

# GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY  
*Auto Racing Pathfinders*



Issue #6 – 2010

*SEASON'S GREETINGS !!!* I hope you all had very wonderful Thanksgiving with gatherings of Family and Friends for Wonderful Dinners, too many Great Desserts, a Nog or two and some great story telling. And, I hope you get to do it all over again in the upcoming Christmas and New Years Holidays.

It's been a good year, so let's take 2010 out in style starting with our.....

**President's Column:** Well, it's December, and with Christmas just around the corner, you might think that racing and club activities are just a memory. But that is not the case. For all practical purposes, our season ended at Lebanon, OR's Willamette Valley Speedway dirt track. An interesting weekend, Jack Snyder (WCVR) has written an excellent recap, included this month.

We've recently completed our annual awards banquet, and the feedback was that everyone attending had an enjoyable evening. The food was good, and several had positive comments about the facility; Robb's 125th. St Grill. Please read Nita Volz's great banquet report later in the newsletter.

For some, even if you're not spending the winter thrashing on your racecar, there is much to do, especially looking forward to next year's activities. A good example; Brian McMurtry and I, along with Marv Price and Rich Gentes of WCVR, attended the annual WARPA meeting on November 20th.

This year's meeting appeared to have the highest attendance of track promoters and traveling series of any I have attended. This, in spite of the difficult economic times. There were nothing but positive presentations as everyone was looking ahead to better times for the upcoming season, with higher car counts.

Of course, one of the major reasons we attend WARPA, aside from the obvious opportunity to make a presentation promoting Golden Wheels Fraternity, is that's when the series sit down with the promoters and schedule the following year's events. While Frankie Volz and Marv Price had done much advance work on a schedule, I can report that we came out of WARPA with a full schedule for next year. I'm thrilled to be able to give you a complete schedule this early, so that you can begin making plans for the 2011 season. A very pleasant surprise for the coming year, is a return to the Wenatchee Valley Super Oval after many years absence. Marv and I met with the new promoter for Wenatchee, who was very anxious to have GW and WCVR return. The best news about returning to Wenatchee, is that it takes the place of our annual return to Ephrata Raceway Park on Labor Day weekend. The Witte's have decided not to operate on Labor Day, and this keeps our event an easy drive to Banks Lake, where we annually spend several days camped at Banks following the event. If you haven't joined us for this chance to rest and relax, please plan to join us next year. There are too many activities at Banks to list them all, but just a few are; the annual visit to the world's greatest power producer, Grand Coulee Dam, the annual party barge and board meeting and excursion on the lake, hosted by yours truly, and the annual golf shootout, about which I will say very little.

## **Golden Wheels & West Coast Vintage Racers 2011 On-Track Schedule \*Dirt**

May 6-7	Stateline Speedway-Post Falls, ID
May 20-21	Meridian Speedway-Meridian, ID
June 10-11	Ephrata Raceway Park-Ephrata, WA
June 24-25	Cottage Grove Speedway-Cottage Grove, OR*
July 1-2	Coos Bay Speedway-Coos Bay, OR*
July 15-16	Meridian Speedway-Meridian, ID (Sprint car invitational with USAC)

July 22-23 Douglas County Speedway-Roseburg, OR (Art Pollard Memorial)  
 August 12-13 Yakima Speedway-Yakima, WA  
 August 26-27 Grays Harbor Speedway-Elma, WA (tentative)\*  
 September 1-2 Wenatchee Valley Super Oval-East Wenatchee, WA  
 September 5 Grays Harbor Speedway-Elma, WA (tentative)\*  
 September 16-17 South Sound Speedway, Tenino, WA  
 October A possible return to Willamette Valley Speedway-Lebanon, OR\*

You'll note that static shows are not included in the schedule yet. It's a sure bet that the annual Shoreline Historical Museum show will not be held this year, due to the loss of the museum site, but here's a news flash: At Tuesday dinner last night, Warren Kindle announced that the annual Sandblaster's, Golden Wheels, inspection and car show will be held again on Sunday, April 24th. At The Plan Farm. It is wonderful news that Warren is feeling well enough to again host our largest and longest running show starting off the year. So polish up your car or cars, and plan to attend, get the annual safety check done on your car, and just have a great day bench racing.

