

MAINE VINTAGE RACE CAR ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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August 2002

From the President's desk:

Early Delays, Ready to Move Forward Now

The symbolism between organizing and getting operational the Maine Vintage Race Car Association and an auto race at anyone of the race tracks which have dotted the state's landscape over the past 50-plus years has been strikingly similar.

The initial informational meeting held at the Augusta Civic Center on January 6, 2002 was like the start of a race. Excitement filled the room as everyone in attendance had visions of what the future may hold.

But, like any race where the pace is slowed by a caution flag or two, we have had more than our share of "slow downs". Before any organization, especially one requiring non-profit status, can do any business, paperwork must be filed with the Secretary of State's office here in Maine and the Internal Revenue Service.

From the first conversation with an attorney until the legal papers were received from the Secretary of State, over four months had lapsed. This was our red flag. Even with the Secretary of State granting "non-profit status" to the Maine

Vintage Race Car Association, there was still the matter of contacting the IRS for a Federal identification number in order for the association to open up the necessary banking accounts.

Our "race" was restarted the end of June and although we aren't "charging to the front", the association has been making steady (albeit slow) progress. But, then, races aren't won in the early laps.

The association has had displays at Oxford Plains Speedway (late June), Beech Ridge Motor Speedway (early July) and Unity Raceway in mid-August. Unfortunately, the scheduled appearance at Speedway 95 in June was rained out. In addition, Carol Day and Tom Kimball set up a membership table at Oxford Plains in mid-August.

Thanks of appreciation to Allen Brann, Steve Pellerin, Phil Libby, Lorraine and John Rice, Bobby Turner, Charlie Sheehan and Gene Carson for displaying their respective restored race

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cars at the various tracks. And, thanks are also extended to Carol Day and Tom Kimball for attending to the membership table.

The MVRCA is returning to Beech Ridge on August 31st in support of the Senior Tour Auto Racers (STAR) appearance. There will be several restored race cars on display and the public can pick a membership form and the new full-color MVRCA brochure.

By the way, special thanks go to Mary and Charlie Lima of the Senior Tour Auto Racers for not only helping the association to get off the ground with advice and support but welcoming the association to participate in STAR's appearances at the various Maine tracks.

There will be a meeting scheduled for either late September or early October as soon as a Saturday or Sunday is open on the schedules of all of the Maine tracks. The meeting is open to anyone interested "in preserving the history of motorsports in Maine". The exact date, time and location of the meeting will be announced shortly.

There is a need for individuals to serve on the various committees of the association, including at least two Hall of Fame committees. (An article regarding the Hall of Fame can be found else-where in this newsletter.) If you

are interested in serving on a committee, please attend the up-coming meeting and/or contact Bob Morris – address, phone number and e-mail information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are in the beginning stages of this very long race, we have endured a caution flag or two, maybe even a temporary red flag but we are underway. The race is long but for all who believe in preserving this state's motorsports history, the goals will be rewarding.

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This is the inaugural issue of the MVRCA News and we hope you find this issue and the succeeding issues informative. This being the first issue, we are still working on the format and look - please bear with us. Any suggestions and news items are always welcomed.

MVRCA members will receive the newsletter six times a year, possibly more often as information warrants. To join, visit the MVRCA web site for more information. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in motorsports.

Bob Morris, President

In the next issue of the Maine Vintage Race Car Association News:

Charlie Sheehan Jr. and Dave Webster have restored 'Wild Bill' Carlton's #1 coupe. Watch for the story and photos of this restoration project. Below left: an original photo of the Bill Carlton #1. Below right: ready for restoration.



Maine Vintage Race Car Association

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

Visit our web site at:
www.mainevintageracecars.com

Maine Vintage Race Car Association

Bob Morris - President
 Allen Brann - Vice-President
 Pam Conkwright - Secretary/Treasurer
 Board of Directors - Advisory Board

A Maine Non-Profit Organization

Long Overdue -

the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame - Soon to be a Reality

From the earliest discussions about forming the Maine Vintage Race Car Association, the number one goal (dream if you will) has been the eventual construction of a Maine Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame.

It will be a number of years before any of us who have a passion for this sport will see our dreams realized. But, until that first shovel full of earth is turned signifying the start of construction for such a building, the Maine Vintage Race Car Association will establish and begin inducting individuals in the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame – a project long overdue.

The Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame will be open to any individual, man or woman, who has contributed to the history of motorsports in Maine. Whether the individual was a driver, a car or team owner, a crew member, a builder, a founder, a promoter, an official, a track employee or a media member – everyone who has been involved with motorsports is eligible to be a member of the Hall of Fame. The only restriction is the individual must have been “retired” from the category being considered at least 5 years. For example, if a person retired as a race driver ten years ago but is presently active as a car builder or track operator, he or she is eligible for the Hall of Fame as a driver.

And, one more important point, the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame will represent all forms of motorsports entertainment found in Maine from January to December. That includes but not limited to: stock car racing, drag racing, ice racing, motorcycle and motocross racing, pro rally, snowmobile racing and even boat racing.

If all goes according to plan and on schedule, the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame will induct the first group of deserving individuals in the spring in special ceremonies. While all the details are yet to be finalized, between 12 and 15 individuals will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in ceremonies preceded by a banquet.

But, there is much work to do between today and that historical day in the spring and the Association needs your

help in three areas. **1.)** The Association is asking for people to submit the names of individuals who you believe should be considered for nomination. A person can submit as many names he or she wants, all we ask is to write a sentence or two about that individual’s accomplishments or their duties in motorsports if possible. The list of names should be mailed to: MVRCA – Hall of Fame, 51 Heath Lane, Auburn, Maine 04210 or by e-mail to **MVRCA@mainevintageracecars.com** and please put “Hall of Fame” in the Subject bar. And, please include your name, address and phone number in case more information is needed on the individual(s) submitted for consideration.

