

Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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Village Campground
Old Portsmouth Speedway

June 17

The VARC members that turned out for the "Return of Thunder" annual car show at the Old Portsmouth Speedway were really appreciated by the people that put on this event. VARC is especially grateful to the organizers of this event for their invitation to this great car show and celebration of the racing history of the Old Portsmouth racing track.



We hope to see this event continue and it will be on our calendar for next year. For the members that have not been to this event you are missing a good time. You should put it on your list of things to do for next year. Wow!!! We're already thinking about next year's schedule and still we have a long way to go this year.



35 Raceway Park

June 17



We can't say enough good things about the management team at 35 Raceway Park. They were helpful; starting with parking our haulers and keeping us informed about the plans for our events. It worked out very well having us run our first heat race then placing our cars on display near the entrance. As the fans came in they got to see the vintage racers up close and talk with VARC members.

Then before the regular classes started their feature events the Vintage cars put on an outstanding show with all of the different type of cars. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the fans. They seemed truly interested in the history of the cars and drivers of the past. The on track action was indeed a good time for the members and was well received by the fans as many of them commented on how much they enjoyed seeing the cars in action.





Oakshade Raceway

July 8 & 9

The show at Oakshade could not have been better. The weather was perfect. We had 25 cars on display and 23 for on track exhibition races. The track management was super!!! They ran an excellent program and allowed us to have a dash for the midgets, 2 heat races, and 2 features. The club put on a good show and from all the comments from fans and the track personnel it was well received.

It was helpful that the members and guest joined in when it was time to move the cars from the display area



to the staging area for our races. We were ready when our turn came up and we got out on the track in good order. The regular Oakshade racing classes were fun to watch. The action was fast and close. Short track racing doesn't get any better than this.

Many of us stayed the night and got to run on the open track for a little test and tune. We can't say enough good things about the management of this track.

THANKS to the members that brought the donuts and coffee. It sure was a good time talking with everyone about our favorite thing, circle track racing both past and present, drivers, cars and anything that is connected to racing.

We had 3 new members join our ranks that night and we want to welcome them aboard.



Wayne County Speedway

July 15

The Wayne County Speedway show brought out a good number of cars. 17 Cars on display with 14 cars on the track for our racing program. The management and track personnel were very helpful in getting our cars on display. They fit us right into their show.

The heat race was a lively contest with John Lawhorn edging out the field. For the feature they watered the track. At first it seemed like it would be a little muddy but after our warm up laps the track worked in very quickly and we had a lively 15 lap race. With two laps to go Jim McDermott thought he might pull off an upset win but Chuck Harshman in the old King brothers Modified was not about to let that happen. He beat Jim to the checkered flag by inches. It was all in good fun as everyone said after the races that they really enjoyed the evening. After our races we watched some fast late model action and then the bombers.



250 Speedway

July 14

Rained Out



Spartan Speedway

July 21

This was the first race of a double header weekend with VARC and MVR. Friday was at Spartan Speedway in Mason, Michigan. The weather was beautiful and there were 8 cars from the Tri-State area. The cars were displayed behind the grandstand with a great response from the fans.

Our heat race was 8 laps with Hank Lower taking the checkers. We parked our cars in the infield for the traditional Spartan Old Timers celebration and then it was our turn for the feature event. Dick Slagle started on the pole and everyone filled out the field. When it was all said and done at the end of our 12 laps it was Rick Kilbourn from Troy, Michigan in the famous Max Dowker Funny Car taking the checkers.



South Bend Motor Speedway

July 22

The next day saw gloomy weather in the morning and clearing in the afternoon giving way to a beautiful evening at South Bend Motor Speedway for our second joint show with MVR. There were a total of 8 cars at this event and smooth sailing for heat race winner Hank Lower in the beautiful 37 modified.

Then the traditional food fest that accompanies MVR shows with great sloppy joes and other fantastic dishes brought by the members.

Shortly after the food the vintage cars were called up to run, with short notice, and full stomachs, we made our way to the cars for our 15 lap feature event. A great time, once again was had by all and a big thanks goes out to MVR for inviting us to run.



