

GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Issue #4 – 2010

Welcome. My apologies for the delay in getting this issue out. The demise of my computer, and the time with out one and the problems of getting the new one to work with some of the older equipment, put a significant dent in my planned time schedule. Hopefully the problems have been solved for a long time period into the future.

President's Column:

Where's the year going? I can't believe it's the middle of August already, and over ½ of the racing year is behind us. The year has had it's ups and downs, with Jerry Day's accident, and lots of attrition in our car ranks, but much of it has been a resounding success.

Along those lines, in my last column we were preparing for our annual static show at The Shoreline Historical Museum. We had a fine turnout of cars, and one Dan Blair outboard hydro (No mules attended). The highlight of the show was certainly the showing of the Earl Heroux films of classic racing in the Northwest in 1949 and 50. Rare footage of Aurora Speedway, Athletic Park, Yakima, Jantzen Beach, SeaTac Speedway, Natatorium Park etc. along with the heroes of our past, and one past and present hero.

Who's the past and current hero I'm referring to? Did you receive your copy of Vintage Oval Magazine this week as I did? There on the cover, in the upper left hand corner is none other than our own Mel Anthony, in his beautiful #12 Kurtis Offy. The photo was taken at our annual visit to Stateline Speedway, Idaho, May 7th. And 8th. If your heart isn't already bursting with pride, now turn to page 42 of VOR for a picture of 27 cars lined up between turns 3 and 4 at Ephrata Raceway Park, on June 11th. And 12th. It would have been 28, but member Brenda Jarrett arrived just a few minutes too late to make the picture, being delayed at the sign-in shack. In my humble opinion, the picture is so impressive that it should have been the cover--being far superior to the one they used. Be still my beating heart!!!, or maybe that's the pacemaker on overdrive.

Here's an update on Jerry Day. Dave Craver and I have been assisting Jerry for the last 3 or 4 weeks, fixing all the various things damaged during his accident at Stateline. Last weeks work session began with Jerry no longer needing to wear his neck brace. While still needing to wear the body brace, he is able to turn out a pretty good day's work, though it tires him. Maybe the most heartening thing is his ability to give orders!!! No mistaking that his miracle recovery is coming along well. And the '76-1, Day-Opperman sprinter is back together, and would have been at Yakima this weekend, if not for some surgery for Sylvia Day.

On the hospital front, I must report that member Al Slinker of Enterprise, OR has recently undergone multiple bi-pass surgery following a heart attack. We hope you're doing well with your recovery Al, and we will see you back at the track soon.

And for those that haven't heard, our dear friend and member Warren Kindle of Sandblasters Inc. has suffered another stroke. Warren is currently recovering in the rehab unit of Northwest Hospital here in Seattle, Rm. 705. Visitors are welcome for short visits, and cards would certainly be appreciated. I have visited Warren a couple times, and he is very upbeat about his recovery, expecting to be released from the hospital sooner rather than later.

In my own case, the new front covers for my HAL engines have been cast and are currently at the machine shop. I'm told I should have them back in the next couple weeks. It's been a tough

year, sitting out and watching everyone else have all the fun, as this process began in January. It would have been a complete loss if not for Tom Hannah offering me the ride in his beautiful "Lucky Lady 8Ball" sprinter at Ephrata. I'd driven Tom's old 8Ball, and I can attest that there is no comparison, as he now has himself a real piece.

We had a tidy 4 car turnout at Port Angeles over the 4th. Of July weekend, but put on a very good show for the fans.

On August 7th., several intrepid members including myself with the #14 Solar, Bob Scott and his #2 CAE sprint car and the Golden Wheels club car, along with Dave Craver with the #76 RAM sprinter, and Daryl Hedman with his Bardahl champ car, and certainly the hit of the show; Dan Blair and his solar project, car, attended the renewed Hotrod Arama in Tacoma. All went extremely well, with a huge crowd to view the estimated 400-500 cars, until the afternoon, when the rains came. And boy, did it rain. That found the intrepid five huddled under one 10x10 popup for the remainder of the day. The future of this great show is unsure, as the lower parking lot, which has housed a large portion of the show cars has apparently been sold. We will report more when we know what their plans are.

