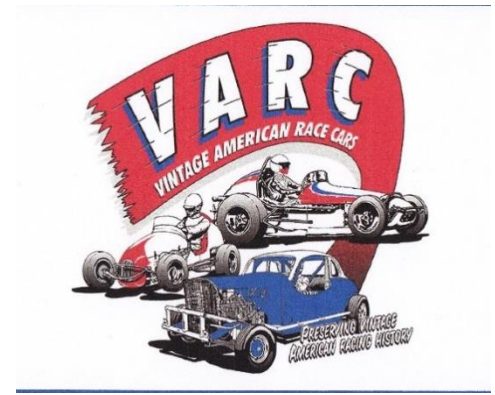


Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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September 2021

Notes from our President Jim McDermott

Once again, another season is over and it's time to put the cars up for the winter. Some of us will plan on rebuilds or modification. There might even be a new project or two in the plans. I am sure that even if the cars are set aside for a while your thoughts will not be far away for racing or engines or drivers of the past. One thing to keep in mind is the friendship that we all share.

Don't forget to look at our web site and Facebook page. There will always be something interesting to read. If you have anything that you are working on, please share it with the rest of us. It is truly import for the rest of the members to hear what is going on. It helps keep us motivated and VARC a strong organization. Don't hesitate to call someone just to shoot the breeze. It might just raise someone's spirits during the long winter months ahead.

Now before I forget.... DON'T PASS UP THE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET ON OCT. 30, 2021. You will definitely have a memorable time. You should be getting a reservation letter in the mail. Fill it out and send it in. I am looking forward to seeing you at the banquet. Don't

forget the pizza party on Friday at the Comfort Inn in Fremont, Ohio.

Thanks to all the VARC members for support of this organization. You are what makes this possible. Keep it up.

Sincerely Jim McDermott

**THANK YOU, JIM
FOR ALL YOU DID AS
VARC PRESIDENT**



Notes from our Vice-President Carl Robinson

The second half of the season saw some good close racing and some very positive comments from the track owners and racing public. I always stick around and make a point to talk to the track owners to see what they thought of our show and if the crowd liked what they saw. Not one track owner had any complaints or suggestions to offer to improve our show. They were all very happy with us not delaying their show and putting on a good race. Or to quote the new track owner and Moler Raceway "We didn't know what to expect when you guys took the track. You lined up right away and put on a good show and the crowd loved it. We want VARC to come back next year." That's really good to hear that we are a positive point to a track's show.

We had some really rough track surfaces this year, but then we had some really good tracks, like Moler, 35 Speedway, Fremont and Atomic. I don't know about you, but when I saw the owner of 35 Raceway (Tony Boucher), our re-grading the surface of the track to fix a hole that developed before we went out, I was impressed that he cared enough about our cars to take the time to fix the track. Yes, we sat a little longer in our cars but it was well worth it.

We endured hot weather, rain and long waits to get on the track. But in the end, we put on a good show. I watch the videos that were posted on the VARC Facebook page every time we ran. Not just to watch the race itself, but to watch the crowd to see if they were watching us, or looking at their phones. Yes, they were watching us and sometimes cheering us on.

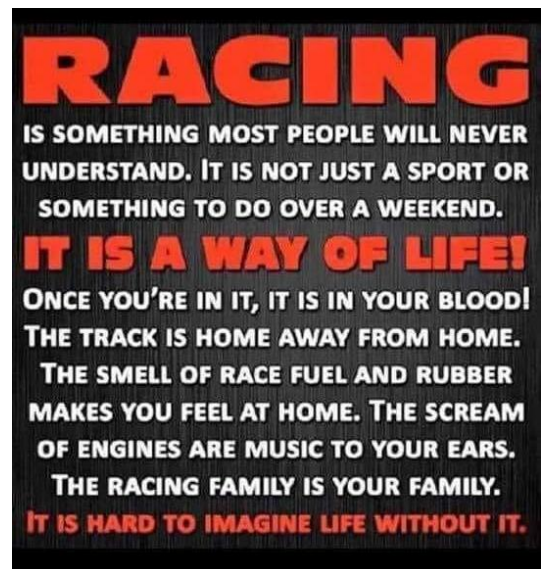
We have to understand that are not there for just ourselves to have fun with our cars, but to put on a proper show of vintage race cars for the paying crowd. We need to show them respect by lining up quickly and not dragging it out. We do all these things and that's why track owners want VARC back.

I am proud to be part of VARC and have such good friends. Have a great off season and enjoy the holidays.

P.S. Don't forget to drain your fuel tanks like I did.

President & Board Members

Contact Melinda for
an application
or
Jim & Carl for more
information



Notes from our Secretary Melinda Ahleman

I would like to Thank Rhonda Robinson for all her hard work on taking photos and videos at all the tracks. Along with Mike Ahleman for taking photos. Without them you would not have anything to remember your fun times.

I would appreciate anyone attending the races to take photos and submit them to me. We cannot always depend on Rhonda and Mike to be at each show.

