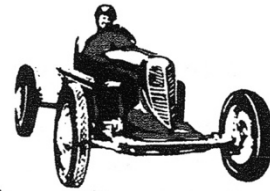


GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Museum Pieces In Action

Issue #3 – 2020

President's Message: I know it's been a while since we've produced a newsletter. There are a number of reasons for this: There is a pandemic, which has had the effect of eliminating all of the club related events we would normally have participated in this year. Not the least of which is the ability to get together and enjoy each other's company. At this writing, nothing has changed, and the recent news is not encouraging that things will change in the near future. Another reason is newsletters are expensive to produce, and I have a hard time devoting club money to telling you what you already know, and that I don't have any positive news to pass along. With that said, I recently read a post from member Mike Adkins on the Golden Wheels Face Book page that did a much better job of describing this year than I could ever do. I was so impressed, that I asked Mike if he would be a "Guest Columnist" and allow us to use his post in this newsletter. Of course he agreed, so here it is:

“Who'da thunk it? Just (and it seems like a year) 7 months ago several of us were all wound up and excited the winter was gone and the scheduled Golden Wheels Dynamic and Static shows were about to begin. The memories of the 2019 static shows in Shoreline and the dynamic displays at Deming Speedway and the Skagit Speedway World of Outlaws had carried us through the winter.

A few of us were moments away from dropping the trailer tongue onto the ball hitch and heading to Elma Washington for the first show of the year; 12th Annual Elma Auto Racing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Silent Auction and Race Car Display on the 14th of March. The invite was from Rick Leighty in conjunction with the new sole Grays Harbor Raceway promoter Bert Johnson. This was to be the marrying of the old with the new and a stage for community and race participants to gather in an effort to help each other for the upcoming season.

One consideration was a parade of race cars from town ending at the Fairgrounds pavilion with Police escort. Golden Wheels would be the center piece of the enclosed car show for the fund raiser that EARHoF had planned for their induction process.

Then with little or no factual information coming about the Covid-19, Rick Leighty and the board made the right and tough decision to cancel the event in the best interest of the age group of all the attending members. I am sure the decision was difficult after so much planning had gone into it but looking back, there really was no question.

We do not know what 2021 will bring, but it is safe to say we have collectively skinned our knees, promoters, racers, and spectators alike. Lessons have been learned that will provide us with some insight into how to safely continue doing what we love and enjoy doing and we will, for sure, be in the game for 2021. So keep polishing that beauty and maybe even fire it up even once in a while so when the call does come; We will be ready.”

Now, a little bit more that has happened since I first sat down to do this newsletter in **October**. Yes, I said October!

First, I would like to thank Mike for the great column he contributed. And, if you're not already following Mike's Facebook page, you should. It's titled "Sprint Fast, Catch Us If You Can". It will entertain you with some of Mike's great stories and keep you up to date on what's going on in the local racing scene, especially regarding sprint car racing.

Next, I need to tell the membership that Gary Berg has given up his job as the club's treasurer. I have become the temporary treasurer until we have elections and can come up with someone who will be as honest and hard working as Gary has been in the job. Further, Gary will no longer store and maintain the club car. I have stepped in there too, as I have picked up the car from Gary at his storage unit and currently am storing the car in my minimum sized carport. Not to worry, it's safe and dry. Anyone who would like to relieve me of this duty should note that the car must be maintained and is a mainstay at any and all static shows that the club participates in, which means; you get to tow it and show it.

Along the same lines, Jerry Robertson has moved, and will be unable to continue on as our membership chairman. So, there is another position that must be filled, especially with member renewals coming up. I know there were some instances last year of people not getting their membership cards after submitting their dues. I hope we can avoid that again this year. Please bear with us while we figure out who will fulfill that position in the future.

The year is coming to a close much faster than I ever imagined, but not fast enough for me. The next newsletter you receive will be in the new year. At that time dues will be due, and because it's been two years since the current officers were elected, there will be a ballot included for all positions, officers and board members.

Now I must tell you some very sad news that I just confirmed. J.C. Nelson, son of the late John Nelson, and honorary lifetime member Barbara Nelson, passed away suddenly on Friday December 11th. after a brief fight with

cancer. I spoke with Barbara today, and this, coupled with the situation faced by being trapped by the corona virus has been more than tough on her as you can imagine. I'm sure after things settle down a bit for Barbara, she would enjoy hearing from some of her old friends from Golden Wheels. John and Barbara were mainstays in this club for many, many years. When I have more details, I will pass them along.

Remember we currently have no secretary and no treasurer. It will also be an opportunity to throw out the guy who has been the president of this club for what seems like about a half a century. Aren't elections fun!!!!!!