Yesterday, I returned home from our second trip to the ½ mile at Yakima. No car, so I towed the club quad over to push. It didn't run, and so goes my year. An excellent turnout of sprints and midgets put on a very spirited show for the fans. I hope someone took notes, and will write up a recap of the event, as it was a good one.

In closing, we have picked a date and place for our annual awards banquet. It will be held on Saturday, October 16th. At 125th. St. Grill, at 12255 Aurora Ave. No. (Hwy.99) Seattle, WA. So please leave that date open. A registration form and menu will be found later in this newsletter. Please remember to collect your auction items, as proceeds from our annual auction are a major fund raiser for the club. *Hal*

Thanks to Anita Volz for once again providing her great reports of our events.

100 Sage & Sun weekend sees large field of vintage racers

June 11-12, 2010 Ephrata Raceway Park, Ephrata WA - by Nita Volz - photo by J Davitt

Those attending the annual Sage & Sun Races were treated to a field of 27 open wheel racecars representing 4 decades of circle track racing. Members of Golden Wheels Racing Fraternity and West Coast Vintage Racers were joined by the Intermountain Sprint Cars out of Boise ID. It took awhile to get all of these racecars onto the racetrack for a group photo shoot. It was worth it. (Ed. Note- photo at end of story)

For midget lovers it's great to see the midget field increasing after struggling for more than a few years. Dan Blair, Des Moines WA, was out for the first time this year in his 1947 Merritt Grouix, powered by a V8-60. Hal Schlegel brought his beautiful HAL-powered Solar midget for show only as it's only power at this time is Hal and he can't push fast enough. Hal is waiting for a front cover for this rare engine. For some it was the first time meeting Brenda Jarrett, Spanaway WA, one of Golden Wheels' 2009 Rookies of the Year. Lenora is happy to see another female on track. Janis Day, another of our Lady drivers had to spectate as she is still waiting for her engine to be ready. I think I saw her sneaking a ride or two on play day.

Bob Scott brought his 4-day wonder only he changed his number to 57. He said that the car is a Heinz 57 vintage so he thought the number should match! Joe Davitt, Spokane WA, had a part failure that parked him for the weekend. Never fun. Don Cook also continued his disagreement with his car that started at the StateLine event. Always a treat is the #7 of Clark Geffe, Eatonville WA. This beautiful 1948 Hillegas continues to campaign as it did originally. The car has an extensive history and still retains the original owner's name on the frame. Clark was also Golden Wheels' Rookie of the Year in 2009. It was

good to see the #22 Edmunds of Harold Braff, Salem OR. This beauty is powered by a SESCO. The midgets have the greatest diversity when it comes to body & Engine types. Each era had a dominant player when it came to power plants.

Out for the first time this year in the sprints were the #1A of Alan Frame, the #49 of Dan Robinson, Portland OR, and the #76 of Daryl Hedman, driven by Dave Craver, SeaTac WA. Traveling to the show from Boise ID, representing Intermountain Vintage Sprint Cars were #4 driven by Danny Lyon, #7 driven by Alan Lane, #20 driven by Eldon Sailor, #31 driven by Don Newman, #56 driven by Jack Choate, and the #72 driven by Steve Lorange.

Hal Schlegel didn't say no when Tom Hanna offered the 8 Ball for the day. Hal had driven the old 8 Ball and so was able to compare the two rides. No comparison. He had a great time running the new one.

Fast action for the evening started with the midget dash. Dan Blair set the pace heading into the green with the #22 SESCO on the outside. Following them were B McMurtry in the #28 and M Anthony in the #12. Asking Harold Braff why the #22 exited early, I learned that the car would not stay in gear when he would "jump on it" to run with the #28. The #28 had to exit early with problems of it's own. Blair and Anthony ran for the checkered, unaware that no one was following them!

Ralph Monhay in the 1963 Monhay modified set the pace but Dick Nelson in his new #28 and Hal Schlegel in the 8 Ball of Hanna/Price both got by to take first and second. Monhay had to settle for third followed by Eldon Sailor in the #20.

At intermission cars were pushed to the front stretch so the fans could come down and get a closer look. This is always a popular time for fans to get autographs from their favorite drivers and sit in these beautiful machines.