2.) There is a need for people to serve on the Hall of Fame nomination committee. It will be the responsibility of the nomination committee to consider all the individuals submitted for consideration and to reduce the list to a workable group of 25 – 50 names. From that group, 12 to 15 individuals will be the inaugural members of the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame.

3.) Last but not least, there is a need for people to serve on the Hall of Fame banquet and ceremony committee. It will be the responsibility of this committee, in conjunction with the Association executive officers, to plan the banquet and Hall of Fame ceremonies including location, meal selection(s), decorations and timetable.

If anyone is interested in serving on either committee, please submit your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to the MVRCA by mail, e-mail or at the upcoming “open meeting”.

Establishing the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame is an important first step, not only to honor the men and women who have been involved with motorsports but to raise the consciousness of the citizens of Maine of the significant contributions motorsports has made to the state over the last 50-plus years. Please join us in this very worthwhile effort.

MVRCA Schedule of Events

Date.....	Location.....	Type.....	Sanction
August 31.....	Beech Ridge Motor Speedway - Scarborough, ME.....	Still Show.....	MVRCA & STAR
Sept. 11-14.....	Oxford County Fair - Oxford, ME.....	Tentative.....	MVRCA
Sept. 22-28.....	Cumberland Fair - Cumberland, ME.....	Tentative.....	MVRCA
Sept. 28-Oct. 6...	Fryeburg Fair - Fryeburg, ME.....	Tentative.....	MVRCA
Jan. 3-5.....	Northeast Motorsports Expo - August, ME.....	Still Show.....	MVRCA
Feb. 21-22.....	Racin’ Preview - Portland, ME.....	Still Show.....	MVRCA

WANTED: Motorsports History

Believe or not, motorsports in Maine dates back to the 1940's at least. Before the race track was built, auto races were held at the various fairground tracks scattered throughout the state. Instead of horses, it was horsepower the public seated in the mostly covered grandstands came to marvel at.

Whether it be on a fairground track, a specifically built for racing facility, a quarter-mile on an airport runway, a frozen pond or bay, a logging road through the woods or a snow covered field, motorsports has a rich history in Maine.

And, the Maine Vintage Race Car Association wants to preserve that history. The Association is interested in obtaining and/or borrowing old racing photographs, souvenir programs, trophies, movies, posters and/or any other motorsports related items. The movies will be transferred to video tape and returned if so desired.

Many of the items might be used in future displays

wherever the MVRCA makes an appearance. And, eventually, all the memorabilia items loaned and donated will be stored and displayed in the future Maine Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame.

A number of items have already been loaned or donated to the Association. Ken Spencer, who raced at a number of Maine tracks in the 1950's and 1960's, has loaned pictures, movies, a championship jacket and several trophies including the winning trophy and autographed checkered flag from the very first race ever held at Speedway 95 - July 3, 1966. Former driver Reggie Gammon donated two scrapbooks and a couple of trophies. And, the latest donation came from Northeast Motorsports Expo President Tim Attaya, photographs taken at Unity Raceway dating back to the early 1950's.

If you have items stored up in the attic or are tired of dusting them off, please consider donating or lending them to the MVRCA. Remember, today is the future's history.

News & Notes

Wishing a speedy recovery to MVRCA Director John Rice. At a joint MVRCA/STAR appearance at Oxford Plains Speedway in late June, John injured a couple of ribs when he hit the front wall in practice. John was driving the Pete Peterson #9 Pinto Modified he had recently restored. Wife Lorraine says John will recover before the car will.

Allen Brann is presently restoring the #21 Ford Fairmont Late Model driven by Car Huston Jr. at Oxford Plains Speedway in the early 1980's. Allen, the MVRCA Vice-President, also owns the #144 Ford coupe pictured on the front panel of the new MVRCA brochure.

MVRCA Advisory Board member George 'DoDo' Brockman recently opened a new business in Freeport. Called "Hot Rods & Stuff", George is buying, selling and trading classic cars and other types. Stop by and ask him about "the Donut".

..Ken Spencer came out of a 34-year retirement this summer to race on Wednesday nights at Oxford Plains Speedway. Now 74 years young, Ken races the #0 Ford Mustang in the Runnin' Rebel division. His racing might be put on hold as Ken faces possible hip replacement surgery. By the way, Ken still drives truck every day for Crooker & Son.

..Beech Ridge Motor Speedway recently honored Jim McConnell at a pre-race luncheon. Now 90 years old, Jim founded and built Beech Ridge which opened in 1949.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE - '36 Ford 5 window coupe, built like an early type modified. Rolling chassis, set up for a small block Chevy. Enclosed driver compartment. 4spd. tranny, radiator in, '46 Ford front end, leaf spring rears, Ford 9" w/ 411 gears, fuel cell, body work is all done, has hood, car painted in white urethane paint. Also available with car, Frankland hubs and backing plates, headers, and some Hoosier modified tires. Early 3/4 ton Dana 60 is also for sale or can go with the car for an extra \$100.00. Nice potential for vintage race car or STAR Tour legal, with a little work. \$2600.00 OBRO for everything. contact Beau Gross (207) 92904338.

WANTED - Old racing photos, movies, race programs, posters and other vintage racing memorabilia to donate or to lend to the Maine Vintage Race Car Association. Photos & movies will be returned after being copied. For more information, contact Bob Morris at 207-784-9827 or MVRCA@mainevintageracecars.com .

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**.