

MAINE VINTAGE RACE CAR ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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From the President's desk:

Tributes, Cookout, Hall of Fame and More

"From the President's desk" is short in length for this issue of the MVRCA News to pay tribute to Bob Bushley, a true Maine racing legend. Bob passed away on Thursday, May 22nd at the age of 83. A member of the Beech Ridge Motor Speedway Hall of Fame, Bob's contributions to racing can be felt throughout Maine and beyond.

MVRCA Advisory Board member Steve Pellerin wrote a nice tribute in memory of Bob Bushley for the "Racin' Paper" and is included in this issue. Andrea Elder Stultz, daughter of MVRCA Vice-President Bruce Elder, composed a poem titled "The Innovator" that was read at the funeral of Bob Bushley. Bruce's first introduction to

racing was through Bob when Bruce became a member of Bob's crew as a teenager.

The Maine racing community lost several other members of its family in addition to Bob Bushley. Former Unity Raceway driver/car owner Mike Harnish, Sr., Unity Raceway technical inspector Dave Doherty and most recently Oxford Plains Speedway Late Model Stock driver Dennis Dee left this earth much too soon. Condolences are extended to all families and friends.

The July 27th "Cookout" at Beech Ridge Motor Speedway is open to everyone – members and non-

Hall of Fame Banquet, Induction Ceremonies set for January 3, 2004

The date, the time and the place for what will be a memorable and history-making day is set. On Saturday evening, January 3, 2004 at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta, Maine, the first group of deserving individuals will be inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Presented by the Maine Vintage Race Car Association, the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies will follow a social hour beginning at 4:30 p.m. and a dinner at 5:30 p.m. The Induction Ceremonies and the presentation of special awards will begin at 6:45 p.m.

An announcement of where and when to purchase Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet tickets will be announced at a later date.

The inaugural group of inductees into the Maine

Motorsports Hall of Fame Presented by the Maine Vintage Race Car Association will be comprised of 10 – 12 individuals representing various areas of auto racing, whether they be drivers, car owners, track owners and promoters, crew members, track officials, etc.

A special Selection Committee, comprised of individuals familiar with the history of auto racing in Maine, will have the task of determining the 10 – 12 individuals to be inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame on January 3, 2004 from all the names nominated.

A Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Nomination Ballot has been included with this Newsletter. If you have not submitted the name or names of individuals to be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame, or if you have and would like to submit other individuals, please do

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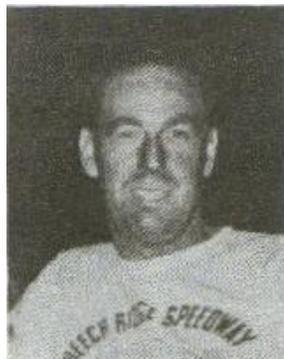
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For information about joining the MVRCA, visit www.mainevintageracecars.com.

Bob Bushley Remembered by: Steve Pellerin

Bob Bushley passed away last Thursday (May 22, 2003). The world kept turning, clocks ticking, rivers flowed. Probably not all that many throughout the region noticed. But if you ever enjoyed the sound of a full bore racing engine or was an auto racing fan from northern New England, you noticed. Because you knew Bob Bushley. His race cars weren't always the best looking. Sometimes they were downright sad appearing. But all of them went, like hell on fire.

The amazing ability to do so much with his own hands made him a giant amongst so many, enduring him a reputation that I hope is never surpassed. Racing his P-38 coupe in the '50's, he found success that never strayed too far, earning the nickname the "Paper City Flash". In 1960, he put the then unknown Homer Drew behind the wheel and together they went on to claim a large chunk of Maine Stock Car Racing History, and legend also.



Like a lot of race fans, I first saw Bob as a 14-year old, leaning on the fence at Scarborough's Beech Ridge Speedway. Generally, it was right after the "A" Feature, and Bob was usually on the track, congratulating whoever had been looking at the back of Homer and the Bushley P-38 for the last ten laps. It was a common sight. Seems he was often in a white shirt, with trademark suspenders. You could see him putting his hands on the tires, feeling the difference in temperatures, checking gauges, looking at

the exhaust and asking questions of Homer. He was tenacious with detail. Even in Victory Lane, he was constantly observing, checking his work, trying to stay ahead of the competition some more. If you knew Bob, then you knew he was always taking notes of the little things. Damn, he did it so well, most of the time many of us didn't even notice.

Together this duo won races and titles at Beech Ridge and Oxford Plains. Although never straying to from the Scarborough Dirt oval, they raced at many other tracks as time and expense permitted, and they were always a formidable threat wherever they showed.

Bob didn't rest on his laurels easily. He changed with the times. He had to. When Beech Ridge went to Supermodified type cars in the early '70's, he showed up with an offset rail type roadster that took its share of victories. He then arrived with an upright type sprint car that was successful. He followed that up with a small block modified that Homer took to the front when the track brought in Modifieds in 1980. He built also for his son David, an accomplished engine builder. And David won races.

Bob will no doubt be remembered for "his out to the pile forays" looking for that special part or piece to put together himself, while others threw their hard earned cash at the speed shop counter. He had the ability to recognize what he needed, even if it was attached to a harrow or a piece of lawn furniture. A trait not found much anymore.

