

GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Issue #6 – 2009

Happy Holidays!!! Here is hoping that you all enjoyed a very pleasant Thanksgiving and will have a great Christmas and New Year celebration.

We have logged another great banquet for the books with a fun night for those in attendance. President Hal Schlegel was once more coerced into taking on the Master of Ceremonies job, a job he did very well.

Awards presented, and those receiving them, at this years annual banquet were; Rookie of the Year (4): Brenda Jarrett, Don Dalgarno, Joe Davitt, Clarke Geffe; Appreciation Award (2): Roger King, Kim Hendrickson; Golden Lady: Anita Volz; Man of the Year: Marvin Price.

Well deserving 2009 inductees into the Golden Wheels Hall Of Fame were the late Art Pollard and Delmar McClure.

Congratulations to all of our deserving award recipients.

Along with reviewing the year, informing all on upcoming plans for Golden Wheels and presenting the awards, Hal also introduced new members Virginia Latta Curulla and her husband Joe, and guests John & Kristine Kaylor. The Kaylor's are designing and setting up the new Golden Wheels web site.

Following our meal and Hal's presentation, Jerry Day once again headed up the auction with Frankie Volz as his assistant and sometime shill. Needless to say, there was seldom a non-humorless moment while they had the floor. Total proceeds raised for the evening totaled out at \$717.

All in all a very successful banquet with good, no make that great, tales that get bigger, braver and faster every year, good food and a nice amount raised to go into the fund to help further the Golden Wheels cause of helping those in the racing family that are in need.

For those of you that do not subscribe to, or get to see, the Northwest racing paper Inside Track, there is a great article in 2009's final issue on Hal's #14 Solar midget. Very nice photos and write up by editor Steve Heeb done during Golden Wheels' last visit to South Sound Speedway. If you would like to get a copy or check out the issue, an online trip to <http://www.insidetrackmagazine.com> will do the job for you. Hal's story is covered on pages 9 and 39. Go to Current Issue on the web site.

If you'd like to check out a shot of the 2009 Ford Focus Midget Champion at Grays Harbor Raceway it's on page 33. This last info is a shameless plug for my grandson, Seth Hespe, who won the title.

I have received a message from Mike Stryker that he had more copies printed up of Harry's very fine Offy Engine Rebuild Manual. You can find all the pertinent ordering info on page 7, the Buy Sell Find Trade page.

Along with the Offy Manual info, Mike sent the following....."I would like to collect as many photos of the 77 John Snider car, if possible a color one from when it was cream and brown. Dad and I planed to put it back to the original paint and going through it to sell, but we were focusing on getting the roadster finished up first. I am so glad we got it finished for him to drive. He and I spent everyday for a year working on it. Not sure that didn't make it harder to see him pass-on as now when I work in the shop I don't have him there to show what I am doing Wrong!" Mike adds... "I still have some parts!"

Just after the last issue went out I found out that we had lost Betty Hancock in May. Betty, along with her husband Don, was very active in Golden Wheels for many years. Our condolences to Don, their family and friends. Rest In Peace, Betty.

We are also saddened to learn that member Phyllis Devine, publisher of The Alternate, passed away the first of the month. She had been in and out of the hospital since early August. The loss of The Alternate would be felt by many and her husband Joe is going to try to restart the publication. Condolences to the family and friends. Rest In Peace, Phyllis.

President's Column:

While it's not a very busy time of the year for racing (unless you're rebuilding your car, as many of us are), there is plenty to keep us going strong. Golden Wheels has recently completed another year ending awards banquet, which by all accounts was a huge success.

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and with so much to be thankful for, I hope each and everyone of you had a wonderful holiday.

Christmas is just around the corner, and I want to take this opportunity to wish all the Golden Wheels membership a very happy holiday. It is my hope that Santa will bring me a front cover for a midget HAL motor this year. Of course, I've wished for the same gift for several years with no luck. What race-related item would you like to see under the tree this year?

In November, I represented the club at the annual WARPA promoters meeting. This is the event where we meet with the track representatives, and set a tentative schedule for the coming year. This year, I was ably assisted by vice president Brian McMurtry and past president Jim Edwards. Jim generously towed the SAMCO to the show, as for several years we have provided a vintage car to display and represent the club. With assistance from the hotel staff, we pushed the car through the lobby, over a bridge, and displayed it right next to the meeting room door. It was truly a hit, as WARPA members and hotel guests crowded the car all day.

