

Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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Notes from our President Jim McDermott

This season is winding down and when reflecting on the shows that we put on I can honestly say we did a good job of promoting our mission. Preserving the history of American Circle Track Racing. It is a difficult task to restore a vintage race car. It takes a lot of effort and money to locate the right parts and information on the car. The Members of VARC are very dedicated to this goal. The VARC group goes the extra mile because the cars are not only are restored to the looks of the past, but these cars run in our exhibition type of races. This requires that the cars are also maintained in running condition throughout the season. The work that goes into keeping our cars ready for the on-track exhibition can be very daunting. Oil changes, tire changes, gear changes, washing, waxing, repainting, repair work, trip planning, fuel cost, lodging and food are just a few of the things that take place each week before towing to the track. This is done by our members just to fulfil our mission. I think at times that this is under appreciated by those that have never fielded a vintage race car. The members that do this are the very backbone of the traveling museum that we put before the fans. I can't say enough about these people. They are dedicated, hardworking, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and sharing people. It is truly an honor to be associated with this group.

We are always looking for new members. We are open to anyone that has an interest in old racing cars and the history of circle track racing. If you have always wanted to drive a race car on the track this is one way that you can have that opportunity.

If you are a hands-on type it is possible to find a neglected retired race car and fix it up. If you don't have the skills to restore a car there are always a few for sale. We do not require any prior driving experience; we have an abundance of experienced drivers that will be happy to guide you. We also have an associate membership if you just want to hang out with our group. We always need help around the pits and would enjoy sharing our time with you, so I hope some of you that read this will take advantage of our years of experience and join in the fun and excitement. With all the work and preparation we do, we still make this a fun time for us. Reliving the past by racing our cars is a thrill like no other. We do not have an age limit so this is something young people and the more mature adults can get into. If you think you are too old to participate many of our members are past senior citizen age and showing no sign of slowing down. If you can climb into the car and steer it around the track there is nothing stopping you. If you have any interest get in contact with our group through our VARC Facebook page or web site "vintageamericanracecars.com"

Sincerely Jim McDermott



Banquet Time

I think it is about time to start thinking about the annual awards banquet!!! If you have not been to one of our annual banquets you have really missed out on some good meals and a lot of fun. This is a great group of people that make up VARC and spending an evening with them is truly a rewarding time. We have awards for top ten, VARC person of the year, Lady of the year, and many other awards. There is always good-natured poking fun, serious conversation, great comradeship, not to forget the abundance of door prizes. You can get a reservation form from the web site or call Melinda or me. So this is an invitation from me to join in the festivities. Please take advantage of this as it helps support our group and it is just plain fun time with car people.

This is a good weekend event as we have our annual Pizza Party on Friday and many members go to the racers swap meet at the Fremont Fairgrounds Saturday morning, our fall board meeting and then on to the banquet.

We are planning on having a site at the swap meet for any VARC member that might have racing equipment that you are interested in selling. You can drop off the stuff at my trailer with price attached. You can donate a portion of the sale to VARC if you so desire. We ask that anyone that has items to sell spend a little time at the site so everyone will have time to look over the other exhibitors. Just share the workload. If your items don't sell, we ask that you pick them up at the end of the sale. I don't have the room to store anything else in my garage.

For details look to the web site or Facebook page.

Hope to see you on this weekend

Jim McDermott



Notes from our Vice-President John Morton

Wow, can you believe it is September already. Time sure has flown by this summer. We have had lots of good racing and good times by all. We did suffer one mishap at Sandusky and I know we all felt bad for the results. It's hard to say anything that can cheer



someone up after losing so much due to an accident. Two cars were severely damaged and fortunately only minor injuries.

We have seen many different winners throughout the season. The car count has been good at all tracks and the people have been receptive to our efforts. Thanks to all for your help throughout the season.

