

GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Issue #1 – 2026

President's Message: It's about time to bring everyone up to date on what's been happening in Golden Wheels.

July 11th. Remember this date!

I want to talk about the upcoming event; The Driver's Reunion Night at Evergreen Speedway. In the last newsletter I described last year's event that we participated in. We were also invited to attend the planning session for this year's event which is happening on July 11th. This year's event honoring all those who race at Evergreen will give out two major awards. And both "Awards of Excellence" will go to two Golden Wheels members. First to the late Loren Day, whose long history with Sky Valley and Evergreen go back years. And next to our HOF racer, car builder and everything racing, Jerry Day, for his long contribution to NW racing. As I write this, it looks like Jerry will be supported by having the #76 sprint car he built for Jan Opperman on display, and if all works out I will be bringing the only midget Jerry ever built to display. The midget is currently being restored by Mike Evens, and hope is that it will be done in time. It was my dream to have the Rainger Roadster Jerry built there, but as previously reported, it suffered much damage in Dave Craver's shop fire. Loren Day will be represented by his beautiful Sky Valley Modified. Other GW members have committed to bringing their cars, and a recent addition will be the Art Waller roadster, now owned by the Shoreline Historical Museum. Sprint cars, midgets, modifieds, and roadsters. What better way to show the current crop of racers the cars they descended from.

The event also features Ray Townsend's, and fellow collector's memorabilia collections which are second to none. You have to see it to fully appreciate the extent of this collection.

If you plan to take part in this event, it is imperative that you attend the next breakfast on June 13th. to finalize all our plans with Ray Townsend, as this will be the last time we get together before the event.

I hope you all will come out and support this event, the most important event on the GW calendar this year. We had a ball there last year, and this promises to be even bigger.

Since our last newsletter, our membership has been increasing incrementally. For those of you that haven't heard, my partner on the board of the Shoreline Historical Museum, Barry Hansen has joined Golden Wheels. Barry's background is in computers, an area that some of us are not great with. And Barry really knows his stuff. If you've looked at our WEB site lately, Barry has taken that over and made many improvements that are really paying off. He's found a way to move from our previous provider, who was charging us an outrageous amount, to one that we can easily afford. We can't thank Barry enough for what he is bringing to the club. BTY, I mentioned that Barry was my partner on the board of the museum. This changed this spring, as I retired as the longest tendered member of the board, going back some 15 years. With the museum bringing in a new director, I felt it was time to let the new guy have the freedom to start fresh, hopefully with a board with new young faces unlike mine

at this advanced age. Also joining us, with his vast history and knowledge of racing is Arlie Lazore. Arlie has been around club racing activities for some time, has a long history of racing in the NW. and some time ago moved back here from his home in southern California. It's great to have Arlie back in the fold, and we look forward to his lending his knowledge to those who need expert help with their projects. Finally, most recently, we were joined by Bill and Audrey Beavert. If that name sounds familiar, Bill is the son of longtime racer Bud Beavert. Bill also brings an extensive racing background with him and we look forward to Bill adding his expertise to our endeavors.

Earlier this year, I received a note from one Kathy Marquard. As it turned out, Kathy is the daughter in law of the late club member Chuck Harring. She had found a GW roster, and wondered if we would be interested in having Chuck's collection. Knowing Chuck for many years, of course I said "you bet". Chuck had a very long history with racing in the NW. His grandfather was the track super at Aurora Speedway. His father built the fence there. Chuck's racing went back to Sky Valley, and later Monroe, mostly in modifieds. In later years he ran his midget with us in Golden Wheels for several years. Chuck was a photographer. And I mean that. He could be found at any racing facility with his camera, and he was good. All this is to say that I had great expectations for what that collection included. Well after telling Kathy to send it to my house, a few days later, five boxes marked "Caution Heavy" landed at my front door. The postman who delivered them commented on how heavy they were and he wasn't kidding. I dragged them in the house, which took up a large part of my tiny living room. I was thinking what had I gotten myself into. Well, two days later I went outside and found another 4 boxes of equal size on my sidewalk. Added them to the earlier boxes, now totaling 9 (heavy boxes). I had one more contact with Kathy, where she said there was a little more. Three more boxes!!! It turns out that Chuck was an avid collector of everything car. Boxes and boxes of books. And treasures for the GW library of programs from local tracks going back many years. And, photos. Albums of photos. Thousands of photos. We've had a couple of members come over after breakfast meetings, and have waded through some of this stuff. I have spent several hours digging out what the club wants, and what can help others in their pursuit of history. Someday, I expect to get my living room back.