Our race schedule representatives FrankieVolz and Marv Price have been hard at work on next year's schedule, which tentatively stands as follows:

May 7th. & 8th.	Stateline Idaho
May 22nd.	Meridian, Idaho (caged sprints only)
May 29th.	Elma, WA (with the NW Wingless Tour)
June 11th. & 12th.	Ephrata, WA (probably with WMRA)
June 25th. & 26th.	Cottage Grove, OR (with the NWWT)
July 2nd. & 3rd.	Coos Bay, OR (with the NWWT)
July 2nd. & 3rd.	Port Angeles, WA (for those wishing to run closer to home)
July 16th. & 17th.	
Or 23rd. & 24th.	Roseburg, OR (The Art Pollard Memorial)
Aug. 13th. & 14th.	Yakima, WA (on the ½ mile)
Sept. 3rd. & 4th.	Ephrata, WA (probably with WMRA)
Sept. 17th. & 18th.	Tenino, WA
Oct. 1st. & 2nd.	Lebanon, OR (with the NWWT)
Mid Nov.	Lake Havasu, (with the SW chapter of WCVR, WRA & BCRA and others)

As you can see, it is already a very aggressive schedule. There is also the possibility of a couple more Saturday only shows at Elma with the NW Wingless Tour.

I hope to see many of you at the regular monthly meeting next week, and once again, wish you all the happiest of holidays. *Hal Schlegel*

Birthdays - Birthdays – Birthdays!!! With winter weather settling in, most of the following Birthday Celebrators probably will, or did, look forward to that wee bit of extra warmth emanating from the top of their cakes. And basking in the glow before that big wish and exhalation is nice, also.

Our November partiers were; Barbara Nelson, Vicki Westberg, Donna Read, Ross Fontes, Marvin Price, Dale Warren, Chuck Haring, Don Shervy, Frederick Pierce and Al Slinker.

Members doing the December celebrating include; Hershel McGriff, Art Day, Erick Lieder, John Nelson, Jim Edwards, Jack Kuehn, John Wood, Jr. and Ron Dunn.

As always, Best Wishes To All and may you have many more in the future!

Dues. Ahhh, Yes. 'Tis that time again when we must renew our Golden Wheels Membership. A report from our treasurer, Gary Berg, shows that some of you are more than on the ball and have already sent in your 2010 dues. Thanks! Now, a gentle reminder for the rest, myself included, that January 1st is the due date for renewal. Use the form at the bottom of page 6 to renew and to up date any needed information.

Feedback on the reprinted Golden Wheels articles by Pike Green about the founding and early days of our group has been great, with several requests for more. As they say... "Ask and ye shall receive."



Seahurst, Wash. . . Popular Racing Wheels columnist and Golden Wheels member Earl Sedgwick has experienced a serious heart attack and was taken to Seattle's Northwest Hospital around midnight Dec. 6 for some fast pit action. At this writing, he is on the road to recovery, but is not allowed any visitors. However, I'm sure that a few written words of encouragement would brighten his days considerably. Write to Earl Sedgwick, Northwest Hospital CCU, 1551 N. 120th, Seattle, WA 98133.

At The Starting Line: We offer our congratulations to new members Harry Corbin, Sandra Corbin, Jim Collier, Pat O'Brien, Ed Edwards, V. Suzanne Sims, Frank Brown, Harold Lonsdale, Wm. J. Murphy, Bob Brinton, Curley Steeves, Wm. P. Murphy, Bob Beadle, Hap Kemp, Terry Forsyth, Barry Rankin, Reg Midgley, Geoff Vantreight, Ron Ail, Lyman Doan, Fred Rice, Leland Stoner and Judith Green. A very special thanks is in order for Valley Sports and Western Speedway's added generosity in support of the US Concerned Racers for Youth movement.

Vintage Cars: A number of Golden Wheels members are busy gathering parts with which to build reproductions of the classic sprint cars of the mid 30's. In fact, the prototype

for these cars is well underway, with channel frame, front spring and axle, steering gear and radius rods already in position. More about these cars as they progress.

