

THE MIDWEST RACING CONNECTION

www.theracingconnection.com

THE MIDWEST'S SHORT TRACK AUTO RACING AUTHORITY

June 2014 Vol. 18, No. 2



ARCA & Masters Preview



Going In Circles



1:1 With Gilomen



ETA 1 HOUR ON-SITE HOSE SERVICE

**The ONLY Company with 3 Centers and
18 Service Trucks in the Metro Area.**

**MPLS/ST. PAUL
(651) 641-1414**

**PLYMOUTH
(763) 475-0475**

DON'T NEGLECT

THE TOYS

**POUR IN POWER, PROTECTION
& ADDED PERFORMANCE!**



Justice Brothers products provide superior protection for all of your favorite extreme big-boy toys! By reducing friction and wear, keeping fuel systems clean and protecting engines against acid and corrosion, **Justice Brothers** additives will ensure that your toys run at peak power and performance, providing maximum enjoyment! Whether you ride for sport or for recreation, don't start that engine without **Justice Brothers** protection!

www.justicebrothers.com

- Justice Brothers Engine Tune Up
- Justice Brothers Fuel Injection System Cleaner
- Justice Brothers Gear Oil Treatment



Publisher's Note

Racing According to Plan



Dan Plan

Throughout my life as a race fan, I've been lucky enough to go on several racing vacations. Actually, most of my vacation days from my daytime job have been utilized for racing related time off. I can't think of a better way to use my vacation days, but the rest of my family might not agree.

Many years ago, we would take family trips to mid-week ARTGO specials. Even though times have changed, and ARTGO is no longer around, the concept of a racing vacation has stuck with me. I still try to make a trip somewhere, every few years, to check out a new track or

The Racing Vacation



Dan Plan photo

one that I haven't been to in a long time. This year's trip was to my neighboring state of Wisconsin over the Memorial Day weekend. With the long weekend, I was able to spend some time at a real campground (meaning something other than a race track parking lot) with my family before starting the journey into Wisconsin.

The agenda for this year had a visit to a couple of new tracks that I had never visited previously – Angell Park Speedway in Sun Prairie, WI and Columbus 151 Speedway in Columbus, WI. Angell Park is one of those historic Speedways that I've read about numerous times, but never had a chance to check out a weekly show. With the Sunday night track in my back yard now closed (Raceway Park in Shakopee, Minnesota) the opportunity to travel on a few Sundays is a much more viable option. Angell Park is famous for the open wheel shows, and more specifically, Midget racing.

The Memorial Day weekend at Angell Park featured a two-day show with a combo event for the Badger Midgets and

continued on page 8



Mark Melchiori photo

The Midwest

RACING

Connection

June 2014

Vol. 18, No. 2

P.O. Box 22111

St. Paul MN, 55122

651-451-4036

info@theracingconnection.com

www.theracingconnection.com

Publisher

Dan Plan

Contributing Writers

Shane Carlson

Dale P. Danielski

Eric Huenefeld

Stan Meissner

Jacklyn Daniels-Nuttleman

Kris Peterson

Dean Reller

Jason Searcy

Charlie Spry

Photographers

Jim Ambruoso (815-623-3200)

Martin DeFries (651-346-1199)

Doug Hornickel (920-563-0993)

Mark Melchiori (414-463-0131)

Bruce Nuttleman (612-860-6622)

Vince Peterson (612-419-6372)

Stan Meissner (651-428-4717)

Mary Schill/Forte Design (608-792-1317)

Jerry Zimmer (715-792-2174)

The Midwest Racing Connection is published six times during the summer racing season by

The Plan Company, Inc.

All material is copyrighted 2014 and may not be reprinted without permission. Subscriptions are \$20 for six issues. Call 651-451-4036.

Cover photos by: Jimmy Ambruoso, Martin DeFries, Bruce Nuttleman and Scott Swensen.