In closing, Kay and I want to wish each and every one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. It has to get better! *Hal*

NOTES: As we all know, 2020 threw everything into an unexpected mess. Since there were no events throughout the season, there basically was no news to report, and Hal has covered the important information in his Prez Report. Hopefully we will have a lot to report in 2021, and I thought a trip down memory lane would be interesting. Digging through the archives, I found the newsletter from Dec. 1995 and thought everyone might enjoy a 25 year look back in time. Included are 5 pages (the Want Ads page is omitted). To make room the, Want Ad and Advertiser pages in this issue were cut. I will have the full 1995 issue posted on the Golden Wheels web site and I am posting our advertisers there also.

BIRTHDAYS!! ---- BIRTHDAYS!! ---- We have a lot of catching up on Birthday Best Wishes and will start with August celebrants Ralph Zbarsky, L.D.'Dud' Burnett, Arthur Waller, Dan Blair, Mike Adkins, Joe Winkler and Jack Corley. In September Ruth Hesper and Joanne Edwards had the month to themselves. October saw Sharon Osborn-Ryan, Bob Scott, Brian Pratt and Richard Phillips blowing out the candles. November birthdays greetings went to Barbara Nelson, Vicki Westberg, Lynn Beckett and William Bowers. Closing out the year and opening presents twice are the December celebrants Hershel McGriff, Jim Edwards, John Wood Jr., Jack Kuehn, Rich Leighty and Dave Sweeny. **Happy Birthday to All and Best Wishes for the coming year!**

It is that time of the year again. DUES are due. Please fill out and return the membership renewal form below. As Hal mentioned, Jerry Robertson is no longer doing the membership work so it will probably take a bit longer for Hal & I to get your cards out to you.

With the holiday season upon us, increased traffic, fewer daylight hours, looking at holiday light displays and maybe singing along with the radio could be extra reasons to be watchful while on the Hi-Ways and By-Ways, so please be careful while out and about, and always remember to*Keep Your Wheels Down!!*

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year”

“PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! ----- THANK YOU!!”

Golden Wheels - 2021 Membership / Renewal - Golden Wheels
Please Print

Name _____ Spouse/SO Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Birth Month(s) _____

Email/Web Address _____

Member-\$30 Spouse/Significant Other-\$10 Amount Enclosed _____ (US \$)

Brief Profile (owner, driver, crew, fan, etc) or change from last year. _____

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Seasons Greetings



December 1995

HAPPY HOLIDAYS --- Hey, it was a great November Breakfast with 30 hale, hearty and happy folks filling a major portion of the Plaza Broiler the morning of the 12th. The food (at least the breakfast I had) was great, the service good and the bench racing was--- well, lets just say you had an advantage if you wore your boots.

Important things that came up included - 1996 dues are due January 1st. The date for the 1996 Golden Wheels Banquet has been set for March 9th, 1996, again at the Yankee Diner in 'Yah Shur Yu Betcha' Ballard. For the banquet, we need DOOR PRIZES. Start collecting your contributions now. Also, if there is someone in Golden Wheels that you believe would be a worthy receipt of an award this year, please let John Nelson know before February 1st.



Nominations for 1996 officers is open. If you wish to nominate anyone, or, wish to nominate yourself, please contact John Nelson. A motion was made at the last meeting that if no new nominations come in, the same slate of officers will serve in 1996. Make your wishes known.

It was also voted in at the November meeting that in 1996 we will print ads in the news letter. The ads will be business card size and will run at a cost of \$25 a year. The proceeds of the ad income (100%) will go to the Jan Opperman fund through Dick Bergeren at Open Wheel Magazine. The fund is the only income that Jan's parents have, and caring for Jan has become quite a burden for them. If you have, or know of someone who has a business that could be of service to our membership, this is a chance to advertise that business. Business cards and \$25 can be sent to the secretary.



DON'T FORGET- - The December Breakfast will be Sunday the 10th at the Plaza Broiler in 175th. And bring some canned food for Northwest Harvest to the breakfast. We (I) forgot to mention it last month, so the hat was passed and a \$100 check sent to NW Harvest.

Had a call from Frank Voltz to inform me that after 9 years of work he was about 2 weeks from having his machine running. He also mentioned that former member Joe Felice was almost finished getting his car running also. (to pg. 2 plz)

During the conversation Frank mentioned he had a lot of documentation of the history of his car. This put the idea in my mind of having a featured member car each month. Sooo---- If you own a car that is capable (or nearly so) of orbiting the infield of a race track, provide me with the history, stats, etc. of the car and I will do a little "Featurette" of a different car each month.



This information will also go into a file that can be used at our exhibitions when your car is running.

Going to fill most of this letter with a recap of 1995 provided by Dan Blair, our race director. -----

Just a recap of the year from your coordinator of exhibition events. The Golden Wheels cars ran on 4 dirt and 5 paved tracks for a total of 10 events.