BUTLER SPEEDWAY JULY 24

RAINED OUT

WAYNE CO SPEEDWAY JULY 31

The VARC teams invaded Wayne County Speedway for the 8th stop of the 18 stop tour this year.

The heat race saw a lot of action from the 12 teams that took to the track. The action came in the form of tight racing and battles throughout the field. With one lap to go Bob Shelhorn brought out the yellow flag with a spin in turn 3. He claims it was not a spin but a coffee run. Bob said, "Basically I pulled to the infield to order cappuccino, obviously I returned to the racing surface facing the opposite way of my competitors so I simply made a U-turn." The field regrouped and returned to racing on a green and white flag with Carl Robinson winning, followed by new member Roger Rush, Chuck Harshman, John Lawhorn and Walt Campbell.

The feature saw John Lawhorn lead the first 5 laps of the 10-lap feature before Chuck Harshman and Carl Robinson dueled for the lead with Chuck taking the checkered flag followed by Carl Robinson, Rodney Evans, Bob Shelhorn and John Lawhorn.

By Carl Robinson



FREMONT SPEEDWAY AUG 7

The North Coast Vintage Racers invited VARC to join them at Fremont Speedway. We had a good turn out and enjoyed the chance to run with them. Jim Linder one of the North Coast members, had been restoring one of his original race cars that he built and raced as a young man. It was great to see the car that started his fantastic racing career.

The vintage race was well represented with the variety of good-looking cars. It was really fun to watch and the fans seemed to really enjoy seeing the old cars at speed on the track.

We had a good car count with a good variety of our different type of cars. Bob Shelhorn with his late model, Scott Shelhorn with a modified, Gene Steele with a modified, John Lawhorn, and Walt Campbell in their fifty's era open cockpit cars, Seth Smith, Jim McDermott, Carl Robinson with various sprint cars, each by a different builder and era. Mike McWilliams with his midget. The Feature event went to Seth Smith.

By Jim McDermott



FREMONT SPEEDWAY AUG 8

Sunday was the Johnny Auxter Annual Vintage Event. The day started with displaying cars for judging. Johnny Auxter made the rounds and judged all the cars. VARC cars were well represented and several were chosen as best of show in the different classes. Bob Shelhorn was selected as Best Late Model, John Fork had the Best Midget, Johnny Lawhorn had the Best Dirt Champ Car, Scott Shelhorn had the Best Modified and Curt Peterson had the Best Coupe. Mark Schultz was selected as Johnny Auxter's Favorite Car. Good job! It takes a lot of effort to keep the vintage cars running and that effort was apparent by all the hardware these folks took home.

We pushed the cars into the pits and got ready to get on the track. There was plenty of track time as the day was just for the vintage cars.

We had a good time and want to thank the North Coast Vintage Racers for putting on such a great show and inviting VARC to this event. It was even a special treat for us as they provided a chicken dinner for all the participants. A special Thanks goes to Randy Mapus for organizing this event. We look forward to next year's event. We would also like to thank the Fremont Speedway management for their support of this event. They make it possible for us to participate in this great display of vintage racing.

By Jim McDermott

**MARK
SCHULTZ**

BEST OVERALL



**BOB
SHELHORN**

**BEST LATE
MODEL**

CURT PETERSON

BEST COUP



**JOHN
LAWHORN**

**BEST DIRT
CHAMP CAR**

JOHN FORK

BEST MIDGET



**SCOTT
SHELHORN**

BEST MODIFIED

CORRIGAN OIL SPEEDWAY

AUG 13

What a great day for racing at Corrigan Oil Speedway. 11 cars on display. It was nice to see some new faces. Mike Stuart, Mark Strpko and Tom Weidman all had their cars on display. Along with our Old Faithful members John Lawhorn, Ron Gunderman, John Morton, Mike Eastman, Hank Lower, Henry Dowker, Dick Slagle, and King Kramer.

With a couple of cars having problems 8 cars started the Heat race. After a couple of spins by Ron Gunderman, John Lawhorn, Tom Weidman and Dick Slagle. Hank Lower came out as the winner.

The Feature had also had 8 cars start. Hank Lower and Mark Strpko lapped the field twice then Mark had engine problems and did not finish. Hank was followed by Ron Gunderman.

The new owners Tom and Tracy Hernley have done a wonderful job with the track. On to Springport Mid-Michigan for another night of racing.

By Melinda Ahleman



SPRINGPORT SPEEDWAY

AUG 14

Michigan Vintage Races had a fantastic time at Springport Speedway. On hand were Dick Slagle, Mike Eastman, Henry Dowker, Chris Miller, Tom Wiedman, King Kramer and Ron Gunderman.

There were two hot lap sessions, a heat race and a feature. Tom Wiedmann won the heat race but we aren't sure who won the feature. Unfortunately, Henry Dowker did not run due to mechanical issues.

Thanks to all of the track personal for being great to work with.

