

GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Issue #3 – 2009

It looks as if my declaration that spring was finally here was true and summer seems to be following in step as well. And, “Mother Nature” did cooperate for our Annual Car Inspection on April 26th. A very good turnout of cars, both race and custom, and a good crowd of people busy checking everything out. During my time there I noticed many owners busily answering questions along with receiving many compliments. Many thanks again to Warren Kindle and “Sandblasters, Inc.” for putting together another successful show.

President’s Column: Game On!!!! With our recently completed weekend at Ephrata Raceway Park June 12th & 13th, our exhibition season is in full race. Beginning in April at Stateline Speedway, followed by Meridian Speedway, it all fell into place at Ephrata. Our car count reached a level rarely seen with 14 Sprinters answering the call. Included in that number was the first public showing of the famous #4 Engle-Stanco KK 2000-220 Offy sprint car that Daryl Hedman and Jerry Day purchased from an estate in the NE. Even more important, my outrageous boast that “the midgets will be back this year” came to be, and I’ll suffer no further embarrassment. This Friday and Saturday show saw 9 midgets, and 1 TQ make the trip. Included in the count were Clark Geffe’s initial run with the club in his beautiful new Hillegass V8/60, and Joe Davitt’s first time on the track with his incredible new Chevy 11 Edmunds, towed by his equally beautiful 32 Ford with the matching paint job. As has been the case in recent years, several of the midgets attached tow straps, and participated in the annual “Sage and Sun” parade Saturday morning. Golden Wheels and West Coast Vintage Racers shared the billing with the WMRA modern midgets, and the local 360 winged sprinters. With car counts of 6 and 8 respectively for the modern series, in reality, we became the show.

Now the downside; with 10 midgets available when the heat race took place, only 5 cars could make the main, as attrition among our really vintage midgets put many of us (myself included) on the sidelines. None of these problems were terminal, boding well for our midget count at future events. And if the midgets came up short, the sprinters with enough cars for A & B heats, and a full field for the main, really put on a show. I was honored to be offered the ride in Tom Hanna’s and Marv Prices 8Ball sprinter, which really saved my weekend. We had a huge support group including visits from long time members Bill and La Vella Birney, John and Marileen Moser, John Ross, Bob McLees and a host of others. Not to be forgotten, the weekend before Ephrata saw several members take place in “Mule Days” at Reardon, WA. This event, whose participation by the club is through our own Warren Kindle of Sandblaster’s Inc. has to be seen to be believed. I’ll just leave it there, but those mules are really something!

Just concluded Saturday, June 20th, saw a very nice turnout for our annual static show at the Shoreline Historical Museum. Great participation by the locals kept all the owners busy answering questions about their cars and careers. A big thank you goes out to Tom Hanna, who towed the 8Ball all the way from Portland to do the show, and Don and Dee Dalgarno, who towed their T.Q. up from Longview with their Corvette. And Loren Day’s “Sky Valley Modified” project was a real hit. Looking complete, except for motor, this is one beautiful car.

Our next scheduled on track event is July 3rd and 4th at Port Angeles Speedway. A scheduling conflict will see several of our cars heading for Pocatello, Id. to run in an event put on by Don Newman. For this reason, I am asking any and all that plan to participate at P.A. to contact me so I can get a car count. I talked to promoter Bert Johnson this week, who tells me there have been improvements made to a couple of the problem areas of the track, and we should find improved conditions. He does go on to say that they do not have the money at this time to do the complete recoat that the track needs. In the past, I have found the track perfectly acceptable, and feel it is very important to support one of our closest geographical tracks.

In closing, I want to send out a great big Thank You to all who have supported the club by attending our static shows, and on track exhibitions this year. The turn-outs have been very gratifying, and I see nothing but continued success, with new cars making appearances at every event.