Our first exhibition was April 22nd in Ephrata, WA on a nice quarter mile paved track. Our car count was small, but those of us who showed up had fun with ample track time. The team of Todd and Todd seemed to be the class of the show with their Chev sprinter.

On May 7th, our program was at Spanaway for a Sunday afternoon show. Again we were short on cars, but most everyone had a good time. Especially Joe Rinard, after driving Jack Benson's Hal midget for the first time.

May 27th the Golden Wheels were off to the Elma 3/8 mile dirt track for the first appearance in 10 years or so. They treated us well with all the track time we wanted and pitted us right next to the staging area. Even supplied us with our own push Jeep. Gary Peterson brought his newest big car up from Oregon, only to have carburetion problems.

In hot laps I was able to pull up next to John Moser and through his full face helmet, covered with clay, I could see a big grin. Tell me he wasn't having fun. Or, was he just gritting his teeth waiting for the radiator hose to blow off his little tea kettle? Our long distance hauler was Buck Bowers towing their new Chev sprinter up from Cassel, CA.


On June 24th, our little group of cars journeyed to Port Angeles for another day show. The local news paper had a nice half page article with a full color picture of Joe Mash, his car, Joe's life as a racer and our club in general. After an exciting afternoon of running on a paved tight quarter with long straights, the pit boss wanted to line our cars up on the front straight before the crowd came down to the pits. Talking with the promoter as we were loading up, he mentioned that normally his parking lot was emptied 20 minutes after the race was over. Now, an hour later we still had most of the crowd looking at our cars and talking with our Golden Wheels members, each one asking how fast will it go and how much is it worth.

June 30th, arriving late at Monroe, as I signed the sign in sheet the lady said "So you're Dan Blair. We've been looking for you all afternoon" the person I made arrangements with for that date had left their association with out ever telling them about our coming that night. So, here they are with their mid-season championship, pits full of cars, a curfew, and a strange group of antique cars begin to show up from as far away as California. Unlike our friends of AARA in Chico, we are not the show. We only go as invited guests to put on a few exhibitions laps and have our own fun. As it turned out, we were able to get about 20 or 25 laps in.

(next page, if you will)



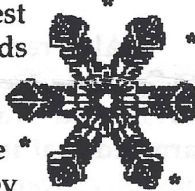
* * July 1st some of our group traveled to Western Speedway's 4/10 paved oval in Victoria, BC. Walt James and Frank Roberts made their annual trek north and I understand Ron Vincent drove the Al Coutts car. Also, Barney Moore made the trip, coming up from Portland, OR.



* Skagit Speedway asked our group to join them on July 15th at their track after an absence of about 5 or 6 years. Our cars were in a Rod & Custom Car Show in the afternoon, where Bob McMurtry won "Best Competition Car", and then we put on a few exhibition laps that evening. I wasn't able to attend so I sent my car up with Glen Schlaitzer and his pit crew.

My understanding is the track was rather rough and every once in a while a slick spot would jump right out in front of someone with out notice. Jack Conner drove Jimmy Collier's roadster and Jack Benson showed up with two cars, the big and little Hal. Just like old times, huh Jack?

August 11th & 12th we journeyed to Oregon for our two greatest shows on dirt, Lebanon and Cottage Grove, where we meet our friends from California for a Golden Wheels show. Two quarter mile tracks with asphalt smooth dirt. Only 12 cars showed up, down from 27 in years past. With two smooth dirt tracks, good friends, an appreciative crowd, promoters generous with track time and a big dinner put on by our lovely ladies after the races, well friends, it just doesn't get any better than that.



Who attended? California had Mike Mosekian (Chev II midget), Frank Prieto (midget), Dickey Reese (Offy midget), Ron Dunn (V8-60 midget), Lou Kleinau (Winfield OHV big car), Frank Roberts (Offy sprint), Howard Segur (Offy big car), Buck Bowers (Chev sprint), Myrna Grey (GMC roadster) and Walt James.


Oregon had Gary Peterson (Chev/Ford big car) and Doug Peterson (Chev II midget). British Columbia was represented by Ron Douglas (GMC sprint) and Ron Vincent and Idaho's man was Don Radbruch.

The Washington contingent included Bob McMurtry (Offy midget), Jack Conner (Chev II midget), Jack Moser (Offy midget & V8-60 midget), Jack Benson (Hal midget & Hal big car), Jim Gray (Studie big car), Joe Mash (Winfield big car), Dan Blair (Chev 4 big car), take a deep breath, and, John Nelson (Offy champ), Jimmy Collier (Chev sprint), Joe Rinard (Chev sprint), Al Todd (Chev sprint) and George Todd, Glen Schlaitzer and Ray Wearne.

Our exhibitions both nights were all real close. As you know, our format for this year has been staged races and most every one follows our rules pretty close. A little dicing back and forth, most every one seems to lead a lap or two and on the white flag our designated winner is close enough to the front that by the checkered he usually wins. Of course, we do have some lack of communications at times.

