

# GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY  
*Auto Racing Pathfinders*



Issue #1 – 2010

**WOW!!!** Is it just because I'm getting older, or is time really going by faster than it did in the past? Here it is near the end of February and it just doesn't seem like it's time to be stuffing another Presidents Message and other info into a newsletter. I think part of the problem is the spring like weather we have been having for the last month. Seems we should be outside doing something instead of banging on the computer inside the house. And from the looks of the trees and flowers that are budding and blooming around my Northwest abode they are as confused with the passing of time as I am. With that said, here's the latest from Hal.....

## President's Column:

Although it's a slow news cycle there is always something to report. Here are a few brief thoughts to keep everyone's mind on the upcoming season.

The annual Racers' Swap Meet held each year at Burlington High School was just concluded, and a representative group of Golden Wheelers was in attendance. And that's Golden Wheelers in the vain of wheeler dealers. Jerry Day was there along with Jack Choate, Bob Scott, George Todd, Brenda Jarrett and yours truly. While none of these individuals would admit fully to what they ripped off---I mean purchased at the meet, it is known that Jerry picked up a couple of Schroeder midget steering boxes, Jack got some wheels, as did Bob. Oh yea, Bob bought a midget. He pulled this off after the rest of us had headed over to Speed Mart for their annual "after swap meet" open house. In truth, we go there each year because of the free lunch they serve to all their (real) customers. This year they had a local catering co. do the food, and the hot dogs, chili, clam chowder, and desert (yes that's desert) as in cakes, brownies etc. was the best we've enjoyed to date. P.S., ask Bob about his new midget the next time you see him, as I'm sure he will have his pictures handy.

Now for the ambulance report: I mentioned that George Todd was at the swap meet. We hadn't seen George lately, and one reason, as he told us there, was that he had suffered a heart attack in December. None of us knew. He now has three stents, but he looked great, and seems to be well on the road to recovery. He had his Edmunds midget there for sale, as it has been in the newsletter recently. It's still up in the air whether his condition will allow him to continue vintage racing. If you are in the market for a really stout midget, check with George.

Jerry Day was also at the meet, just two weeks after major back surgery. I was with Jerry the week before, and he was moving pretty slowly, having just gotten out of surgery. This time, he was obviously much improved, standing at my estimate at least 1-½ inches taller. Jerry has two new vertebrae, and more titanium bolts in his back than a WOO 410 sprinter.

While we're reporting on the Day household, Jerry's Sylvia has also just returned from a bit of sheet time. It is my understanding that Syl has a brand new knee, which should serve her well when it comes time to push the race cars this year. That's right isn't it Syl?

In a phone conversation with Dave Craver, he tells me that his recovery from recent surgery has gone very well, and I'm sure he will be ready to chauffeur Daryl Hedman's #76 Ram sprinter when the bell rings for this year.

Never to be outdone by these fine gentlemen, and a little closer to home, my own wife (Kay) went in to have a couple bone spurs attended to in her shoulder last week. When we arrived, we noticed that the paperwork mentioned 2 tears in her rotator cuff. A little more extensive than we thought. She is now laid up for about six weeks, with her arm in a sling. But at this writing, she is doing very well in her recovery.

On the car front, Dan Blair reports that he has gotten his V8/60 back from Clark Geffe, who did the rebuild. It's ready to install into the #1 Kurtis copy, and Dan should be ready to go when they drop the green.

I got a sneak preview of Jerry Day's new sprinter; the car he and Jan Opperman designed back in the day. It's truly beautiful, ready for Dan to do the lettering and Myron Gemmer to deliver the engine. All I can say is "watch out Frankie".

Speaking of Frankie, I get occasional reports from the inland empire of great strides on building Dick Nelson's new sprinter, which is being done at Frankie's Back Woods Racing. I hear that Dick is traveling back and forth to assist in the project. Another project coming along at the Volz shop is the new 8 Ball car being built for Tom Hannah and Marv Price. This car replaces the old 8 Ball, which met an unfortunate fate last year at Havasu. An occasional ride of yours truly, I didn't do it this time!

Too many car projects for me to cover them all, but in my own case, I just made a deal with Fraser Bronze to cast up two new front covers and two water pump housings for my HALs. I hope this will repair the damage done to the motor in the #14 Solar at the end of last year, and is one of the last jobs to complete the gear drive HAL for the #99 car. So if it all pans out, Santa will have finally come through on my annual request for a front cover for a gear drive HAL. Too bad I couldn't get Santa to pay for it.

