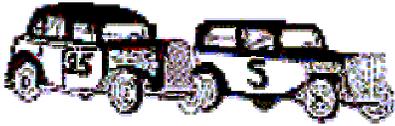


# MAINE VINTAGE RACE CAR ASSOCIATION



## NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 6

May/June 2004

**From the President's desk:**

### The Loss of a Legend

The Maine racing community and race fans everywhere lost a true racing legend on Sunday, July 25th. Dick Garrett passed away of complications from recent surgery.

Dick traveled to Maine from his home in Ormond Beach, Florida in early January to attend the first-ever Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies at the Augusta Civic Center.

legends were to be the first members of the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame and Dick Garrett was one of the twelve inductees.

The determination Dick displayed on the race track those many years ago was present on Hall of Fame night. Age, polio as a youngster, a broken hip several years ago and several other ailments had had its toll.

continued to page 4

### Maine Racing Legend Dick Garrett Passes Away

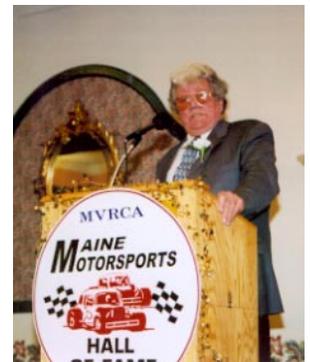
Maine racing legend Dick Garrett passed away on Sunday, July 25th, at the age of 74 of complications from recent surgery. He was in the Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, Florida at the time of his death.

In a racing career, which began on Memorial Day weekend in 1949 when Beech Ridge Speedway in Scarborough held its very first race, Dick won ten track championships and several hundred races. Three of his six championships at Beech Ridge were won in the first



three years of the track's existence, 1949 - 1951.

In 1950, Dick was voted one of the top ten drivers in the United States based on points for race victories and second place finishes. In addition to his championships at Beech Ridge, Dick won track championships in 1950 at Lewiston Fairgrounds, Sanford Speedway, Dover (New Hampshire) Speedway and



### Inside this issue:

* "The Loss of a Legend"	1 & 4	* "Dick Garrett 1929 - 2004" Photos	3
* "Maine Racing Legend Dick Garrett Passes Away"	1 & 2	* MVRCA Schedule of Events	3
* "Excerpts from Dick Garrett's Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech"	2	* "Cookout...Cruise Night"	4
		* Classifieds Ads	4

For information about joining the MVRCA, visit [www.mainevintageracecars.com](http://www.mainevintageracecars.com).

## “Racing Legend Dick Garrett...” continued from page 1

continued on page 2  
West Peabody (Massachusetts) Speedway.

He retired to Florida following the 1972 racing season. The retirement lasted only three years as Dick returned to racing, winning races at several tracks in Florida.

Off the track, Dick overcame the limitations of being handicapped, having been stricken with polio as a young boy which required him to wear a brace on his left leg. Dick was an auto mechanic and for many years, he was an automotive instructor at Southern Maine

A former President and member of the Board of Directors of the Maine State Stock Car Racing Association and a member of the Beech Ridge Speedway Hall of Fame, Dick was a member of the inaugural group of twelve racing legends who were inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame on January 3, 2004.

Dick is survived by daughter Linda Ferguson of Lyman, Maine; sons Michael of Wells, Maine and Rex of China Grove, North Carolina; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### Excerpts from Dick Garrett’s Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech

“I am so humble about this...my heart is thumping inside.”

“Fifty-six years ago, 12 men and 12 boys got together in an old rod and gun club in Scarborough, about this time of year - got together, formed an association and wrote a rulebook. JB was building a track. JB was a man, I was a boy. He said he was 29...I knew he was 40. I was 18 years old.”

“We had a dream - both of us did. Jim’s dream was to build a race track for people who built race cars and families to come and watch and enjoy. When he sold that track to Cal Reynolds, his dream had come true.”

“I had a dream. As a kid, had polio and I was a survivor of that and limited on what I could do in any kind of active sport. Baseball, football, skiing, skating was not to be for me. But, I found that once I got my butt in the seat behind the steering wheel, I found over a period of time I was as good as any and better than some. That became my ultimate goal - win races and win championships.”

“We are talking firsts tonight. JB’s first track - THE first track in Maine. My first - I set the first track record in that ‘31 Cord...26 seconds. The first track championship and I did it by not winning a race! I couldn’t win race...imagine

“They’d call me ‘haybaler’. For awhile, they had haybales around the track and I’d get them every time”

“Guy Larkin had an old ‘41 Ford coupe painted red and white and the wheels were half red and half white. It was psychedelic going down the track. If you looked out the window while he was beside you - you’d throw up before you could get out.”

“Just before the feature, we’d line up behind JB’s concession stand and we’d eliminate. Poor JB, every spring he would have to replace that many boards (editor: about 3 feet) on that concession stand and he always thought the aroma was his coffee.”

“I’m so proud and so happy to be here, and I am glad I’m still able to be here and make it...Thank you again.”



#### Maine Vintage Race Car Association

51 Heath Lane - Auburn, Maine 04210  
Tel.: 207-784-9827 FAX: 207-782-3937  
E-mail: [MVRCA@mainevintageracecars.com](mailto:MVRCA@mainevintageracecars.com)

Visit our web site at:  
[www.mainevintageracecars.com](http://www.mainevintageracecars.com)

#### Maine Vintage Race Car Association

Bob Morris - President  
Bruce Elder - Vice-President  
Pam Conkwright - Secretary/Treasurer  
Board of Directors - Advisory Board

A Maine Non-Profit Organization

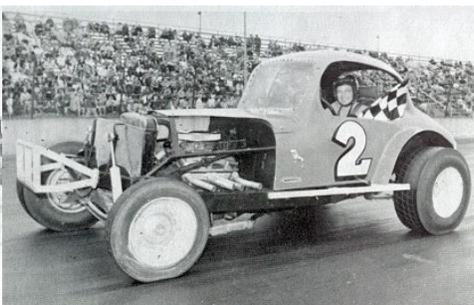
**Dick Garrett 1929 - 2004**



Left: Dick driving the #1Cord (background) on opening day at Beech Ridge - May 29, 1949. Right: Dick with the "#62" at Oxford Plains in the early 1950's.