Hal

Day of Playing brings Unexpected Rewards Fri, April 24 2009, StateLine Speedway

Weather predictions hadn't been all that great for those Golden Wheels and West Coast Vintage Racers brave enough to travel to the western side of the Cascades, but an unexpected ray of sunshine was brought to the track on 4 wheels of a different type. Brayden Kuhl, my little buddy in a wheel chair had come to "go racin' with Frankie".

For one afternoon, this little guy got to be a "normal kid". Not only that but he got to do something that most "normal" kids don't get a chance to. He was Kim Hendrickson's co-pilot in the push truck. This took him right down into the center of the action, on track.

Brayden has an extremely rare condition (CIPA) shared by only 17 persons in the United States. A large portion of his life is spent in hospitals, in Spokane WA for emergent situations and in New York City when surgery is required. Brayden is kind of like a racecar that's hit the wall a few too many times. Titanium rods and bolts are what holds him together. But this little guy's spirit is amazing.

A day hanging out with racecar drivers created the memory of a lifetime for Brayden. After "working" through the afternoon, he rolled around with a bucket of licorice to share with the racers. The smile in the pictures say it all.

At the end of the day, when conversations are usually filled with bench racing, they were instead about giving a special boy a very special day. All were in agreement that "this is what it's all about". More than one of these "vintage" racers commented on the fact that they would never again complain about the different aches and pains that come with age.

It is hard to say who got the most rewards out of this day, the racers or the Fan.

First Race Reunion Great as Always Sat, April 25 2009, StateLine Speedway

Winters are long for racers. We're spread out over so many miles that the start of racing season is always a happy reunion of the Golden Wheels and West Coast Vintage Racers family. Once we're back together the time apart just melts away as we just pick up where we left off. That's the best part of vintage racing, getting to spend time with your buddies. When it was racing for full competition, the miles and the races were squeezed into a 2 or 3 day weekend. There wasn't a lot of time for anything else.

The reunion was smaller this year. That didn't mean we had any less fun. It just meant that more weren't there to share it. We had looked forward to seeing the Newman crew from Boise Id. We were saddened to hear that Alan Lane's brother had passed away unexpectedly, but happy that the whole crew were able to be there to support him and his family.

It looks like the midget part of our group is growing in '09. That's pretty exciting for all as these are some of racing's pioneers (the cars, the cars!). There were two offys (Lenora and Brian McMurtry), two Flatheads (Janis Day and Chuck Haring) and one pinto (Jim Calhoun). Pretty good mix. The other great part about this contingency is that all of these drivers started their racing "careers" in vintage racing. Brian McMurtry in the #6 is the senior member of this group in terms of driving experience as he has been participating in these events for quite a few years. The others have come into the sport more recently. Sadly, Jim Calhoun had oil pressure problems and wasn't able to finish the day.

Frankie Volz had to leave the #96 sprinter at home as the engine let go.....in the shop! It's happened to all of us. It wasn't the first time for Frankie in that respect. So what's a guy to do? He stole the crew chief, Larry "PeeWee" Martin's Tipke roadster to go play with. The #27 car was driven by Norm Ellefson and

"People & Cars"