Speaking of Jerry Day. Jerry was recently honored by the Elma Auto Racing Hall of Fame. This event is a big deal, and goes back many years. Elma has a very rich history in NW racing with a Hall second to none. Jerry was also chosen as the main speaker, but that was shortened by a failure of the sound system. But that didn't matter, as GW members Jim Edwards, Dave and Teresa Craver and Kay and I were there to celebrate this great honor with Jerry. Congratulations Jerry for this much deserved honor.

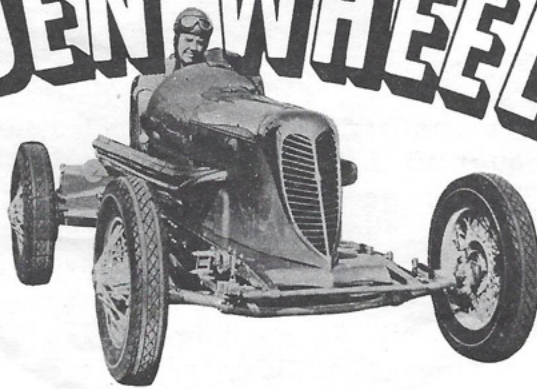
See you on July 11th.? *Hal*

Thanks for bringing us up to date Hal. It sounds like the gathering at Evergreen Speedway is going to be a lot of fun and I hope we have a good turnout for the event. I know Ray Townsend has put a lot of time and effort into it and I am looking forward to seeing all of the memorabilia he will have on display.

Just a little reminder ---- If you have not renewed and paid your 2026 Dues, Please do so soon. Thank You!

I was not sure as I start this issue, on what to use as filler since we have not had any events since last year's show at the Shoreline Historical Museum event. I decided to go into the Golden Wheels collection of memorabilia. One of the articles that I found was my copy of the first issue of the Golden Wheels Newsletter put out by Pike Green. I know it has been used some time in the past but don't remember how far back. Thought it might be nice to be reminded of our beginnings. To fill space, I have inserted small photos at the bottom of the pages. They were not on the original newsletter.

GOLDEN WHEELS



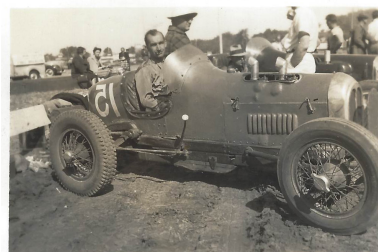
Dec. 28, 1975
Vol. I, Issue #1

DEAR MEMBERS:

Here is the first of our club newsletters. Since the initial membership response has been much greater than anticipated by this time, it has become apparent that we must issue a bi-monthly newsletter in addition to our coverage in Racing Wheels.