At Cottage Grove Ray Wearne put on his own personal demonstration in John Nelson's 255 Offy champ car. He just let the crowd hear how nice and wicked an Offy can sound for 3 or 4 laps under full control.

* * September 23rd was our annual picnic, which we held at Elma before the exhibition that evening. Bob and Lenora McMurtry supplied the main course and every one else brought salads and desserts. Again we had fun at Elma despite only 5 cars and a rough track. In our 10 lap main we had four different leaders, all of which are sure the could have won if only Ron Douglas hadn't showed up, as he was the designated winner. And, thanks to Jim Gray for the ride in his Studie big car. (over please)



Lenora McMurtry went up to the announcers booth to help the announcer with names and cars for our group. He said "Lady, you look like you know what you're doing", handed her the mike and walked out, leaving her petrified by her self. Lenora, you did a good job.

Let me thank all who supported our shows this year. ----- Dan Blair



Thanks for the recap, Dan. I hope I got it transferred to the newsletter with out any mistakes.

Just received a note from Herb Leason that the race car of the late Al Coutts is being put up for sale by his widow, Francis. John Nelson says this car was US built, so getting it back across the border with out duty should not be a big problem for a US purchaser. See more on the car in the For Sale page.

Also received a note from Jeanne Norman that old timer Adolph Danz is in the Spokane area. Mr. Danz, who was also called Dans in the media, drove for Neely Burkitt and was the 1938 Pacific Northwest Big Car champ. A call to Bill Hill garnered that info along with the fact that Mr. Danz, in his 90's, is in failing health. As soon as I can get

an address, I will pass it along so that those that care to may send off a card of good wishes. An appropriate thing for the season I would believe.

A note about Skagit Speedway for those of you that may not have yet heard the news. On November 18th the offer to purchase the track by Fred Brownfield was rejected. Three stockholders voted against the sale, leaving those in favor short of a majority by 1/3 of a share. Needless to say, this has disappointed a great many people, yours truly included.

Several people have inquired as to the future of the track, what is Fred Brownfield going to do and what is my future there. I will no longer be associated with Skagit Speedway as an employee of any sort. I have chosen to stay with Brownfield Promotions, Inc., who will still run the Wild Northwest Tour with the World of Outlaws in 1996, and there is a possibility of the formation of a NW touring group. I may now be able to make it to several more of the Golden Wheels gatherings, and have the opportunity to shoot some photos and see some racing at other tracks in 1996. As I get more info on the future of sprint car racing in the NW, I will pass it on for those that are interested. The board wishes to thank Brownfield Promotions, Inc., for providing the printing of the newsletter for the past year. That is the type of thing that opens up more funds to further our purpose as a group.

FILLER FROM THE FILES: Now, just because it's the Holiday Season, and everyone is busy with Christmas, don't forget those other beings with a birthday this month. As a son and grandson of mine say, "Hey, I didn't ask to be born next to Christmas." Yeah, but the kid made a nice tax deduction for the whole year. Soo, OK, Birthday People, line up for roll call. In no special order you with December births (in case you forgot), are as follows; hazel Benson, Mike Patterson, Dick Manny, Chet Guernsey, Hershel McGriff, John Nelson, Jim Edwards and Erick F. Lieder. Alright now, altogether, deeeep breath---and blooww. (next page)

Seasons Greetings

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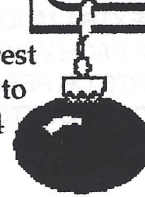


A reminder that this is your news letter and if you have information, news or something you think would be of interest to the members, send it along. Send either to Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 84762, Seattle, WA 98134 or to me, George R. Hespe, 2601 117th Dr. NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258, ph. (206) 334-5763.

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Remember, this Sunday, Dec. 10th the gathering will start between 9:00-9:30 am at the Plaza Broiler, located just east of old 99 on 175th in north Seattle. Don't forget the canned goods. Not everyone is as fortunate as we are.

Until later, 'Keep Your ~~XXXX~~ Runners Down'. It's safer that way.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

And A Racey

1996

To All





P. O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133
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*Incorporated
 October 20, 1975
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Golden Wheels Fraternity

*Preserving The
 Golden Age of Motorsports*

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 George Hespe - (President Appointment)

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The Object of Golden Wheels Fraternity
 Encourage the preservation of vintage auto racing.
 Promote and advance the interest of said Fraternity.
 Honor those auto racers who are no longer with us.
 Join in fellowship and camaraderie.
 Collectively render such financial assistance as possible
 to worthy distressed auto racers, ex-racers, their widows,
 orphans and accepted humanitarian associations.

For information on Golden Wheels
 contact us at:
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**In Memory
 of
 Jan Opperman
 and
 Silent Members
 of Golden Wheels
 Fraternity**

anonymous