"FROM CAMERA TO COCKPIT" - Joe Davitt

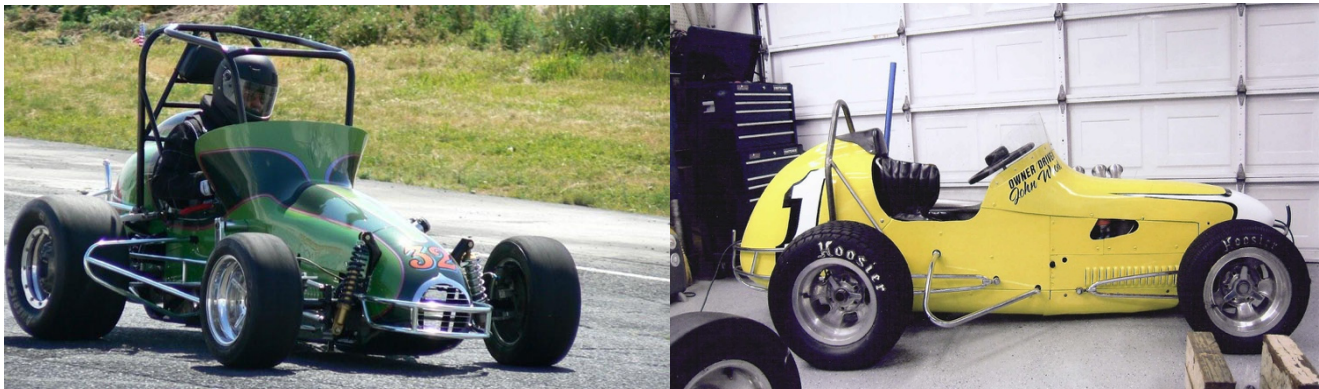
It all started about seven years ago when Frankie Voltz showed up at "Land of Ozz Street Rods" with his early stock racecar tucked away in an enclosed trailer surrounded by us eager "Hot Rodders" to hear this thing run! Motor noise is good for the adrenalin and creates curiosity as to what does the rest of this package do? So I asked Frankie and Nita if I could "hang out" with them at a race - along with a "I'll bring my video camera" and the rest is history. That also was my introduction to Midget's and the "Golden Wheels" group down in Hermiston, Oregon. I mostly remember Bob Pikes Midget (really cool looking) and the show that Frankie put on when Bob McMurtry let him drive his Midget. Ted and Sherrie Weaver were also there - hand controls and women drivers? !!! What a thrill! What a show! My wheels were starting to turn!

After Frankie traded in his early stock for a vintage Sprint, life really shifted into high gear. I felt like "Super fly" - that's kind of like the fly on everybody's wall. From one track to another, trailer to trailer, on the track, over the track, in the pits, in the grandstands, camera recording everything except, the all male review led by Jerry Day one year at Roseburg, enough said. That's how I got to know everyone and that's how I got bit by the "I gotta get a Midget.com" bug!

Frankie found me a mid 70's Edmunds and a Chevy II motor. Larry "Pewee" Martin cut and formed the fiberglass, Butch Duren is responsible for the beautiful paint job, Frankie and Dixon Helgeson did the rear-end, frame, suspension and plumbing. A huge "Thank You" to all.

The frosting on the cake is-I get to pull this beautiful Midget with my '32 Ford of 49 years! I've driven over seventy three thousand miles in the last six years, which includes forty-eight states. I would love to do it again only this time with the Midget behind me (thanks to Dick Nelson for selling me his tilt trailer!).

Joe Davitt #32



John Wood #1

THE JOHN WOOD STORY - John has been racing midgets with WMRA for 43 years. Starting in 1964, he has raced in Canada, Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. In 1983-1984 he broke every track record with his turbo VW. In 1983 he broke the all time Spanaway (10 year) track record for all classes of cars. In 1964 John bought a 1953 Kurtis Kraft Ford V8/60 midget, becoming it's third owner. In 1968 he installed a Chevy 11, and raced it until 1976. The Kurtis has now been restored back to original, with a V8/60.

In 1976 Cliff Roberts purchased the #15 car, a 1969 Benson with John as driver, and running a Chevy 11. In 1977 a Kawell VW engine was installed, and in 1980 a Kawell turbo charged VW was installed and it won many races and set many records. In 1985, John became the owner of the Benson.

Another Woods car, the #1, (pictured) is a 1971 Benson that Cliff Roberts purchased as a second car for John to drive. It had a SESCO, and John installed a VW in it. Both cars were painted the same, and both cars became twins numbered #15. John also became the owner of that car in 1985. In the 1987-1988 season, sons Kevin and Kenny took turns driving that car. It has now been restored back to it's original look with a Chevy 11.