I apologize to anyone I left out of "The Ambulance Report", or the "Car" report. If I missed you, let me know, and I'll make it up to you.

Best, *Hal Schlegel*

A note from Nita Volz ..... Could you please put a notice in the next newsletter? If people are interested in having an annual for the 2009 season, I will need to get pictures from the events. **I need pictures from events for 2009 in order to see if there is enough to do an annual.** If I do, I plan to incorporate some of 2008 that hasn't been done, in addition to 2009. So... **Pictures Needed.** If you could send a CD or DVD, that would be great. The address is Nita Volz, 22427 N Mt Carlton Rd, Mead WA 99021. Questions? Call me at 509-238-4717 or email me at [mtlady96@yahoo.com](mailto:mtlady96@yahoo.com)

The note has been posted. Now it's up to you photographers to get your super shots off to Nita.

Also received this interesting bit from Nita.....Thought this might be a fun tidbit for a newsletter. I got this from Kath Shuman, Billy's wife. Frankie had talked to Billy on the phone too about it. He was pretty jacked about it.

**PIECE OF HISTORY** - Today Billy will become the last person to ever drive on the 1/4 mile at Manzanita Speedway! He knows the new owner (John Baker's - from TRP day - brother) so, arrangements were made for Billy to run some test laps today. Yesterday, Billy spent the day blading the track, running all of the large equipment himself, smoothing the surface down. Years running the race track in Macon, GA came in handy and he enjoyed the challenge of preparing the dirt racing surface once again although, with less attention to detail, as he will be the only car on track today.



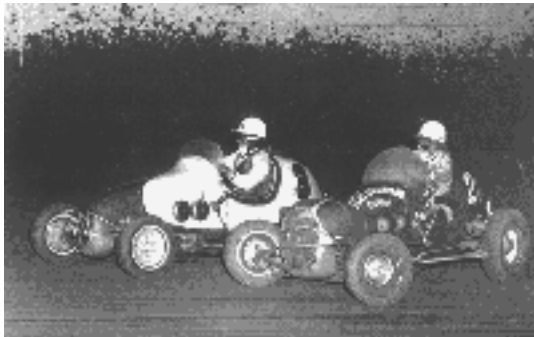
The photo is of Billy's car – the one built for him in 1970 and still running today including the original motor ... four plus decades later back on the same track for a final spin. Photos will be taken and they have offered buckets of dirt ... silly, however, we have tons of racers wishing they had a piece of history and one of them suggested the dirt, a new project began! Woo hoo Billy ..... go safely Kath

P.S. YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Finally, the motor in the race ran perfectly..... our past three events have been a disaster with one problem after another even forcing Billy to park the car at times. Now, after many labor hours, diagnostics each day, effort by all and of course \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ we have finally made the turn. And it's official, he was the last at Manzanita.

A Thank You! to Nita, Kath and Billy for this interesting bit of info.

OK, it's not an exact copy and it's just one page, but if you go to <http://www.goldenwheels.org/> on your computer you can check out the start of our new website thanks to the hard work of John and Kristine Kaylor and James Read.

## Welcome to the Golden Wheels Website



Do the terms, Vintage Open Wheel & Oval Track Racing, stir an interest in you?

Do cars such as Midgets, Sprints, Champ Cars, Modified & Track Roadsters, whether homemade in a backyard garage or fabricated in the shops of skilled craftsmen like Conner, Day, Kurtis, Solar, Vollstedt or Watson, bring to mind the thrills of fierce competition?



Does the scent of Methanol & Caster Oil in the air, combined with the pitch of a well tuned V-8, Offy, HAL or Samco engine cause your own RPM's to increase?

Do recollections of warm summer afternoons or evenings spent at the Seattle Speedbowl, Playland, Sea-Tac, Jantzen Beach, Yakima or perhaps Sky Valley, cheering for your favorite driver bring back fond memories?



Do the names Anthony, Collier, Day, Fanning, Heath, McLees, Norman, Opperman, Pollard, Spalding, Sutton, Templeman, or Turner recall the excitement of watching these daredevils pit their skills against each other and many more in fierce competition?

Are you interested in reliving many of these thrills? Or, perhaps you are too young to have witnessed them firsthand, but would still like to experience a taste of them today?

If any of these questions evoked a smile, a nod or a resounding yes from you, then Welcome Home! You have found the Golden Wheels Fraternity.