We have also had several inquiries from seriously interested buyers who are anxious to locate and restore any of the authentic race cars of past generations. These people are shopping for whole cars or any parts they can find. So, now's your chance to clean out all those unwanted Miller radiator shells, D.O. Dreyer heads, Richter cowls, Rudge wheels and Ray Day pistons that have been cluttering up your living rooms all these years.

Hall of Fame: Since we felt that a number of our members have risen far beyond average in national recognition for their accomplishments in the sport of auto racing, we unanimously elected the following personalities to be enshrined as the first members in our continuing Hall of Fame: Allen Heath, Grant King, George Amick, Frank Wearne, Swede Lindskog, Shorty Templeman and Jack Turner. General membership participation is solicited for any future names to appear in our Hall of Fame. Names will be added twice yearly, so send in your nominations now. If your nomination is that of a racer no longer with us, and he is elected to the Hall of Fame, his name will appear on our roster among the silent members.

Membership: Our first tradition - "The only requirement for membership in Golden Wheels Fraternity is an interest in any type of auto racing." This means exactly what it says. We are all "Auto Racing Pathfinders" and Golden Wheels is not in any way restricted to old timers. Our interests are of a common nature. We are dedicated to the support of Jan Opperman's US Concerned RACERS for Your ranch and we will fight anyone who threatens the preservation of auto racing. We welcome anyone, young or old, who is interested in our sport.

Statistically, auto racing is America's number one spectator sport, so come on fans, let's stand up and be counted. Legislators find it hard to believe that auto racing enthusiasts number in the millions, so let's show 'em.

Banquet: Tickets are now on sale for our first annual banquet at \$9.00 per person. Jan Opperman will be here for the banquet. Besides his delivery of the invocation, he will be our Honored Guest Speaker of the night, a treat you will find most interesting. Don't be left out. Reserve your tickets early since they are limited. Send your check or money order to Golden Wheels Fraternity, P.O. Box 864, Seahurst, WA 98062. See you there on Feb. 28, 1976.

For sustaining membership in Golden Wheels, send \$10 to P.O. Box 864, Seahurst, WA 98062. (\$8 donation to the USCRY ranch, \$2 for club material package.)

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BY ED HITZ

One of the Northwest area's top drivers, Travis Rutz, was critically injured at Terra Haute Speedway in IN on Sunday, Sep. 27th. Rutz, 21, out of Langley, BC was competing with the All Star Circuit of Champions at the time. Rutz spent a month in the hospital in Indianapolis, most of it in ICU, and is currently in the Langley, BC hospital. At last report he is slowly coming out of his coma and is into a rehab program. His Dad reports that he tried to talk on Dec. 4th and did get to make a trip home, lasting one hour, on Dec. 6th. Travis will remain hospitalized for some time and will probably be in rehab for months.

As would be expected, medical costs are and will continue to be very large. Several fund raisers have been held throughout the Northwest and the country have been held with good results. In staying with our object to render assistance, Golden Wheels made a donation in the sum of \$300 to help with his expenses.

Should any one wish to contribute on their own, funds may be deposited in the Travis Rutz Fund account through any Banner Bank in WA, OR or ID or sent to Banner Bank, Attn: Mikala Gammell, 1414 12th St., Bellingham, WA 98225.

This young man had a great future ahead of him and hopes are that in time he will be able to return to the track and his dream.

Following the last issue, Prez Hal received a call or two from members stating that they also were charter members. As was noted in the Dec 3, 1975 pg 10 column printed last month the Charter Membership deadline was extended to Dec. 31, 1975 because of Canadian postal problems. That info and the following column should clear up any questions.



Seahurst, Wash. . . Once again we remind you that our first annual banquet tickets will be on sale exclusively to our members and guests only until Jan. 24. Tickets left after that date will be put up for grabs, with all sales ending Feb. 14. No tickets will be sold at the door. To insure your reservation, send \$9.00 per person to: Tickets, Box 864, Seahurst, WA 98062.

Hot shoes from 1921 to 1976 will be there, so don't miss it on Feb. 28 at the Moose Hall, 222 Mercer St, Seattle. Bring your friends and race fans and have them meet Dee Smith, a starring attraction of the 1920's, and today's "outlaw sprint king," Jan Opperman, along with a host of champions from the intervening years.