Monhay got his revenge in the first heat when he was first to the checkered followed by Butch Duren in the #45 Webbe roadster, Nelson, Schlegel and Alan Frame in the #1A. Jack Choate in the #56 Hank Henry sprinter was in second until he tried a small 360, sitting out the remainder of the race in the infield.

In the second sprint heat Don Kudrna, Othello WA in the #00 of Bob Pike held the lead after a yellow was thrown for the spinning of #76 of Dave Craver. The #96 of Frankie Volz and #31 driven by Danny Lyons were unable to close the gap, finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively. They in turn were followed by Craver and #72 of Steve Lorange.

In the midget main event, Lenora McMurtry had a little more excitement than she bargained for when the throttle stuck on the #11. She did just the right thing, spinning the car to the infield. Good move Lenora. The #28 of B McMurtry again exited early, this time with the left bank putting on an early fireworks display. Extremely hot, it even melted a part of the upholstery. Not good. It was Brenda Jarrett that reached the checkered first, followed by #57 B Scott, #12 M Anthony, and the #7 of C Geffe.

In the sprint main, Danny Lyons in the #4 Peat Bros T and Frankie Volz in the #96 had a great time swapping the lead. It was Lyons that prevailed in the end followed by Volz, Craver, Nelson, Choate, Newman, Duren, Sailor, Lane and Schlegel. Although Schlegel took the checkered, Alan Frame had completed his laps first so beat Hal to 10th finishing position even though he had exited the event. Others leaving early were M Price, Monhay, Kudrna and Lorange. What a show these guys put on for the fans.

Golden Wheels and West Coast Vintage Racers will return to Ephrata later in the season for their "Topless" Weekend, Labor Day weekend. I'm sure after seeing this race, word-of-mouth will bring out more fans for that event. Thanks once again to the Wittes for another great weekend.

Once again, a big thanks to all involved in setting up the cars at Ephrata Raceway Park for the great photo by Joe Davitt. We should all have a wall sized print to hang in a prized location in our house or shop.



Line up for on track photo....

Ir front row: Midgets #28 Don Cook; #1 Dan Blair; #7 Clark Geffe; #11 Lenora McMurtry; #12 Mel Anthony; #14 Hal Schlegel; #22 Harold Braff; #28 Brian McMurtry; #32 Joe Davitt; #57 Bob Scott; #97 Harry Whitman.

Middle row: #00 Bob Pike; #1A Alan Frame; 8 Ball Hanna/Price; #28 Dick Nelson; #96 Frankie Volz Sr; #49 Dan Robinson; #33 Ralph Monhay; #21 Hanna/Price; #45 Butch Duren; #76 Dave Craver.

Rear row: Intermountain Sprint Cars - #4 Don Newman; #7 Alan Lane; #20 Eldon Sailor; #31 Danny Lyons; #56 Jack Choate; #72 Steve Lorange.

Here are a couple more shots from the Ephrata Raceway Park outing.....

Ralph Monhay in his 1963 Monhay Modified.... and.... Mel Anthony in his Scio #12 Kurtis Midget



A pair of beauties worthy of gracing any race track in the countryOr world!!!

Our condolences and prayers go out to Golden Wheels Hall of Fame member Rolla Vollstedt on the loss of his wife Irene on July 31st, after a lengthy illness.

I also received notice last month of the passing of Reg Midgley on June 25th. Midgley, 77, for decades was the track promoter and announcer for Western Speedway. He also owned and promoted Port Angeles Speedway for more than a decade.

Rest in Peace, Irene and Reg.

Birthday Celebrations for July - August!!!

Fire Cracker July Best Birthday Wishes went to; Shelly Berg, Gail McClure, Janie Choate, Lenora McMurtry, Deanna Dalgarno, Teresa Craver, Jerry Day, Glenn Nickell, Perry Ashworth, Daryl Hedman, Thomas Welch, Don Cook, Jr., Delmar McClure, John Gregg, Sanford Bray, Jr., Murray Ferris, Brian McMurtry, Stu Donaldson, Dave Imrie, Randy DuBois and Don Henry.