We are getting close to swap meet time and the banquet. This year the club is going to try to have a spot at the swap meet for club members to try to pass on some treasures. If you bring something to the meet then we would like you to help work the booth at times throughout the day. Also, any contribution to the club would be greatly appreciated.

Well, can't think of much more to say. It is time to get ready for Angola. I know we will have a good time there. See you there and remember to keep the sunny side up.

John



Oakshade Speedway July 6

We had a great turn out of cars despite the weather. With 2 little rain showers we still had 20 cars show up for a great show at Oakshade Speedway.

We ran 2 heat races and a feature. The heat races were won by Terry Wells and Hank Lower. They was a lot of great battles going on the heat races.

Hank Lower won the Feature. He battled with Terry Wells for most of race until Terry got a little high going in to turn 4. Terry was able to come back but did not have enough time to get past Hank.

Thank you to the staff at Oakshade for allowing VARC to come and put on a show. I know the fans enjoyed seeing the cars and drivers up close. Some of the kids even got to sit in the cars.

Sunday was a play day for the drivers. This gave them time to test drive other cars.

By Melinda Ahleman



Attica Speedway July 12

What a great night for racing at Attica Speedway. Weather was super with a slight breeze, great car count for this event. We had a good time swapping stories with drivers and crews. Some stories were quite unbelievable but we all know the older we get the faster we were.

Remember the crews are a great help in preparing for the event with all the car prep and running the 4-wheelers with help lining up and getting on the track thanks guys and gals.

17 cars took the green flag for the feature. There was a great field of hardtops, modifies and open wheel cars. We had some feisty battling going on for the fans to see. Gene Steele tried his new 3 wheel set up but I think it needs a little more work to be successful. Don't give up Gene. We had one midget catch on fire in the air cleaner area, he headed for the mud to help put it out. Now his midget looks like a mud bogger, but I am sure he will get that pretty yellow car shining for next time. When the dust settled it was Walt Campbell in his Edmunds Merc Cruiser out front for the checker flag. Great job Walt. Don't know why he wants to sell that little beauty. (Not to fast is it Walt?)

Afterwards we were treated to some great sprint car racing with 410 and 305 sprinters racing. Can't beat Attica for a great sprint car show.

Thanks Linda Sloan for all the great pictures, and Randy and the Northcoast Vintage Club for the invitation to the show. By John Morton



Wayne County Speedway July 20

Despite the hot weather there were 7 cars at Wayne County Speedway. The fans really enjoyed seeing the cars on display. Some of the kids even got to get in the driver's seat.

We were able to get a heat race and a feature in. Carl Robinson and Jim McDermott battled in both races but it was Carl coming away the winner.

The track officials were very helpful in allowing to put on our Traveling Museum. They said the fans enjoyed the show and they plan on seeing us next year.



By Melinda Ahleman

I-96 Speedway July 26

Friday was I-96, near Lake Odessa, Michigan. This is the first time ever there for the Vintage Cars, and will not be the last. Nice facility, 3/8's mile dirt, with Late Models, Modifieds, Street Stocks, FWD, and Mini Wedges also on the Card. We brought 9 cars to the show, Randy Peters, John Lawhorn, Chris Miller, King Kramer, Hank Lower, Seth Smith, Mike Eastman, and Ron Gunderman.

In the heat, Ron and Seth tagged team the high side, keeping Hank Lower on the low side, and Ron picked up the win. Fans were into this, and gave the guys a nice applause.

By Ron Verash



Butler Speedway July 27

For the Vintage cars, we had 23 make the trip. All from I-96 came plus Jeff Morton, Carl Peavy, Larry Fisher, Henry Dowker, Dan Cline, John Fork, Gene Steele with 2 cars, Dick Slagle with 2 cars, and Dan Livengood. Also, an old South Bend Motor Speedway Safety truck which the Freeburns restored.

16 Cars came out for the Heat event, and Scott Shellenberger, driving for Dan Cline, took the win over Seth Smith, Hank Lower, and Ron Gunderman. Scott would also win the Feature.