AIRPORT SERVICE - CALL 24 HOURS

***Time Calls - Appointments**

DISCOUNT TAXI

FOR TRANSPORTATION

Toll Free 1-888-240-8294

612-723-5500

www.discounttaxiracing.com

Going in Circles



Charlie Spry

One of the most competitive classes at the Madison International Speedway is the Midwest Truck division, heretofore now known as the American Ethanol Super Trucks at Madison. This division features some real veterans such as Jerry Wood, some young guns, and then some who have raced awhile, but are new to the trucks. Two of the newcomers are John Beale and Kurt Kleven.

It may be a bit unusual, but Beale actually purchased the truck that Kleven drives, then rents a truck for himself to race. "I got together with Kurt, and decided to put him in the truck. I'm here to have fun myself, but I know that Kurt isn't racing anything, but has alot of experience, and is a good driver, so I decided to help him out," Said John. "I still have my late model, and I will race that on occasion at Columbus and Jefferson, but it will be fun to do the truck races here at Madison, and maybe travel a bit as well." John was the 2013 late model rookie-of-the-year at Columbus 151, and won a feature during his rookie campaign. This comes on the heels of racing a FWD four cylinder Bandit for a few years prior.

For Mr. Kleven, he ran regularly here in the sportsman division at MIS for one complete year, but had some bad luck, in that the shop that housed not only his car, but those of Tory Bagley and Chris Erhart caught fire and destroyed its contents, cars and parts included. Kleven then only raced sporadically, and not at all in 2013. Kurt actually started his career back in 2001 in the sportsman division at Jefferson. "I think I finished second in my first ever race, and won something like six heat races that first year, but the

car was a far cry from what we have now. We really didn't know anything about what we were doing." As for the partnership, John noted some differences between Kurt and himself, saying, "Kurt is more aggressive than I am, and he really wants to win. With me, it's like, if you survive the day without damage, it's a good day. Don't get me wrong, however, I want to win, too!" Watch for this pair at Madison, and probably some of the other tracks that the trucks race at. Kurt most notably said that he would like to race at Oktoberfest, saying "I really understand that track and enjoy racing there."

One of the veterans in the late model division at the Rockford Speedway is Mark Hartline. Having raced here and various other tracks, he actually got his start in racing at Wilmot Raceway on the dirt back in 1981. "My first car was a sportsman car with a '67 Chevelle frame," said Mark. "I did ok with it, but never won anything. My second year I moved up to an old Howe car with a short track ARCA chassis. I won a semi-feature and a couple of heats with that car." After racing at Wilmot, he moved onto a different venue, the old Hales Corners Speedway. "I got a fab stub Howe car from a guy by the name of Chick Stolarik. There was some real tough competition there. Then, and at the end of the year we attended the National Short Track Championships here at Rockford, and I said "I'd really like to try racing here."

Moving onto the asphalt ovals for the first time, he purchased a Lensing econo-chassis, and started at the track in 1987. "One of my first nights at Rockford, Wayne Swartwout came up to me and introduced himself, saying, "So, you come from dirt racing, eh?" To which I replied, saying, "yes, how did you know?" Wayne replied, "Well, son, if you keep driving the way you are, you'll wear the tires right off. This isn't dirt!" Mark soon would befriend Billy McCoy, who helped him a bunch. "I won some semi-features, but to this day, I've never won a feature here. I've led right up until a couple laps to go, but someone has always gotten by me for the win."

After a few years racing at Rockford, Mark would start racing at the Lake Geneva Raceway in 1992, a track in which



Mark Hartline in victory lane at Rockford Speedway
(Jimmy Ambruoso photo)

he tasted the most success. "Being a Rockford guy, when I started out there at LGR I definitely had to take my lumps, but after a while we began to fit in pretty good there. Mark ran in the new "Millenium Late Model" series that was going there at the time, using Jasper crate motors. "I split driving duties with Shawn Connelly, and at that time you could register as a team and have each driver earn points. We never registered as a team, so we lost the championship. If we would have done that we would have won easily. As it was, I finished second in points and Shawn finished third. I also had three clean sweeps with the car." Those clean sweeps and a win at LGR on Wisconsin Fans For Auto Racing night are some of this best memories. "We got a huge, really cool trophy on that night," said Mark.