The three pictures above were taken at Beech Ridge.



Left: Dick in the famed "#1" following Phil Libby in the "#99" at Beech Ridge in the early 1960's. Center and Right: Dick drove the 'Blue Deuce' at Beech Ridge, winning track championships in 1970 and 1972 and finishing second in 1972. The 'Blue Deuce' was the last race car Dick ever drove in Maine, retiring to Florida the following year.

**MVRCA Schedule of Events**

Date	Location	Type	Sanction
August 8	Beech Ridge Motor Speedway	Cookout	MVRCA
August 19	"Cruise Night" - Ainslies in Gardiner - 5:00 P.M. Rt. 201 - Gardiner-Brunswick Rd.	Display	MVRCA
August 21	Speedway 95	Display	MVRCA
January 7 - 9	17th Annual Northeast Motorsports Expo - Augusta, ME	Display	MVRCA
January 8	Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies - Augusta Civic Center	Dinner / Ceremonies	MVRCA

For more information about "A Year's Drive to the Hall II", visit [www.mainevintageracecars.com](http://www.mainevintageracecars.com).

## “The Loss of a Legend” cont. from page 1

Dick arrived at the civic center in a wheelchair but he was determined to walk from his table of honor up onto the stage to accept his induction into the Hall of Fame. With the aid of a trusty cane, the assistance of Mrs. Rita Darveau and the heart and determination of the champion he was, he walked up onto the stage and back to his table.

In his acceptance speech, Dick told all in attendance “I wasn’t going to miss this night.” He didn’t.

This issue of the MVRCA Newsletter is dedicated to the memory and life of Dick Garrett. In this newsletter are photographs of Dick from his very first race on May 29, 1949 to the early 1970’s when he drove the famed ‘Blue Deuce’ to the evening he was inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame. we have also included excerpts from Dick’s Hall of Fame acceptance speech.

Steve Pellerin, MVRCA member and restorer of vintage race cars, on hearing the sad news said it best in saluting Dick Garrett: “Go the outside, Dick - mash the gas and Godspeed my fiend.”

## Cookout...Cruise Night

There two important events over the next couple of weeks - the MVRCA second annual “Cookout” at Beech Ridge Motor Speedway on Sunday afternoon, August 8th, at 1:00 p.m. and “Cruise Night” at Ainslies in Gardiner on Thursday evening, August 19th, at 5:00 p.m..

The “Cookout” is open to everyone. Bring your vintage race car if you have one, your photo albums & scrapbooks, lawn chairs, your stories and your food. We'll cook the food! A fun time for all! Use the Holmes Road entrance.

As many as 200 cars attend “Cruise Nights” at Ainslies and the vintage race cars have been invited to attend. A special area has been designated for the vintage race

## Classified Ads

**WANTED:** Ford Pinto sheetmetal or an old Pinto Modified body. For restoration project. Contact: Michael Sweet, 1881 Nassau Street, Merrick, N.Y. 11566. Tel.: (585)738-9166 or sweetx99@optonline.net.

**FOR SALE:** Modified 1937 Plymouth coupe, Ed Flemke front suspension, wide 5 Quickchange rearend – contact Skip Bennington – Roanoke, Virginia 24014 – Tel.: 540-427-4916 (home) or 540-982-9861 (11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.) – Lmsc44@aol.com.

**WANTED:** I have 65 older Beech Ridge Speedway souvenir programs 1969 - 1977, that I would like to trade with some one else in exchange for missing copies we may each need for respective collections. Also, looking for Oxford Plains Speedway souvenir programs 1971 thru 1975. I'm a collector, not a reseller. Will also trade for older racing photos. Call Steve at: 207-839-8349 or spell41184@aol.com.

**FOR SALE:** Vintage Race Car (project) 1957 Chevrolet 2-door post (210) has full frame less rear differential & springs, have one '70 (?) Camaro clip, wide five front spindles & hubs, winters QC w/wide five hubs, & locker, set of good calipers, extra rotors, QC mounting brackets, coil springs, Saginaw 4 speed, fuel cell, aluminum seat, aluminum radiator, 196? full-size Chevy frame w/full cage Ford 9" rear w/ discs - ALL FOR \$2500. Contact Bob Foster for pictures by e-mail Bfoster@abcisp.net or 508-746-4999

## To Place a Classified Ad

Include name, address, phone number and e-mail address when submitting "For Sale" and "Wanted" classified ads - for office use. Include at least a phone number or e-mail address in all ads. Give a **brief** description of each item for sale in the ad. Notify the Maine Vintage Race Car Association when any item has been sold or bought as soon as possible. Accepting "For Sale" and "Wanted" classified ads by E-mail, by FAX and by U.S. Postal. See page 1 for MVRCA information. Ads are **FREE**.



P. O. Box 399 - Epping, N. H. 03042

1-888-722-3843 \* www.racevideo.com

Full Service Video Production  
VHS & DVD



2 Stone Street, Unit 51 - Augusta, Maine 04330  
Tel.: 1-800- 297-4823

COMPLETE SIGN SERVICE  
Magnetics - Banners - Wide Format - Vehicles

Join the MAINE VINTAGE RACE CAR ASSOCIATION - Membership: Individual - \$15./Couple - \$20.