In 1986 John drove Todd Pinkam's VW #52. In 1987 John purchased an Edmunds with an Autocraft VW motor. This would become the only car that John ever sold. In 1999 John purchased a new Beast with a Gearte motor, and raced it until 2007, a car that he still owns.

After a long absence from Golden Wheels membership, John is back and says "he is just having fun with Golden Wheels". We're looking forward to John joining us on track in the near future.

Passings – Sadly, the last of Golden Wheels Founding Members, Ione Rentz passed in AZ on April 24th. The following tribute was written by her daughter, Barbara.

Evelyne Ione (Albee) Rentz - 6-2-1915 to 4-24-2009

Now writing poetry for our Lord in Heaven, she passed peacefully from our world to join her husband, Frank of 58 years and her son Terry, leaving behind her daughter, Barbara Jo Birt.

Born in Hewitt, MN, to Henry & Ida (Lahrmann) Albee she was the youngest of eight children, Evelyne traveled with her family when a young child to Burlington, WA where she graduated from high school in 1933. Evelyne decided to pursue a career in hair dressing, graduating from Mary Stone beauty school in Seattle.

She went on to become an instructor and then managed shops on Mercer Island for Lawrence White before retiring. Over the years it was common practice for her to travel to Burlington to have a "hair-do" day giving permanents and haircuts to family members.

She met Frank Rentz in the mid 1930's and they married the fall of 1940 in the shadow of Burlington Hill. Frank was involved in Midget Racing so she decided to join the hobby and drove Midget Race Cars competing with other wives and girlfriends. In those days men and women raced separately. Evelyne was a long time member of the Golden Wheels, Auto Racing Pathfinders. Even in her late 80's she still took off with a lead foot when driving to and from visits with her daughter.

She was honored to be a Burlington Edison graduate for 1933 and in the Centennial Parade of 2002 riding in a Yellow Model A Phaeton.

Her real love was writing poetry and prose to share with friends and family. Her last 3 years were spent in Tucson for the winter months with her daughter, enjoying the desert animals as they roamed through the yard. She would sit for hours listening to the many birds and sounds of the desert while working puzzles or writing. I miss you Mom. We will meet again.

Aug. 2, 1949 Aurora Speedway

Our sympathy and condolences to Ione's daughter Barbara, family and many friends. Rest In Peace, Ione.

Our sympathy also goes out to member Don Cook on the loss of his wife Arlene who passed away on June 18th. Prayers and condolences to Don and his family in this time of sadness.

Events: Upcoming July events for Golden Wheels include the Port Angeles Speedway, Port Angeles, WA on the 3rd & 4th at, and the Douglas County Speedway event on the 16th & 17th in Roseburg, OR. Both tracks are ¼ mile pavement. In August action moves to Yakima, WA and Yakima Speedway's ½ mile pavement on the 7th & 8. Then it is off to Oregon for Cottage Grove Speedway's ¼ dirt track on the 21st & 22nd. Sandwiched in between, is the static show at the City of Shoreline Car Show on the 15th static. A little something for everyone.

Apologies for this issue of the newsletter being a bit later than planned. Let's just say that I have not been on the best of terms with either of my computers while trying to transfer info from "Old Faithful" to the "Newest Guy in the House". Toss in a printer that took a liking to eating paper and still isn't printing 100% and you will understand why my priorities leaned toward throwing the black flag, leaving the track and playing outside in the nice weather. Hopefully everything will be on track, lined up in position and ready to race come the next issue.