By Tina Gunderman



MOLER SPEEDWAY AUG 20

Carl Robinson and I got stuck in some traffic, but we were still able to get unloaded and were ready to run when we were given the chance. The members that made the trip were Butch Evans, John Lawhorn, Walt Campbell, Gene Steele, Bob Shelhorn, Scott Shelhorn, Mike McWilliams, Clark Moore.

The Management at Moler Speedway was very helpful and were excited to see our cars. We got scheduled to run the last heat and last feature for the night. We are not complaining but it was indeed a long night for us. The reward for us was a superbly prepared track. This ¼ mile track is really a fun track to run and it held up even after all the other races. We had a great turn out of cars and the show was a good one.

The Heat race went off without any problems Bob Shelhorn had his late model flying along but Butch Evans in the speedy little midget had the advantage. The feature was a top-notch show although many of the fans had left before we got on the track. Carl Robinson was being chased by Butch Evans and Bob Shelhorn who once again was getting the most out of his full-bodied late model. It was a spectacular night with a full Moon and clear skies.

By Jim McDermott



35 RACEWAY AUG 21

We arrived at 35 Raceway early. Gene Steele and Scott Shelhorn were already there so we parked next to them and unloaded. Since we got there early, we started looking over the cars and made adjustments and spent a lot of time telling racing stories while waiting for others to arrive. Walt Campbell, John Lawhorn and Jeremy, Carl Robinson and Rhonda, Terry Wells, Butch Evans were among those that showed up for the nights event.

When it came our turn for the feature we were treated to an excellent race track. We had a couple yellow flags caused by equipment failure and the flagman had to cut our Feature short. That was too bad as I had Carl Robinson in my sight and finally had my car working good and about to give him a run for his money on the restart. Well, it didn't happen and Carl got away with the win. It was really a great time. The track crew really knows how to prep a race track. A special thank you to 35 raceway track crew and all the officials there.

By Jim McDermott



SANDUSKY SPEEDWAY

AUG. 28

The weather was as Hot and Steamy as the evening's races. There were nine cars on hand for two very exciting races.

The heat race had a very tight battle between John Lawhorn, Walt Campbell, Carl Robinson, Butch Evans and Mike Bontreger. After the smoke cleared Walt Campbell came away with the win. After nosing out John Lawhorn by a bumper.

The feature was also very exciting. With Carl Robinson and Mike Bontreger running side-by-side for all 10 laps until the Checkered Flag flew and it was Mike by a nose.

We could not have asked for two very tight racing anywhere. The fans really enjoyed the shows.

By Melinda Ahleman



ANGOLA SPEEDWAY

SEPT. 4

Angola Speedway saw 22 vintage cars on display. Both Michiana Vintage Racers and Vintage American Race Cars were well represented. Unfortunately, they were only able to get Hot Laps in before the rain came.

Thank you to Hank Lower and Family for hosting the Pot Luck. The sweet corn was fantastic. Thank you to everyone who brought food. It was all delicious. Glad we were able to eat before getting wet.

By Melinda Ahleman



ANGOLA SPEEDWAY SEPT. 5

15 cars returned for the second day of Angola's Labor Day weekend event. Track management provided breakfast for all who spent the night. They really need to be complimented on all they do.

Once breakfast was over it was time to get the cars unloaded and ready for another day of Vintage racing. The drivers that did not camp over arrived and we were ready to race.

The track officials moved us up on the program, so we could leave at a decent hour to make the trek back home.

We were able to split the cars into two races. The first feature included various type of cars. They included Rodney Evans in a midget, Gene Steele in his Modified, Dick Slagle in his super modified, Walt Campbell in his roadster. The modifieds of Mike Botreger and Tim Pusko were also putting on a show. I was in Terry Wells superfast sprinter trying to keep up with everyone.

Then the second group came out and put on an equally spectacular show. Hank Lower in his modified was as usual smooth and fast, with Carl Robinson in his sprinter hanging on to his tail, Johnny Lawhorn was right there in his beautiful Champ car and Jim Pitchford had his stock car sailing along. King Cramer was running his sprinter right along with this group.

By Jim
McDermott



ATOMIC SPEEDWAY SEPT 18

The final race of the season saw 13 cars show up at Atomic Speedway to show race fans what vintage race cars are. We had two heat races, one with the coupes and stock cars and the open wheel cars running another race.

The first heat race was the open wheel cars with 7 cars taking the green flag. The winner was Carl Robinson followed by Walt Campbell and John Lawhorn.

The second heat race for the stock cars was won by Bob "Big Block" Shelhorn followed by Scott Schelhorn and Chuck Harshman.

In the feature event all 13 cars took to the hard slick track to do battle for 12 laps. At the drop of the green Walt Campbell led the first 3 laps until Carl Robinson caught him in traffic and to the lead. There were many battles throughout the field. On lap 9 Butch Evans took over second and ran down Carl with 2 laps to go. Carl won followed by Butch Evans, Walt Campbell, Bob Shelhorn and John Lawhorn.

By Carl Robinson