While some pages of the new Golden Wheels web site are set for viewing, there are more awaiting corrections and information before having the links activated. From what I have heard there will be a huge photo section along with links to many other vintage associations. Sounds like there will be plenty of vintage history 'stuff' to keep one occupied.

Again, a big thanks to John, Kristine and Jim for all of their volunteered work and time.

**Birthdays** – Starting the New Year with a New Year, our January birthday celebrators are: Hal Schlegel, Howard Welch, Dave Craver, Warren Kindle, Gary Berg, Don Samuelson, Bill Blackwell, Allen Follett, Harold Braff and Rayford Hiatt.

**Birthdays** – February Birthday Cakes were scheduled to show up for: Joyce Turner, Delores Randall, Gerry McLees, Sam Rodriguez, Richard Norton, Dan Robinson, James Read and 'Butch' Duren.

**Birthdays!!!** With Best Wishes To All for Many, Many More!!



**What: Golden Wheels Inspection/Auction/Benefit/Car Show**  
**When: Sunday, April 25, 2010 --10am - 4pm/Auction @ Noon**  
**Where: The Plant Farm - 16622 Twin Lakes Ave, Arlington, WA**

Our **Sandblasters, Inc.** sponsored **Inspection and Car Show** is set for Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, which means .....it's time, fellas. Yeah it's still a couple of months away, but it's time to get the wrenches turning, the polishing rags out and the check sheets ready. Thanks to the hard work of Warren Kindle and his **SandBlasters, Inc.** crew this event just seems to get better and bigger every year. The Plant Farm is an excellent venue with lots of room, easy access, a place for the ladies to look around and plenty of other stores and shops in the area. Let's help Warren make 2010 the best year ever.

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.

It doesn't have wheels, but it did go fast. Dan Blair's latest project. Built by Larry Erickson, Dan has restored it to racing condition but it won't go in the water. That's Larry (lt) and Dan in the photo.



A couple of vintage shots from the Jim Chini Collection. Roy Vincent on the left, and Vern Bruce on the right. No notation on the track, but from the background and comparison to other photos, I believe it is the Langley, BC track. If I am wrong I am counting on the history buffs like Brian Pratt to set the record straight.



**DUES - LAST CHANCE** 2010 Dues are now past due. I will soon be getting the new 2010 membership list from our treasurer Gary Berg. If your name is not it, you will be dropped from the mailing list and this will be your last newsletter. So, if you are among the few that has yet to remit your 2010 dues, fill out the Membership slip on the next page and get it off ASAP.

For those that have never made a Sunday Breakfast, here a re a couple of shots showing how Hal Schlegel has decorated the room with Golden Wheels related photos. A great idea well done.



We are saddened to learn that member George “Cokey” Williams passed away last August. Also, Mary Templeman, widow of Shorty Templeman passed away Jan18, 2010 at age 88. At the time of her passing she was living in North Bend, WA.

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of Mary and Cokey. May they Rest In Peace.

We once had lights marked “Stop” and “Go”,  
 And folks who said, “That’s much to slow”,  
 Are on the freeways, row by row  
 With still the same old “Stop” and “Go”.

- Pike Green

Until the next time, enjoy the life, get ready for the coming season and in your travels remember to always .....Keep Your Wheels Down!!

A couple of vintage shots from the Jim Chini Collection. Roy Vincent on the left, and Vern Bruce on the right. No notation on the track, but from the background and comparison to other photos, I believe it is the Langley, BC track. If I am wrong I am counting on the history buffs like Brian Pratt to set the record straight.



**DUES - LAST CHANCE** 2010 Dues are now past due. I will soon be getting the new 2010 membership list from our treasurer Gary Berg. If your name is not it, you will be dropped from the mailing list and this will be your last newsletter. So, if you are among the few that has yet to remit your 2010 dues, fill out the Membership slip on the next page and get it off ASAP.

For those that have never made a Sunday Breakfast, here a re a couple of shots showing how Hal Schlegel has decorated the room with Golden Wheels related photos. A great idea well done.



We are saddened to learn that member George “Cokey” Williams passed away last August. Also, Mary Templeman, widow of Shorty Templeman passed away Jan18, 2010 at age 88. At the time of her passing she was living in North Bend, WA.

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of Mary and Cokey. May they Rest In Peace.

We once had lights marked “Stop” and “Go”,  
 And folks who said, “That’s much to slow”,  
 Are on the freeways, row by row  
 With still the same old “Stop” and “Go”.

- Pike Green

Until the next time, enjoy the life, get ready for the coming season and in your travels remember to always .....Keep Your Wheels Down!!