

MAINE VINTAGE RACE CAR ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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From the President's desk:

General Meeting set for January 5th; Displays in Augusta & Portland

The Maine Vintage Race Car Association will hit the ground running, so to speak, when the calendar turns to 2003. The new year begins with two important events scheduled for the same weekend and in the same location.

On January 3 – 5th, the MVRCA will be participating in the 15th ANNUAL Northeast Motorsports Expo & Trade Show at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta, Maine. The Association exhibit area will have five restored vintage race cars on display as well as an array of historical photos, trophies and other items which have been donated or loaned to the Association.

In addition to the exhibit at the Augusta Civic Center, a General Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 5th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Androscoggin-Aroostook Room. The meeting is open to anyone who has an interest in auto racing and/or preserving the history of motorsports.

Next on the MVRCA Schedule of Events is the Racine Preview show at the Portland Exposition Center in Portland, Maine on February 21 – 22nd. If anyone is interested in displaying their vintage race car at Racine Preview, notify the MVRCA office as soon as possible. Show promoter

Recollections of Tony Brann

Washington Raceway – My Father's Dream

Few people alive today remember the little race track in Knox County – Tony Brann, his sister and his brothers do. Their father Clifton Brann built and owned Washington Raceway.

“My father was deeply involved back then,” recalls Tony Brann. “He owned and built race cars for some of the top drivers at that time.”

The time was the late 1940's and early 1950's. The names roll off of Brann's memory as if it the time was this past season – Blackie Hilliard, Ray Fanning, Harrison MacArthur and Phil Jordan.

“They all either drove for my father or raced cars built my father. And there were others in the later years, including my brothers and myself,” says Brann proudly. “Back then,

my father raced – he never drove a race car himself – at Unity Raceway and at Windsor Fairgrounds.”

“My father was a master mechanic and welder. He built snow plows, worked on cars and trucks but most of all, he loved to build race cars.”

The passion for racing instilled into the Brann children did not come solely from their father. Their mother Edna was a racer, too – not on land but on water. Mrs. Brann raced boats.

“My mother was quite successful racing boats. She raced on Damariscotta Lake, China Lake and Sebago Lake... wherever they had boat races, my mother raced.

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From the President's desk (continued from page 1):

Mark Thomas is willing to give as much space as we need as long as he has our requests well in advance of the show. Mark has guaranteed the MVRCA space for at least six cars.

The fine folks at Oxford Plains Speedway are offering space in the speedway's "Spring Showcase" at the Auburn Mall in Auburn, Maine. The 'mall show' runs from March 10th through March 30th. The display of race cars are changed at the end of each of week. Further discussions will take place with speedway officials to determine the number of cars the MVRCA can display each week.

It is hard to believe but the MVRCA is coming up to its one-year anniversary. The first organizational meeting was held at the Northeast Motorsports Expo & Trade Show last January. Admittedly, our progress has not been as rapid as some had hoped but considering the stumbling blocks we have had to hurdle, there is much satisfaction where we are today.

A year ago, some of us had speculated the MVRCA would have 150 members at the completion of its first year. Unless there is an influx of memberships by the January 5th General Meeting, we will fall short of that unofficial goal. But, considering the legalities took twice as long as expected, the MVRCA membership numbers are very good.

And, speaking of membership, people have asked if a membership in the MVRCA is based on the calendar year.

The answer is "no". A one-year membership begins the month the individual's membership card is issued.

There is growing interest in the MVRCA and its objectives. We have heard of old race cars being saved from trips to the scrap yards because of the presence of the MVRCA. We are also learning of more and more cars being restored along with inquiries from individuals seeking old race cars to restore. Plus, people have contacted the MVRCA about donating or loaning old photos, souvenir programs, etc.

Among the unexpected surprises I have experienced over the last year are the individuals who have been collecting photos, posters and the such of auto racing's history here in Maine.