At this moment, our newest member is none other than the Indy 500's venerable flagman, Pat Vidan. Pat sent a nice letter along with his application and sends his best regards to you all. Fittingly, Pat has been issued #500 in the club roster. In addition to Pat, we also extend a hearty welcome to new members: BOB WILLINGHAM, Bothell, WA. JIM RAPER, Deming, WA. FRED ROBERTS (in memory), KENNY JACOBSON, Portland, OR. GEORGE MILLER, Forest Grove, OR. HAROLD KAMMERZELL, Troutdale, OR. J. LESTER BLACK, Portland, OR. GERALD PATTISON, Seattle, WA. KEITH HACKENDORF, Bothell, WA. THANE CARPENTER, Seattle, WA. JUNE DALBY, Seattle, WA. MARY ANNE LAMBERT, Seattle, WA. MAX BURR, Puyallup, WA. DALE EVANS, Federal Way, WA. MIKE DIVINEY, Mt. Clemens, MI. JOHN WADKINS, Auburn, WA. JOHN COOPER, Seattle, WA. JOHNNY WRIGHT, Victoria, B.C. RICHARD DOWNES, Larkspur, CA. BILL RAMFAY, Seattle, WA. DON BOOK, Kent, WA. ALVA ROSS, Orem, UT. DUTCH OTTENBACHER, Auburn, WA. BOB COUTTS, Portland, OR. ADOLPH DANS, Palm Desert, CA. PETE OVERLAND, Auburn, WA. JOE WEBBY, Black Diamond, WA. DON WALKER, Palmer, WA. ELMER WEBBY, Sumner, WA. GENE WEBBY, Phoenix, AZ. DON HANCOCK, Redmond, WA. BOB MECUM, Seattle, WA. ARLYN WOLANSKI, Federal Way, WA. FLOYD ANDERSON, Sumner, WA. LESTER STARK, Santa Rosa, CA. FRANK BENHAM, Seattle, WA. JIM HENDRICKS, Sumner, WA. and BERT FLAKE, Tacoma, WA. We have also added

(end lap 1)



lap 2

two more silent members; Don Olds and Art Pollard. A complete list of all charter members will appear in the January 14 issue of Racing Wheels.

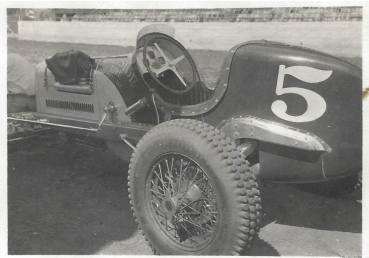
BANQUET: Don't put off getting your banquet tickets. Do it NOW. The banquet will be held on February 28, 1976 at the Moose Hall, 222 Mercer St., Seattle. Social hour will begin at 6:30 P.M., BYOB. We will enjoy a Baron of Beef dinner at 8:00, followed by the awards presentations, a check presentation ceremony to the US CRY ranch, represented by Jan Opperman, then dancing for people of all ages until 1:00 A.M. Advance tickets are available to members and your guests exclusively until January 24. After January 24, ticket sales will be open to the public. All ticket sales will end on February 14. No tickets will be sold at the door. For tickets, mail \$9.00 per person to: TICKETS, Box 864, Seahurst, WA. 98062. Two free tickets will be awarded to the person sponsoring the most new members. One free ticket will be awarded the 2nd place sponsor.

WANT ADS: Each issue of our newsletter will have space reserved for those members who wish to either buy or sell any items related to auto racing. The service is free on a one time basis.

BREAKFAST: Our next Sunday breakfast get-together has been scheduled for January 18, 1976 in SAMBOS, 4th South and Michigan, Seattle, at 10.30 A.M. where we hope to discuss as little business as possible, leaving more time for lie telling etc. We hope this date will not conflict with your plans to attend the W.R.A. party on January 17. (I plan to be at the W.R.A. party myself).

PHOTOS: If you like the idea of having a different race car reproduced in each issue of the newsletter, as presented on the adjoining page, please let me know when you send for your banquet tickets and we will continue the practice. Otherwise, it is an added expense that we can easily do without. We have an ample supply of photos for this purpose. However, if you have a favorite photo you would like to see in the newsletter, send it in accompanied by enough postage to cover the return mailing. (Any type of car, old or new, but black and white pix only).