A few years ago I was cleaning the shop when I came

"The Innovator" - Written in memory of Bob Bushley by: Andrea Elder Stultz

Let's take a moment to consider the value and the sum Of circumstances remedied and troubles overcome. By a man of innovation, ideas, and strong will One not easily defeated, one who perseveres until through grit and determination, lofty dreams he can fulfill.

First at Pride's Barn, then behind a sawdust pile, Bob made do with what he had, facing every trial Borrowing parts from an old truck, or even a tractor, once in a while.

Adaptation, innovation, his own cam grinding specs Money isn't the only way to corner the market on success! Bob had independent front suspension for his beloved P-38 Before it was "invented" and others still had to wait.

What an example of ingenuity, of determination and wit. An example to remind us the value of true grit.

Maine Vintage Race Car Association

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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

Remember When



(Left) - This is a photo from opening day at the Waterville-Oakland Raceway in 1951. The first three cars from the left are Larry LaCroix (outside), Willy Pelotte (inside) and Russ Longley in the coupe. Dick Burgess is in the sedan on the right inside. (Right) - From the early 1950's, this photo is of the first turn at Unity Raceway. Fans are lined up four deep along the fence to watch the races. The end of the covered grandstand, which is still in place today, is visible in this photo.

Restoring History



Above are photos of the just completed project of Roland Connors and son Darren - the #1 Chevelle driven by Stan Meserve in the early 1970's. The Chevelle is a combination restoration and reproduction. The original car was found behind the home of Sonia and Steve Nelson in Albion. The roll cage and most all of the functional parts had been stripped from the car many years ago. The Connors' salvaged as much of the chrome "trinkets" and small pieces they could find. A Late Model chassis was found in a potato barn in Caribou and lengthened 8 inches. The stock '65 Chevelle body was located in Lebanon. All the lettering on the car is hand painted by Darren - "They did not use vinyl back then. The Chevelle is as close as anyone is ever going to get to the original Stan Meserve Chevelle." The Chevelle will be on display at Oxford Plains Speedway on June 28th. More photos of this project can be found at the MVRCA web site.

MVRCA Schedule of Events

Date	Location	Type	Sanction
June 28	Oxford Plains Speedway	Display	MVRCA/STAR
July 5	"Fireworks" - Wiscasset Raceway	Display	MVRCA
July 26	Beech Ridge Motor Speedway	Display	MVRCA
July 27	"Cookout" - Beech Ridge Motor Speedway*	Display	MVRCA
August 1 - 3	"Vintage Celebration" - New Hampshire Int'l Spdw	Display	MVRCA
August 16	"Legends Night" - Unity Raceway**	Display	MVRCA
January 2 - 4	Northeast Motorsports Expo - Augusta Civic Center Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame	Display Ceremonies	MVRCA MVRCA
January 3	Banquet & Induction Ceremonies - Augusta Civic Ctr.		

* - Family Outing/Cookout/Photo Session ** - Social Hour/Pig Roast - 1:00 P.M./Autograph Session

For more information about "A Year's Drive to the Hall", visit www.mainevintageracecars.com.

“Tributes...” continued from page 1

Pack up the kids, the barbecue grills, the food and the vintage race cars and join us for a relaxing afternoon. If you do not have a grill, we will be able to cook your food for you. Speedway CEO Andy Cusack is putting out the welcome mat for the vintage race cars to use the track. The cookout begins at Noon.

The Association has several appearances scheduled over the next month or so, including the “Vintage Celebration” at New Hampshire International Speedway. We need vintage race cars for our displays. If you are interested in displaying your restored race car at any of our scheduled functions, please let us know as these “shows” help spread the word of our existence and our efforts to preserve racing history.

Lastly, please fill out the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Nomination Ballot we have included with this issue. The Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2004 at the Augusta (Maine) Civic Center.

“Bob Bushley...” continued from page 1

wanted to share it. It reminds me of the man....

If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't
If you want to win, but think you can't
Its almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you lost
For out in the world we find...
Success begins with a person's will...
Its all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are
You've got to think high rise...
You've got to be yourself...
Before you can take the prize.

Racing battles don't always go,
To the stronger or faster man...
But sooner or later the man who wins...
Is the man who thinks he can.

Last Saturday night (May 24, 2003), Beech Ridge Speedway, Oxford Plains Speedway and Unity Raceway asked their fans to stand for a moment, to remember this pioneer on Maine Auto racing. It is really impossible to be able to put in a few sentences all the impact Bob Bushley has had on auto racing for more than 50 years. Also, the triumphs and tragedy, felt by the Bushley family along the way, makes them special people. Outstanding really. Few families have given so much, yet asked for so little. Please

“Hall of Fame...” continued from page 1

And, if possible, please add some information about each individual, as this will help the Selection Committee with their efforts.

The Maine Vintage Race Car Association is seeking businesses who would be interested in helping to underwrite the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies & Banquet. An “underwriting” business will receive two tickets to the festivities, have their banner displayed in the banquet room and be recognized for their support and efforts to make the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies & Banquet a success. If you are a businessman or businesswoman and are interested in underwriting the evening's events, please contact the MVRCA at 207-784-9827 or by mail at 51 Heath Lane – Auburn, Maine 04210 or email

Classified Ads

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**.

The next time I hear a wave of thunder roll across the evening summer sky, I'll stop and smile and think to myself: “Bob Bushley, what are you and Bobby tuning up now?”

Godspeed and lots of Horsepower, my friend.