By the way, the MVRCA's web site is continually being updated. Old pictures are constantly being added to the "Memories" page and photos of MVRCA members' vintage race cars have been added to the "Race Cars" page. If a photo of your restored race car is not posted, please send a photo to the MVRCA office and it will be put up on the web site. The photo will be returned.

Finally, I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and hopefully, if everything goes according to plan, the next issue of MVRCA News will be sent prior the Christmas.

Bob Morris - President

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

Preview the MVRCA exhibit at the 15th ANNUAL Northeast Motorsports Expo & Trade Show.

The latest news about the 15th ANNUAL Northeast Motorsports Expo & Trade Show - who will be appearing and when, featured attractions and more.

MVRCA news and a preview of the January 5th General Meeting.

...and much more.

Apology:

Had originally planned to have feature a story on the restoration of 'Wild Bill' Carlton's #1 coupe in this issue. That story has been delayed and will be in a future issue. Apologies to all who were looking forward to that story.

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Washington Raceway (continued from page 1)

Her father, my grandfather, built boats. They were called Liberty boats which that name is still around today," said Tony.

But, back to the old race track. "My father's dream was to own a race track. So, he built this race track on land we owned in Razorville. Now, Razorville was a small community within the town of Washington. Razorville had its own post office but it was part of Washington," explained Brann.

The actual location of Washington Raceway was near the intersection of Route 105 and Vannah Road in Razorville.

According to Brann, the land the race track was built on was "fairly flat. There was a gravel pit on it...my father sold gravel to the town and whoever else needed some. I don't know how much acreage there was but it was a big parcel of land."

A one-third mile dirt track was carved out of the land. The tiny grandstands held 400 race fans. In 1952, Washington Raceway opened for stock car racing.

"I was only nine years old at the time. But us kids did whatever we had to at the track, from selling popcorn to carrying wood to picking up trash. It wasn't work to us – it was fun!" laughed Brann.

Clifton Brann was a progressive thinker and doer. He had the track paved the second year and installed lights. Washington Raceway was the first track in Maine to have lights and have night races.

"Oh, those bulbs would pop left and right," laughed

Tony. "The lights back then weren't the sophisticated systems they have today."

Despite the asphalt surface and the lights for Saturday night racing, the race track began to fall onto hard times. Clifton Brann's dream ceased operations in 1954. Oh, there were go-kart races at the Razorville track the following year and it was used for practice by stock cars right up into the early 1980's before the old asphalt began to break up, but stock cars never "raced" at Washington Raceway after the 1954 season.

"Insurance was very expensive even back then. And, it was getting tougher to get cars and fans to come to the track. Back then, most of your drivers raced only at one track, that being Unity in our area even though our track raced on Saturday nights and Unity raced on Sunday afternoons," said Brann.

"See, in those days, race tracks had no more than 25 or 30 stock cars. Not like today where Oxford Plains Speedway, Unity or any other track in the state have 80, 100 or more race cars on a race night. Once you lost four, five or more cars to another track, the people stopped coming."

Despite the disappointment of closing the family track, the Brann's remained in racing with father Clifton building and owning race cars with oldest son Bradley working on them while sons Jerome, Tony, Elliott and Warner racing them through the late 1980's.

As for the old race track, the land was sold to Clinton Pierpont. The gravel pit is still there but Washington Raceway is only a memory, especially for Tony Brann and his brothers and sister.

"Respectively Done"

Around New England, Martel Motorsports is known for their successes on the race track. As evident by the photo to the right, the father and son team of Jim and J. Scott Martel are successes off the track as well. The Martels restored the "Big O" Supermodified out of respect for Ollie Silva, one of the greatest drivers ever and a member of the New England Auto Racers Hall of Fame.