By Ron Verash



Spartan Speedway August 9

Friday night at Spartan Speedway can't get much better than this. There was a great car count with 12 cars on hand. Eleven cars took to the track for a spirited heat race with Hank Lower coming out on top. It was not a run away as Rick Kilbourn with his Dowker super was on his tail.

Then at intermission we had the treat to watch two young men being sworn in to the armed forces. I can't say enough about our brave men and women who walk that dangerous line to protect all of us so we can enjoy the freedoms that we have

After intermission we lined up for the feature. Mike Eastman and myself started on the front row. My car was not running right and I went to the high side to avoid the rush that I knew was coming. Dick Slagle started the night with a promise to Sonya that he was going to take it easy since he has been recovering from

medical issues but the lure of the race car soon took over and he was at full throttle with those headers just singing. After 15 laps of spirited battle it was the old man himself John Lawhorn taking the checker. What a great time with a great track promotor and track workers. They wanted to help all they could. I think if I had asked for a loan they would have obliged me.

Fans were very curious about the cars and Bill Layton even had some signing his car. I can only say that if you miss a race you are missing out on a great time.

By John Morton

Shadybowl Speedway August 10

The show at Shadybowl was a very good one. We set up our static display right where the fans entered the track so they got to see the cars first hand. There were many questions and much interest in the cars. The younger fans were excited about sitting in a race car and getting their pictures taken.

A special thanks to the track management for their efforts in getting us on track. This track is really unique and fun to drive on. It is fast and challenging. A real blast for our vintage drivers.

The midgets really put on a show with Butch Evans taking the feature with Walt Campbell and Jack Anthony close behind. John Lawhorn had his champ car in the mix with Ron Gunderman and his super modified. Jim Pitchford had his stock car moving and got by my old modified on the last lap. Terry Wells, Gene Steele, Noah Barker and Curt Peterson ran well also. It was fun trying to run my old modified with dirt tires. I was not handling real well but made a lot of noise with the big block and wore out the right rear tire trying to get some speed out of the old car.

Nice going Butch that midget is just too fast on this track. It was a fun event for all the members there and I hope we get as good a turn out for Atomic.

By Jim McDermott

Atomic Speedway August 17

The weather was a little on the warm side for the Atomic Speedway show but it didn't stop our members from putting on a good display of vintage racing for the enjoyment of the fans. While the cars were on display there was a good deal of interest in them. The people had a keen interest in the various types of cars and their history. Along with the car's drivers. We want to thank the track management.

We got on the track twice and found a great track surface that was fast and made for some close racing. John Lawhorn had his champ car hooked up with Butch Evans right behind him. Butch helped Johnny set up his car for handling and he must have done a good job.

It was good to see Scott Shelhorn with his always popular Pepsi blue modified. Gene Steele brought two classic modifieds, the Sharp blue 07 and the 292 which is a great example of a dirt modified. You need to get it on the track Gene, it looks too clean. It needs some clay smeared all over it. Clark Moore brought out another great vintage modified, the yellow 28 car which made for a super group of vintage cars.

We had a good show of Midget cars with Walt Campbell, Mike McWilliams and Butch Evans. They had the advantage in the corners with the little cars able to fly through the banked tight corners.

The Sprints were also on hand with Terry Wells, Carl Robinson and myself. I wish I could say I finally found the fuel starvation problem with my car but I was only able to get a couple laps in the heat race before the engine shut down. After working on the fuel filter I was running pretty well in the feature but once again after about ten laps it decided to quit again. After I got it home on Monday I finally found the problem. The rollover vent valve was plugged solid. Never thought to check it before so I spent a lot of time tearing apart and readjusting the fuel injection system. It is always something simple that makes it difficult.

This track is a super place to run and if you have never been there put it on your plans for next season. The season is winding down so get ready for the next races as you will have a long winter to sit at home and relax. Hope to see you at the upcoming shows.