Hank Lower

Feature Winner



Mid-Michigan Raceway Park July 28

This weekend at Mid-Michigan Motorsports Park saw beautiful weather and good support from 7 members with a total of 9 cars. There was a great cross section of Midgets, Sprint, Modified, Champ Car, Super Modified and even a twin engine go-kart. We would like to take a moment and thank members for supporting this show. John Lawhorn and Jerry Bennett made a very special effort as they drove 366 miles to be there. The cars were on display behind the grandstands and there was great response from fans. The racing started with an 8 lap heat race with Jeff Morton taking the checkers. A 15 lap feature

saw the former VARC president, John Lawhorn



take the checkers with a late race charge from Jeff Morton. Mid-Michigan is a great race track vintage racing as it is very smooth and fun to run on. Gene, the track owner, goes out of his way to prepare this track and makes everything right for our club. The free food was also much appreciated by our members.



Butler Speedway

July 29

Butler Speedway played host to the Vintage Cars along with their 4 division card on "Old Timer's night." For the Vintage Cars, this was a combined show with Michiana Vintage Racers. 18 cars from 7 decades of area racing were on display for the incoming fans and Old Timers to check out.

The first heat race saw 9 cars on the track. Hank Lower driving a car that raced there in 1974 won the race. Ron Gunderman in his latest purchase a J & J Chassis Sprint took 2nd followed by Bill Layton and Seth Smith. The second heat saw 5 cars on the track with Hank Lower winning again.

Though we got on the track a little later than expected, the drivers involved had a great time.



Rockabilly Ruckus

Aug. 11 - 13

The turn-out at the Expo Speedway for Rockabilly Ruckus was very good. There were thirteen cars on display and all were able to get on the track for the racing program. The Rockabilly Ruckus was a big event with a lot of top quality vintage and classic cars on hand for the car show and other events.

The Sunday program was focused on vintage car racing with VARC and PAVDMA putting on the show. The track was a little dusty for the first heat. When we went out for our 15 lap feature the crew had added enough water to make the track much better. It was a lively race with everyone working hard to put on an exciting show. Sef DeChristopher held his own with his '55 Chevy and John Lawhorn and Chuck Harshman were right on his bumper. While the three of them were engaged in fighting for position Jim McDermott pulled a sneaky move and took advantage of the super wide front stretch sliding by all of them. It was great fun and Chuck was right on Jim's tail but this time (not like Wayne County) Jim got to the checkered first.

We should recognize the effort put in by Gene Steele. He has been our best tee shirt salesman and all around spokesman for VARC. There are many others that work hard to promote our efforts so a "Thanks" to all of you as well.

It was good to see Chuck Dillion on the track in his vintage CAE sprint car and all the rest of the members that made the effort to haul long distances to support our mission.



Winchester Raceway Park

Aug. 4 - 6

Weather for Winchester held out and we had an outstanding turn out for this famous speedway. We want to offer a special "Thanks" to Mickey Thompson for all the work that he puts into making this show something special. We also appreciate the track management and the racing series ARCA and CRA for working with our vintage car people. And don't forget the efforts of the push truck drivers in help us get moving. It was pretty hectic at times but everything went off great.

The turnout included at least 55 cars from all over the country. VARC had over 20 members bring out their cars and we are grateful for the effort that our members put into hauling their cars to this event. There are a great deal of pictures posted on our Facebook page along with some interviews by Ron Verash. Well worth the time to view them. Thanks Ron.





Shady Bowl
Speedway
Aug. 19

The track management at Shady Bowl did an excellent job of fitting VARC into the night's program and we want to thank them for having us. We will be looking forward to scheduling a date next season.

Mike White was our pit steward and was busy all day keeping things moving and keeping everyone informed. Thanks Mike. We would also like to thank members that helped with 4-wheelers. The lay out of the track has the pits a long way from where the cars on display. Dori Ordos, Mike Layton, Jerry Bennett, Lisa Fork and others were a great help in getting cars moved when we were ready to hit the track. The members that help out at the track are sometimes not properly acknowledged.