MVRCA Schedule of Events

Date	Location	Type	Sanction
Jan, 3-5	Northeast Motorsports Expo - Augusta, ME	Display	MVRCA
Jan. 4	Augusta Civic Center - Augusta, ME	General Meeting	MVRCA
Feb. 21-22	Racin Preview - Portland, ME	Display	MVRCA
March 10-30	'Spring Showcase' - Auburn (ME) Mall*	Display	MVRCA

* Guests of Oxford Plains Speedway

New Vintage Race Car Magazine to Debut in the Spring

There is some good news for vintage race car enthusiasts. Motorsports Publishing, the publisher of **TRACKSIDE** Magazine, is debuting a new magazine titled **VINTAGE RACER**.

According to **TRACKSIDE** editors, **VINTAGE RACER** magazine is scheduled to be released in March 2003. The new magazine will cover the wide range of racing heritage in the northeast.

Editors will be seeking ideas and material for future articles for both magazines. If anyone is involved in a restoration project now or in the future, photograph all aspects of the restoration from the moment the race car was found to its completion, keep a journal and, if possible, talk to individuals who were involved with the race car when it competed, such as the driver, owner and crew members.

For those who have completed restoring a vintage race car, write down all the information about the project and gather all the photos you have.

Representatives of **TRACKSIDE** and **VINTAGE RACER** will be in attendance at the **15th ANNUAL Northeast Motorsports Expo & Trade Show**, January 3-5th, at the Augusta (Maine) Civic Center for further information.

The MVRCA will be mailing subscription cards for **VINTAGE RACER** as soon as they become available.

News & Notes

MVRCA Advisory Board member Steve Pellerin has been slowed in recent weeks by a serious knee injury. According to Steve, it will be another month to two months before he can resume all his normal activities. For those who do not know Steve, he has restored three vintage race cars with the remains of the Dick Garrett "Blue Deuce" coupe waiting for Steve's magical touch.

An update on MVRCA member Ken Spencer - Ken had hip replacement surgery in October and is recovering at home under the watchful eye of his wife Margarite.

...Restoring vintage race cars runs in the family, at least it does in the Stowe family. While helping father Mike restore the Art Arseneault #85 six-cylinder cutdown, Jason got the urge to restore his own vintage race car. Jason is now in the possession of Fuzzy Holden's famed 'Flower Power' #7 1955 Chevy, which Fuzzy raced at Unity Raceway among other tracks. Photos of the Stowe family restoration projects are on the MVRCA web site.

Classified Ads

WANTED: 1934 - 1940 Ford (Coupe or Sedan) old stock car for restoration or car to build. Prefer flat head engine. Call: Buster Burt at 207-361-2329

FOR SALE: Daytona tickets - 2 tickets for Busch Series '300' and 2 tickets for 'Daytona 500'. Located in Turn 2 grandstands, 10 rows from the top. Exact seats won't be known until month prior to 'SpeedWeek'. Need to sell. \$450.00 for the set of four plus shipping. Contact Lisa or Frank Dorrie at (207)490-0898 or frankd25@adelphia.net.

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: Old Stock Car Racing magazines and Circle Track magazines. Contact Lisa or Frank Dorrie at (207) 490-0898 or frankd25@adelphia.net .

FOR SALE: Have old dirt track cars from northern Maine, raced at Gallope in Houlton, Springfield & Cherryfield - 1957 Chrysler New Yorker 2-door, #Super 62, no motor, had old hemi..\$300.00; 1958 Mercury 4-door, has motor..\$200.00; 1955 Chevy 4-door, no motor, #006, has nice history - 'Miss Springfield Special'..\$500.00 - all have roll cages; will have available 1941 Ford 2-door coupe race car body, no frame but have 1941 Ford frame. Contact Plum Potter Jr. at 207-583-2006 or jampott@megalink.net.

FOR SALE: Offenhauser intake manifold and carburetors for Chrysler flathead six-cylinder; Ford flathead V8 truck motor, 100 hp, complete with radiator..\$400.00. Contact Plum Potter Jr. at 207-583-2006 or jampott@megalink.net.

WANTED: 1962 - 65 Chevy Nova 2-door body for a restoration project. Also, looking for parts,. Contact Martel Motorsports at 978-356-4951 or jsmartel14@aol.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**.