Slow Lap: We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and many friends of Martin "Dutch" Ottenbacher, who passed away Jan. 1 at Auburn General Hospital, a victim of cancer. Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 5. Dutch was well known for many years as a member of the old Valley Stock Racing Ass'n, whose hometrack was Sea-

Tac Speedway. Dutch will be missed by all.

Again, we thank you all for your heartwarming support of the US Concerned Racers for Youth ranch. For memberships, mail \$10 to Box 864, Seahurst, WA 98062.

Following is a list of new charter members. See the Nov. 19, 1975 issue of *Racing Wheels* for remainder of charter members. I say thank you, and Jan says, "God bless you all."

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 150-Frank Anderson | 185-Leland Stoner | 216-Dutch Ottenbacher |
| 151-Kenneth D. Wood, Sr. | 186-Fred Rice | 217-Bob Coutts |
| 152-Lon Blakeley | 187-Jay Opperman | 218-Adolph Dans |
| 153-Bob McCoy | (In Memory) | 219-Pete Overland |
| 154-Sonny Sipe | 188-Jan Opperman | 220-Joe Webby |
| 155-Roland Sackett | 189-Bob Willingham | 221-Don Walker |
| 156-Richard Drury | 190-Jim Raper | 222-Elmer Webby |
| 157-George Bell | 191-Fred Roberts | 223-Gene Webby |
| 158-Bill Williamson | 192-Kenny Jacobson | 224-Don Hancock |
| 159-Kenneth W. Rice | 193-George Miller | 225-Bob Mecum |
| 160-Ken Longley | 194-Harold Kammerzell | 226-Arlyn Wolanski |
| 161-John Wood | 195-J. Lester Black | 227-Art Pollard |
| 162-W. Jefferson Murphy | 196-Gerald Pattison | (In Memory) |
| 164-Harry Corbin | 197-Keith Hackendorf | 228-Floyd Anderson |
| 165-Harold Lonsdale | 198-Roger Steeves | 229-Lester Stark |
| 166-Bob Brinton | 199-V. Suzanne Sims | 230-Frank Benham |
| 168-Wm. P. Murphy | 200-Judith Green | 231-Wm. L. Feil |
| 170-Don Campbell | 201-Thane Carpenter | 232-Eric Foster |
| 171-Curley Steeves | 202-June Dalby | 233-Larry Spoon |
| 172-Frank Brown | 203-Mary Anne Lambert | 234-James J.V. Gray |
| 173-Sandra Corbin | 204-Bax Burr | 235-Gene Touchette |
| 174-Pat O'Brien | 206-Dale Evans | 236-Mrs. George Burrill |
| 175-Jim Collier | 207-Don Olds | 237-Harold Zeek |
| 176-Ed Edwards | (In Memory) | 238-Bob Carr |
| 177-Bob Beadle | 208-Mike Diviney | 239-Terry W. Kniss |
| 178-Hap Kemp | 209-John Wadkins | 242-Jim Hendricks |
| 179-Terry Forsyth | 210-John Cooper | 262-Jon Van Dyke |
| 180-Valley Sports | 211-Johnny Wright | 276-Bert Flake |
| 181-Barry Rankin | 212-Richard Downes | 300-Gordon Engelstad |
| 182-Reg Midgley | 213-Bill Ramey | 322-Frank Kitto |
| 183-Geoff Vantreight | 214-Don Book | 500-Pat Vidan |
| 184-Lyman Doan | 7215-Alva A. Ross | |

Northwest racing historian Brian Pratt contacted me a while back with photos of a couple of patches and the following.... "Came across a thread on the H.A.M.B. forum about a couple patches I bought. While I've never seen the RRAW patch before I figure it has to be for the Roaring Roadster Association of Washington. The "500 Club" is odd. Not sure if it is a Northwest thing or something else." RRAW is red sewn on felt. 500 is black printed on cloth. Take a look and see if you recognize either one. If you do, give him a holler with the info. Phone 604-298-1930. Email - bpratt@paralynx.com. Or, send to me at firstturn@comcast.net.