By Jim McDermott

Sandusky Speedway August 24

The show at Sandusky had a good variety of cars and the fans were interested in the vintage cars. There were many questions about the cars and their history. Many of the older fans remembered seeing the various types of cars in the past and were surprised to see a couple of super modifieds and stock cars that had history at the track. It is always a pleasure to speak with the fans and it seems that the younger fans really enjoy sitting in the cars. Many of the fans are surprised to find out that we are going to put the old cars on the track to race them.

The first race of the evening started off smoothly but on the second lap we had a little trouble. Two of our cars got together and were torn up in the incident. Drivers Randy Peters and John Fork were bounced around a bit and the cars badly damaged. The one encouraging thing is that due to the safety equipment and construction no one was seriously hurt. Due to the time it took to clean up the accident the track had to cancel the remainder of that race. We did get to run a feature event later and it was a great display of vintage car racing. I saw a 1970 Nova Stock car pass one of the sprint cars on the last lap. Nice going Larry Smith. I know the Sprint car driver (me) was determined not to let that happen but the experience that Larry has on the Sandusky track really paid off.



We would like to give a special thanks to the Sandusky Speedway management. They are always eager to have our cars there and are extremely helpful when we are there. This is a great track and should be on everyone list of things to do. My first visit to this track was 56 years ago and I still have a special feeling for it. There have been many great racing events here and top-notch action over the years and we feel honored to be allowed to take part in the show.

By Jim McDermott

Angola Speedway August 31 & Sept. 1

Next we moved over to Indiana at the Angola Motor Speedway. On Saturday we had a nice collection of vintage racing cars. The types of cars were from several different eras and classes. There were stock cars, modifieds, midgets, sprints, offset super modifieds and a radical rear engine laydown super modified. It was great fun seeing all these different cars on the track.

We had good clean racing if you don't count a couple slips and slides. Everyone had fun on the track and at our luncheon put on by the Michiana Vintage Racers. Thanks to Tina and Ron for work they put into this. Thanks to Hank Lower, the sweet corn was simply the best. And thanks to all the others that helped. I am not sure who else was helping since many people were running around and helping with food and clean up. It is truly a great time for all the people there.

The first race saw Hank Lower and Jeremy Howe running side by side with Jeremy pulling ahead at the checkered flag. The second race saw Hank Lower and Henry Dowker running neck and neck with Hank winning at the finish.

Sunday, much to our disappointment, was washed out by Mother Nature. If you have not been to one of the Angola Shows you really need to add it to your list of things to do next year.

By Jim McDermott



Fund Raising for VARC Fremont Swap Meet

Oct. 26

Points thought
Angola Speedway

VARC will have a spot at the Fremont Racers Swap Meet. Jim McDermott will be providing the trailer.

If you have any racing parts you would like to sell you can bring them to the trailer.

1. We are asking that you make a donation from your proceeds to VARC. The amount will be up to you. This can be used as a tax deduction.
2. We would like you to donate at least 1 hour to man the trailer.
3. Please mark your items with your name and price.
4. Call Jim 440-552-8349 and let him know if you are interested

They are planning on having the trailer there on Friday if you want to drop off your items.

JOHN LAWHORN	42
GENE STEELE	31
TERRY WELLS	28
HANK LOWER	27
JIM MCDERMOTT	27
RON GUNDERMAN	25
MIKE MCWILLIAMS	24
JOHN MORTON	23
BUTCH EVANS	21
WALT CAMPBELL	19
CLARK MOORE	18
CARL ROBINSON	17
JOHN FORK	15
JIM PITCHFORD	15
MIKE EASTMAN	15
JEFF MORTON	13
DICK SLAGLE	12
LARRY SMITH	10
NOAH BARKER	6
DAVE ORDOS	6
RANDY TUSSING	6
JACK ANTHONY	6
SETH SMITH	6