Enjoy our summer, try to get in some time at the track and remember that life is a whole lot easier when you.....**Keep Your Wheels Down!!**

◆◆◆◆◆ == BUY=SELL=FIND=TRADE == ◆◆◆◆◆

For Sale: 1935 Midget Race Car No. 4 Wee Stinker, complete. Owned and driven by Pike Green 1977 to 1985. Has approximately ten races on newly installed rebuilt Ford V8-60 engine. Some restoration still needed. Contact; Dick Fredell 360-629-2370 rmf54@juno.com

For Sale: 110 Offy motor. 7-12" wheels. Aprox 15-13" wheels. Lots of Offy motor parts. All tools for rebuild of motor. New hood & nose for kurtis. T-Bars. Quick change gears. Spark plugs. Clean out the shop. \$35,000
Cokey Williams Ph. 510-537-8497

For Sale: Midget Race Car - 1930's vintage. Looks like a Solar.
Lots of LA Calif. history. No Engine or gear box.
Jack Corley, 1790 SE Regner Rd., Gresham, OR 97080 Phone: 503-667-1725

For Sale: '74 Edmunds-Kane Midget. 6 sets gears, 12 wheels, Chevy II, Halibrand & spare parts. \$16,000 w / open trailer or \$20,000 w / 2008 14' enclosed trailer Call: 360-387-4696

For Sale: 1971 Bob Trostle midget. Very rare as only three (3) were built. Has new Chevy II engine, new tail & nose and chrome plating. Torsion rear, leaf spring front suspension.
Car was in process of restoration. Death in family forces sale. \$11,000.
Contact: Sam at 480-830-8883.

For Sale: Midget offset Bennett quick change housing w / side plate & rear covers. 4.44 to 1 Ford ring & pinion. Used Franklin 10 spline gear sets #7-8-9-23 special-35-41. Contact: Jack Corley: 1790 SE Regner Rd., Gresham, OR 97080 Phone: 503-667-1725

Wanted: Information on D.O. Hal engine recently purchased in Portland, OR area.

We are told the engine came from up north 30 years ago. (Possibly Bremerton or Bellingham, WA) It originally came with a rocker arm Crager. Both on 'B' blocks and painted silver. The HAL is gold under the silver. A & W BRG 10/3/61 is stamped on the pan rail. Any information is appreciated. Contact: Gordy 360-694-7853 or Mark 360-798-2166.

Smoke, Sand and Rubber - 'Methanol' Mel Anthony, Golden Wheels' in house story teller's long awaited Midget & Big Car History in the Northwest. Soft Cover, 288 pages, 7"x10", 250 B&W Photos. ISBN:0-9787721-0-5. Priced @ \$29.95 + \$4.00 domestic shipping. \$8.00 foreign. Order from: Sylvester Publishing #133, 18405 Aurora Ave. N. Suite H, Shoreline, WA 98133

---- Golden Wheels - 2009 Dues - Golden Wheels ----

Please Print

NAME _____ SPOUSE/SO NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ BIRTHDAY (Month) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$ 2 5 Member \$ 1 0 Spouse/Significant Other US Funds) _____

DID YOU(), OR DO YOU NOW() OWN A VINTAGE CAR? _____

BRIEF PROFILE/CHANGES FROM 08 _____

PLEASE MAIL TO: GOLDEN WHEELS, P.O. Box 33487, SEATTLE, WA 98133

3, 18405 Aurora Ave. N. Suite H, Shoreline, WA 98133

Please Patronize Those That Support Golden Wheels

FEATURING 50 FT. BOOTH

Sandblasters, INC.

360-658-9372
www.sandblastersinc.com

"Where the finished product begins."

WARREN KINDLE

4721 - 56th PL. N.E. • MARYSVILLE, WA 98270
TOLL FREE 1-877-705-8833 • FAX 360-651-1297

MCLEES

DISTRIBUTING

3311 29th Ave. NE
Olympia, WA 98506

GERRY

360-456-1445

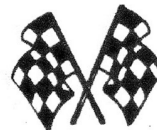
DONNA

Jack's Specialty Parts

Antique Auto Parts

Antique Race Car Parts

1790 S.E. Regner Road
Gresham, OR 97080
503-667-1725



**In Memory
of
Jan Opperman
and**

**Silent Members
of Golden Wheels
Fraternity**

anonymous



Warne Koffney Beat Turner Green.

Glenn Shaw 5th