Seahurst, Wash. . . Some great news has come our way from Victoria, B.C. The first local chapter of the Golden Wheels Fraternity has been organized in Victoria by Eric Foster, 2630 DeVille Rd. Victoria now boasts a roster in excess of 50 members and has already scheduled a Sunday social breakfast for sometime in March. Details of the breakfast will appear in our next club newsletter.

True to their traditional friendly attitude toward auto racing in general, the local Victoria press has expressed a keen interest in the Golden Wheels, for which we are genuinely thankful. Small wonder that auto racing thrives at Western Speedway.

Since this is being written within an hour of the conclusion of the telecast of the Daytona 500, it seems a shame that we are forced into making a number of frantic phone calls in order to learn anything about our favorite in that race, Roy Smith, Golden Wheels #777. Our information that Roy was forced out of competition while running 11th at the 427-mile mark came indirectly from one of the Victoria radio stations. Apparently, a blown clutch sidelined the line Northwest entry in the Daytona 500, resulting in a 20th place finish for Roy.

In any case, we are proud to have Roy as our first member presently running in major national competition. Give 'em hell next time, Roy.

DID YOU KNOW?
Forty per cent of all oval dirt tracks are 1/4-mile in length, 25% are 1/2-mile, 18% are 3/8-mile, 9% are 1/3-mile and 2% are 5/8-mile.

I recently visited 91-year-old member Al Legge at the Burien Terrace Nursing Home and found him quite alert for his years. On entering his room, I observed a single decoration hanging proudly on the barren wall - a framed Golden Wheels Fraternity certificate to indicate his continued interest in the sport of auto racing. Since his days must surely be spent in loneliness in the nursing home, I encourage anyone who can to visit him, or at least write him a few lines of encouragement. Al Legge, Burien Terrace Nursing Home, Room 27, 1031 SW 130th, Seattle, WA 98146.

All you Allen Heath fans will be interested to know that Allen's racing career began at the wheel of one of Al Legge's midgets. Whether or not this momentous occasion signaled a boon to auto racing is open to considerable question. (Only kidding, Allen.) This all brings me to the next subject: our banquet.

BANQUET. . . Received a call from Allen Heath several days ago and he and his wife, Gladys, will both definitely be flying in from Los Angeles to attend the banquet Feb. 28. We're all looking forward to seeing "The Seattle Screwball" again.

We're still in heavy traffic in these laps cloing toward the banquet, but we have every indication of a strong finish where our banquet will emerge a winner.

For membership applications or information, write Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 864, Seahurst, WA 98062.

As noted on the first page we have a new member, Virginia Latta Curulla of Bellevue, WA. Virginia is researching the involvement of her father, Charles W. Latta, and uncles Charles Webster Latta & Chester Allen Latta, in racing in the Northwest. Her father drove at Tacoma in 1913 and 1916. Since this was during the early 1900's, the Barney Oldfield era, it's tough to find records. I'm sure that she would be happy to talk to anyone with any info or leads. Contact her at latta4gen@comcast.net. And Welcome to the group, Virginia.

Treasurer Gary Berg reports that he has sent our annual \$500 contribution off to Pike's favorite charity, Sunshine Acres.

Also, a thank you to all that contributed to Hope Link. Along with the food collection Golden Wheels made a \$200 contribution. We will take donations at our breakfasts but if you can't make it to the breakfast, give to a food bank in your local area. I'm sure we all know someone having problems with the economy these days. Give a little, they can use all the help they can get. And, "it'll make ya feel good".

With winter weather hard upon us (well, most of us), take a little extra care in your travels and make sure that you always.....

.....Keep Your Wheels Down!!

Happy Holidays.....

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For Sale: Midget open trailer. Tandem axel. 13 inch wheels. Tire rack. Low deck, easy load. Licensed. \$750.
SOLD Contact: **Jim Edwards**, Ph. 425-277-0481 Email - 76wmra1@comcast.net **SOLD**

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. Make offer.
Contact; **Dick Fredell** 360-629-2370 Email - rmf54@live.com

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. **Also:** Midget Race Car - 1930's vintage. Looks like a Solar. Lots of LA Calif. history. No Engine or gear box. Contact: **Jack Corley** 360 NE 20th Dr., Gresham, OR 97030 Phone: 503-667-1725

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.

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.

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

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