There were 13 cars on display and most of them were on the track for our racing program. That



really shows the dedication of our members. The heat race winner was John Lawhorn who drove a very steady line through the corners with his big champ car. Jim McDermott was trying to get around him at one point but gave up as his car started to handle a little strange. Funny what low tire pressure in the right front will do to a car? Butch Evans had his midget running strong as usual and Mike Mason was right on it. Sef DeChristopher had his full body '55 Chevy moving out pulling the left front wheel on occasion.

It looked good seeing the variety of vintage cars running against each other. Mike Layton did a great job driving brother Bill's modified. He is really smooth handling it around the corners. Can't wait until he gets a car, then he can show Bill the way around... Everyone said they had a good time even Gene Steele who developed a shaky left front during the race.



Sandusky
Speedway

Aug. 26

What a GREAT turn out for our Travelling Museum. There were 25 cars on display. There were cars from Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. Richard Garrity and Jamie & Pat York traveled the farthest, all the way from Indiana. Larry Smith traveled the shortest, as he towed from 2 miles away. The fans loved seeing the 2 street stockers that Larry raced to multiple championships at Sandusky. Thank you to members of VARC, Michiana and Mid-West Vintage Club for coming out and displaying your cars.

We ran 2 heat races with 12 cars each and a fast paced feature with 17 cars.

The feature was paced by Bob Fordenwalt in his 1921 Ford Speedster.

Thank you to everyone that helped get the cars lined up.



Jamie York

Feature Winner



Notes from our President

The season so far has been a great success for our group. The car counts have been good at most events and outstanding at others. This is an indication of the hard work and effort put forth by the VARC members. It also indicates that our mission is supported by the membership and this is encouraging. We have many people in the organization to thank for being there when needed. If I listed them I am sure I would overlook someone so I will just say THANKS to all the VARC members that are making the week to week effort to carry out our vision.

The vision of VARC as a "Travelling Vintage Car Museum" is really evident in the quality and variety of vintage racing cars that the members bring out. I think we are providing a product to the tracks that can't be found anywhere else. The fact that we bring it to the fans sets us apart from any static display at a museum. The comments from the fans, while our cars are on display, tells me that we are on the right track. I have had many fans comment on the cars from the past. Some remember them from their younger days. Others have never seen some of the older types of vintage racing cars and are eager to learn about the cars and the men that drove them in the past. They show particular interest when they find out that we will be racing our cars during the evening program. This is our product and it takes effort on the member part to maintain these machines in running order, place them on display, and intermingle with the people at the tracks. For this I am ever grateful to you all.

There is an opportunity for great times left on our schedule. We have a two day event at Fremont Speedway with Saturday's regular program and Sunday is all vintage racing. This will be a fun event with a lot of different type of cars, don't miss it.

Then on to a really top quality track at Atomic Speedway. This track is one that you don't want to miss. It is one of Ohio's premier dirt tracks.

Then on to Eldora's Four Crown event. We have been invited to this year's event for a

static only show. I need a list of members that plan on attending this event and if you are planning on camping overnight. If you have not notified me that you have plans to attend please do so quickly.

Then back to Lawrenceburg, Indiana to close out the racing event for this year.

That isn't the end of our activities for the year. If you haven't been to our annual pizza party and awards banquet what are you waiting for ??? This is truly a great get together with all the members. Do yourself a favor and put these on your calendar. You won't be disappointed.

Thanks for all your support and effort.

JimMcDermott

Upcoming Shows



Sept. 9 & 10
Johnny Auxter Days
Fremont Speedway



Sept. 16
Atomic Speedway



Sept. 22 & 23
Eldora Speedway
Static Display Only



Sept. 30
Lawrenceburg Speedway

Upcoming Racer's Swap Meets

September 15 - 17 Canfield Racers Swap Meet
Canfield Fairgrounds Canfield, Ohio

October 28 Fremont Racer's Swap Meet
Fremont Fairgrounds

November 4 & 5 Dave and Ed's Pro-Formance
Swap meet Stark County Fairgrounds Canton, Ohio

November 4 Miller's Ross County
Automotive-Racers Swap Meet Chillicothe, Ohio