Our August Honorees, who are graduating up to another year are: Barbara Belala, Brenda Jarrett, Mel Anthony, Ralph Zbarsky, Jack Corley, George Todd, Dan Blair, Joe Winkler, Butch Dennison, John Ross, Art Waller, L.D. 'Dud' Burnett, Harold Kammerzell, Jr. and Jack Goffette.
Best Wishes to ALL for many, many more. Happy Birthday!!

New Member - Please welcome new member Jan Werfhorst of Edgewood, WA. While a new member, Jan has provided Golden Wheels with photos in the past. Welcome Jan!!!

Want to see some great video clips of Mel Anthony on track and doing it right? Take a trip to Aussie friend Brian Darby's web site at <http://www.vintagespeedway.com/VideoClips.html> and get some track time with Mel and many others. Brian has a very interesting web site with many interesting and entertaining links from his main page located at <http://www.vintagespeedway.com/index.html>. It's one of those "go back to 'n' see what's new" places.

Mel also was mentioned & quoted in the August 22nd edition of the Seattle Times in a story about the Seattle Speed Bowl. I do believe one of the photos used has been printed in a prior Golden Wheels newsletter. Go to http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/pacificnw/2012595207_pacificpdorp22.html and if it is still online you can read the story and see the photos.

There's a great racing history clip at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_r5hY49jLM. You'll see many faces you recognize including the Northwest's Shorty Templeman. It's on You Tube with many more good clips available for viewing. The link was provided by a member of the Racing History Group, Yahoo Groups. Many Golden Wheels members belong to Racing History and <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/RacingHistory/> is where you can find more info on the group.

A request for information has been received from member Virginia Latta Curulla - RACING WHEELS NEWSLETTERS FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 1967 are needed. I am looking for an account of the WARA Golden Anniversary Awards Banquet for January 21, 1967 at the Country Kitchen in Bellevue. Betty Gardiner remembers writing a report of the banquet, but wasn't able to search for the newsletter that might contain it when I spoke with her last December.

The invitation states that Guests of Honor would be auto racing's "Old-timers", which I expect included my dad, Charles W. Latta, since he had an invitation. Mario Bianchi's son, John, remembers attending with his father, but doesn't recall any details. Perhaps other old timers like Jimmy Parsons and Fred Barsby also were there. I have a snapshot from the 50s that I think shows Parsons and Barsby. I haven't found this WARA banquet reported in Seattle or eastside newspapers at that time. I'd be happy to purchase the pertinent newsletters if anyone can find them. Thanks a lot!
Virginia Latta Curulla - 425 643 0309

The event season is not over yet, and our upcoming events list read like this: September 3-4 - On Track Exhibition Ephrata Raceway Park - Ephrata, WA, ¼ Mile Pavement. September 11 - Static Show PGVAC - Arlington Drag Reunion & Car Show Arlington, WA. September 17-18 - On Track Exhibition South Sound Speedway - Tenino, WA ¾ Mile Pavement. October 8-9 - On Track Exhibition Willamette Speedway - Lebanon, OR ¼ Mile Dirt.

Oh, don't forget*Keep Your Wheels Down!!!*

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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

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

Available Again - **Harry Stryker Offy Engine Rebuild Manual**. Price is \$85.00 Shipping included! - **Again Available** Mike Stryker, 15574 Space Murals Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88011 575-571-1390 Email - mstryker58@gmail.com.

For Sale? Wanted? Trade? Need Info? --- Put your ad here.
It worked for Eric Lieder, Jim Edwards and Dick Fredell! -- It could work for you!
Try it. You might Like it!

2010 Banquet Reservation

Golden Wheels - 2010 Annual Banquet - Golden Wheels

Saturday, October 16, 2010
125th St. Grill - 12255 Aurora Ave. No. (Hwy.99) Seattle, WA

Prime Rib of Beef or Grilled Alaska Halibut
Classic Caesar Salad - Seasonal Fruit pie with Vanilla ice cream
Price of each meal is \$31.00
18% gratuity included.

Name (Please Print) _____
Grilled Halibut ()
Prime Rib ()
x\$31 = \$ _____

Please complete and return to Golden Wheels as soon as possible so that we may inform the 125th Street Grill of the expected attendance in a timely manner.
Thank you.

Mail to: Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133