Speaking of "safety checks", Golden Wheels, WCVR and WCVRSW have new rules for 2011. Plans are to get sets into the hands of all car owners and drivers before the start of the season. It will be required that they be read, understood and signed prior to participation. I hope to have a printable set on the GW web site, but in the mean time contact me and I will get a set to you.

And last, but not least, please find a ballot to vote on officers and board members for the coming year, along with a membership renewal form later in the newsletter. A perfect opportunity to vote and renew, and you only have to make one mailing!!!

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Hal*

John & Barbara Nelson



Jack & Janie Choate



Jim & Donna Read



Jim & Joanne Edwards



Some of the Happy Attendees of the 2010 Golden Wheels Banquet

***A Year of Special Awards - Golden Wheels Racing Fraternity Banquet***

*October 16, 2010 - Seattle WA*

*Story by Nita Volz, photos by George Hesper and Teresa Craver*

*While all awards are special, Golden Wheels had some that might have been considered unusual, or just a little out of the ordinary for the 2010 season. Before I go into the awards themselves, a little background information is needed.*

*You might wonder how a Rookie of the Year award in a vintage racing organization is chosen. When racing competitively, the rookie of the year was always the one that had the most outstanding season or finished highest in season's points. Many organizations didn't recognize experience from other associations, and so an individual might earn this award from more than one organization during their racing career.*

*In vintage racing, our events are considered as "spirited exhibitions". No points are earned. There are no season champions. All of our participants are champions. The title of "Rookie" is earned during the first season that an individual joins our Golden Wheels on-track fun and it is intended that all receive recognition for their commitment. Some of our rookies have never before received such recognition.*

You might notice that in the prior paragraph, I indicated that it is "intended" that all rookies receive recognition. One of the issues of a "Vintage" organization is that many of the minds are vintage as well. Sometimes a senior moment stretches into years which led to our most delayed rookie awards.

In 2007 Janis Day and hubby Paul (no relation to Jerry), Plains MT, premiered their "new" car, the #35 Solar Midget previously owned by Backwoods Racing. Paul and his family had a racing history in the Sky Valley area. They fit in so naturally with our members that they somehow skipped over the rookie phase. Not fair to them and we hope they have fun washing the egg off our faces. Congratulations to Janis and Paul Day who earned co-rookie awards for the 2007 season. I'm sure it will be a long time, if ever, before another couple can earn that award.

When 87 year old Mel Anthony received his Rookie of the Year award, he was the oldest member to have received this honor. He had to share the podium with Jim Calhoun, a mere "pup" of 72. Harry Whitman, Hayden ID was unable to attend but also received his rookie award.

The Hard Luck award went to Brian McMurtry. No surprises there. He had hoped for 2010 to be a year of fun in his car on the racetrack. Instead he spent way too much time under the car in the pits. The problem has since been found so he's looking forward to 2011.....and hopefully NOT receiving the award two years in a row.

Kim Hendrickson and Mike Long received an appreciation award for all of their contributions to our events. Thank you Kim and Mike.

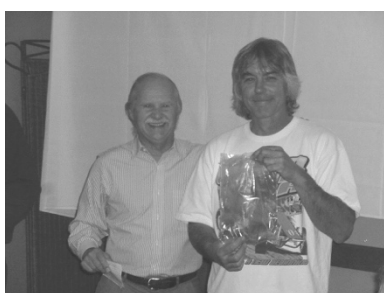
The Golden Lady award was presented with honor by GW President Hal Schlegel to Vicki Stiles. Vicki is the director of the Shoreline Historical Museum and a longtime supporter of Golden Wheels. The annual static display of club cars at the museum is one of the most spectacular of our shows. There were a few years where the annual banquet was held at the museum, thanks to Vicki's cooperation. The honor for Vicki was bitter sweet as the museum has lost its home to make way for "progress". If you never had the chance to view the museum, you missed a gem. The fact that the museum was housed in an old schoolhouse made it even more special.