(end lap 2)



lap 3

LOCAL CHAPTERS: We are still looking for volunteers to organize Golden Wheels chapters in other local areas. The remarkable growth of Golden Wheels, especially in western Washington, indicates that we have struck a responsive chord among auto race enthusiasts. And why not? We take no sides in any issue other than those designed to infringe on our right to enjoy the normal pursuit of our sport. We have bridged the generation gap between young and old racers where we have found that very little has changed in racing throughout the years. Socially, we are having a lot of fun. And last, but by no means least, we are the only organization actively supporting a humanitarian cause begun by one of our own people, who has been going it alone up to now on simple Faith and Trust.

Happy New Year to all.

Vaya con Dios, mi amigos

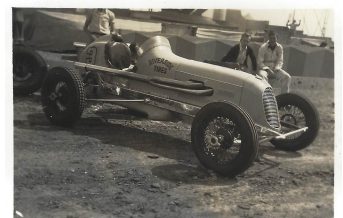
Pike
CHECKER

¹²
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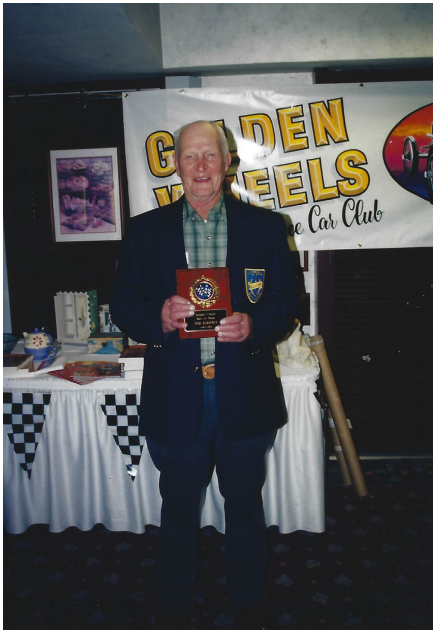


FIRST CLASS

115
GEORGE R. HESPE
5629 61st Dr N.E.
Marysville, WA
98270



I thought a little color was needed so I scanned off these photos from the Golden Wheels 2000 Banquet. The first photo is of Bob Simpson receiving his Hall of Fame award. I do not know what awards were being presented in the other photos, or if Mr. Day received one..



Hope you enjoy the newsletter. Problems trying to figure out some update changes to the old word program I have were a bit of a problem and I'm still having problems finding information on the computer since being hacked. Being old, forgetful and slow solving problems probably doesn't help either.

BIRTHDAYS!! – The last newsletter covered birthdays through the month of March this year. Starting off this year will be our April celebrant Arlie Lazore. In May, George Hespe is the lone celebrant. In June Naomi Cruikshank and Ramon Cruikshank will be partying to celebrate another lap around the sun. July is a bit busier with Teresa Craver, Jerry Day, Rick Leighty, Del McClure, Donelle McMurtry and Brian McMurtry possibly celebrating with fireworks. We will start with August in our next newsletter.

Happy Birthday to All and Very Best Wishes for the coming year!

Don't Forget Breakfast: The next **Saturday Morning Breakfast at Shay's in Shoreline will be June 13th**. Meeting starts at 9:00 am but you can come early and stay late if you so wish. Hope to see you there.

As I grow older I am finding it is much easier to follow Racing Wheels owner Gary Sterner's sign off on his editor's collum..... "Until next time**Keep Your Wheels Down!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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Golden Wheels - 2026 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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Golden Wheels Fraternity

*Preserving The
Golden Age of Motorsports*

2025 Officers
Pres: Hal Schlegel
Vice-Pres: Brian McMurtry

Board Members
Frank Volz - Jerry Day
Dave Graver - Bob Scott
George Hesse - (President Appointment)

PO Box 33832, Seattle, WA 98133

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:
Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 33832, Seattle, WA 98133
Golden Wheels Auto Racing Pathfinders on Facebook
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**In Memory
of
Jan Opperman
and
Silent Members
of Golden Wheels
Fraternity**

anonymous