Brian McMurtry

(Wo)Men of the Year

Vicki Westberg

Hal Schlegel



The Missing Hard Luck Award

Lenora McMurtry & Anita Volz

Art Waller

Dave "Hammer" Craver

The Man of the Year award also fell into the unique category as, for the first time ever with Golden Wheels, it was not awarded to a man. Receiving the honor for 2010 were the team of Lenora McMurtry and yours truly, Nita Volz. I think it's a strong message that they want us to continue providing the food for our events. The honor is appreciated. For Lenora it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that she has received this honor as it was 2008, I believe, when she received the award from West Coast Vintage Racers. There is a perpetual trophy that will be shared during 2011. Lenora and I both share the privilege of this honor with our husbands. Lenora's husband Bob, who now races on the golden tracks, was a forever supporter of Golden Wheels. I always called him the Welcome Wagon of Golden Wheels for he was that and more.

*After the awards ceremony, attendees were once again treated to the Jerry and Frankie show, off track. Jerry is our official auctioneer and shows no mercy when it comes to separating people from their money. Frankie is his sidekick and these two have almost as much fun together off-track as on. This year*

*it was the cowboy and the hippy as Frankie ties his locks back, to keep them out of his face. A donation to locks of love drives him to not get a haircut for another 10 months. I hope it doesn't mean a larger helmet size! Money raised at the auction goes to support events and Golden Wheels' philanthropic mission.*



Lenora McMurtry & Dick Nelson



Golden Lady - Vicki Stiles



Mel Anthony "Rookies" Jim Calhoun

*Door prizes for all, great food and a chance to do a little bench racing. It can't get any better than that. Everyone left in great spirits, ready to start again.*

*Thanks to all for their part in making 2010 another great year for not only Golden Wheels but their partner, West Coast Vintage Racers. The partnership will continue into 2011.*

Thanks Anita. Another good report, as usual. Next up is the Jack Snyder report mentioned earlier by Hal.

### **Willamette Speedway - Lebanon, Oregon - Friday, October 8th, 2010**

After many messages between the four participating groups (Golden Wheels, Northwest Vintage Speedsters, West Coast Vintage Racers, Willamette Speedway) concerning an incoming rain storm, the sun broke out around noon on Friday allowing a 4 hour play/practice session.

You've heard the expression, "We drove the wheels off them," The # 721 Speedster driven by Chris Woolf, and Don Cook's # 28 V-8 60 midget driven by Dave Imrie, actually were driven until a wheel came off, luckily, they both were able to get to their pit area with no serious damage.

Other Speedsters in attendance were the # 56 driven by Jamie Woolf, # 87 driven by Don Lauinger and the # 419 driven by Lennia Machen and Jack Snyder. Don Lauinger was enthusiastically boasting about his new high compression cylinder head and down draft carburetor, however, when the rain started they washed out all of Saturday's exhibitions delaying Don's challenge to the Woolf racing team's mighty "T's".

Vintage track roadsters were represented by # 2, an original steel 27 "T" V-8 Mercury Flathead owned and driven by Portland's John Fuller and # 102, John Steves 23"T" 350 Oldsmobile from the Redding CA area.

There were 5 Vintage Midgets to drool over. Don and Ruby Shervy brought their ex Harry Stryker # 10 Kurtis Kraft Offy and Lenora McMurtry drove her familiar # 11 KK Offy. A rare thought just struck this writer. If Mel Anthony had showed up, we would have 3 KK Offy midgets, numbered 10, 11, and 12! Maybe next year! When all three compete in a trophy dash, that will be a Chris Economacki level news story. The #22 SESCO Chevy owned and driven by Harold Braff had very equal lap times with Jim Callhoun in his Ford Mustang powered Midget.

Six Vintage Sprints cars took to the clay on Friday, Most all were pushed by our very own push truck driver extraordinaire Kim Hendrickson. Kim has pushed vintage race cars thousands of times. THANKS KIM!

Numerically, Jim Williams, towed his beautiful white/red # 4J car from CA. Marve Price enjoyed drifting the Hanna/ Price Yellow # 8 car sideways most of the time. Del McClure had Rich Gents in his black 6 cylinder "Poor man's Offy" #25. Dick Nelson and Lenora McMurtry took turns sliding, with Dick

sometimes spinning, Dick's robin egg blue #28 sprinter. Bob Farwell came down from Salem to drive his white/black #57 "Big Car," Jerry Day had Rich Gents in the famous "Jan Opperman" black #76. The #76 has a for sale sign on it. Please contact Jerry for details. 425-228-5676-H 425-306-8283-Cell

Special thanks goes to Steve Stewart and Don Gainer for taking over the flagging duties so Jack could enjoy driving his 1926 "Rat Rod" taking turns with daughter Lennia Machen and other Northwest Vintage Speedsters.

More thanks to Lenora, Lennia, Bev and Lynn, for Friday nite's enchilada dinner served in the parking area, on a flat bed trailer with "Table Cloths" Wow!

About 9:00 Friday evening the expected rainstorm arrived setting up a Saturday morning date with the Willamette Speedway Case tractor for those folks that chose to camp in the infield pits. For the folks that have not experienced this phenomenon, when race track clay soaks up a rain storm it turns wet "slick" to the point where even walking is difficult.

Some folks have said, "Why write a story on a race car play day?" I guess the answer to this question is, all 17 car owners and their support crews exclaimed, WE HAD A FUN DAY! *Jack*

Reprinted by permission of Jack Snyder-WCVR

Thanks, Jack. Sounds like a day we all should have taken in.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We have some more new members for you to add to your rosters. Please welcome: Glen & Ruth Hadeen, 7143 Oat Coles Road, Everson, WA 98247 and Robert Johnson, 10440 SE 194<sup>th</sup> Place, Renton, WA 98055. Welcome to Golden Wheels!! "We Hope You Enjoy The Ride".

They were brought into the club by Ronald 'Bud' Melby. Thanks, Bud, and if any other members have friends that might be interested in Golden Wheels, please let a board member know. We'd be happy to send them and information packet on the club.

**BIRTHDAYS!!** Celebrating during Thanksgiving month were Barbara nelson, Vicki Westberg, Donna Read, Ross Fontes, Marvin Price, Chuck Harring, Al Slinker, Dale Warren, Frederick Pierce and Don Shervey.

Yule month celebrants included Deanna Williams, Hershel McGriff, Art Day, John Wood, Jr., John Nelson, Jim Edwards, Jack Kuehn, Erick Lieder and Ron Dunn. Best Wishes to All ! May you have many more!

The **Golden Wheels Web Site** is going through some more changes. First off is the site address is now - [www.goldenwheels.org](http://www.goldenwheels.org). The old [www.goldenwheelsfraternity.com](http://www.goldenwheelsfraternity.com) address is gone and won't even get you back to the pits for help. Please purge it from your bookmarks.

Now that you know where to go, check out the great work that John and Kris Kaylor, daughter and son-in-law of Jim & Donna Read, have done to set the new system in place. Currently John is taking some time off for some health problems, but word at the Sunday Breakfast from Jim was he will soon be back at it with a lot of new info and photos to post. Check out the info already posted, including photos old and new that many of you may be seeing for the first time.

Treasurer Gary Berg informed the breakfast attendees that our annual donation of \$500 to the Sunshine Children's Home has been made for 2011. Donations also were made to the fund set up to help critically injured driver Jeff Russel (\$300) and to Hopelink Food Bank (\$200).

**Reminders.....** A 2011 Dues and Ballot sheet is enclosed. Please return as soon as possible. Ballots need to be received by January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the January Sunday Breakfast to be counted. Ballots and Dues sheets will be separated prior to counting at the breakfast. Apologies from the officers for our lateness this year. Thanks for understanding.

Best Wishes to all of our members and their families for a GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON! And as you make your Holiday Rounds, please, don't forget to .....*Keep Your Runners Down!!!*

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**For Sale:** Rail Frame Midget. Early 97c.i. Offy #213. Franklin Steering, Hilborn Injection, Halibrand rear end, 12" Halibrand Wheels. 25K **Brian McMurtry** 425 350-0999

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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

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Some of the 2010 Banquet crowd enjoying the night.



Frankie & Jim ..... and the pile begins to grow.