After that, Mark ran a super late model at LGR with a rather unique truck body. "People still ask me about that," stated Mark. "It was something different, and the fans really liked it.

From 1999 to 2001, Mark ran the NASCAR Re/Max series at various tracks, while still competing as often as possible at Lake Geneva. He competed once again full time at Lake Geneva from 2002 through 2004, before once again hitting the road and running the ASA Late Model series from 2005 through 2007, and was the 2005 GM Performance Parts Shoot-Out champion. "What this was, was basically a semi-feature, but it was still neat to be named a champion in something of that caliber," said Mark.

In 2008, Mark once again returned to weekly action at the Rockford Speedway, something he is still doing weekly and enjoys. He has enjoyed helping others get started in the sport, most notably Mitch Garfield in 2011. He truly has experienced a vast array of racing at many tracks and series, even some racing on the dirt. Through it all, he has had a couple of bad wrecks and some bad luck, but has had some great nights, too. His racing resume' is top-notch, and he always seems to have a smile on his face, which tells us that he is enjoying the ride. "I have great sponsors that help out a bunch," said Mark, "But we don't spend as much on tires as some of the guys do."

continued on page 7



John Beale in Truck action at Madison International Speedway
(Bruce Nuttleman photo)

The Inside Dirt



Stan Meissner

A lot of material has piled up on my desk during the past month so I'm going to fill you in on where I've been then we'll cover a few items of interest.

On Saturday the tenth of May I attended the annual Cedar Lake Speedway School Bus races. The Midwest Modifieds were the race car headliners on this night and were joined by the Hornets and NVRS Vintage Cars. Tony Schill won his first Cedar Lake Midwest Modified Feature and Buddy Hanestad won his third straight Hornet Feature. The Baldwin-Woodville bus driven by Kyle Miller won the School Bus Feature in a race that saw Wildman Clay Gallagher use up another one of his nine lives. Clay's bus hit the tire barrier in front of the backstretch infield wall and rolled over in a crumpled heap. The crowd went wild when the Wildman emerged unharmed. My son brought three of my grandchildren, his daughters Lucia and Layanna and my youngest daughter's son Asa. On the brink of four years old Asa is an active kid so he had to explore the wide open spaces of the Cedar Lake grandstand. When his mom asked him the next day what he liked best about the races his reply was "fireworks". I'm going to have to work on Asa to straighten out his priorities so that he favors the racing but at least he's headed in the right direction. A few days later Asa was supplanted as our youngest grandson when his cousin Emmett was born to another one of my daughter's on Friday May 13. Ironically when compared to my 1951 baby picture Emmett has been proclaimed my spitting image. My son-in-law tells me that he's having a hard time kissing his newborn son goodnight on account of the resemblance. Hopefully besides inheriting my good looks (my opinion of our resemblance) he'll become a racing fan.

Next up was a return trip to Cedar Lake the following week when the UMSS Traditional Sprint Cars shared the card with the weekly classes. Car counts rebounded nicely with the Late Model Feature being the best race of the evening. John Kaanta took his first CLS win of the 2014 season besting a 22 car field. Rob Caho Jr. won the UMSS Traditional Sprint Car Feature on what can best be described as a weird night. Usually when I attend a Sprint Car race and somebody gets upside down it's one of the Sprint Cars. In this case it wasn't a race car but one of the tow trucks that ended up on its lid. I didn't see exactly what happened but I was told that a couple of tow trucks were hooked to the back and front of a Midwest Modified attempting one of those routine coordinated tow

maneuvers. This time, however, the end result was anything but routine. Fortunately nobody was injured in this strange and scary incident.

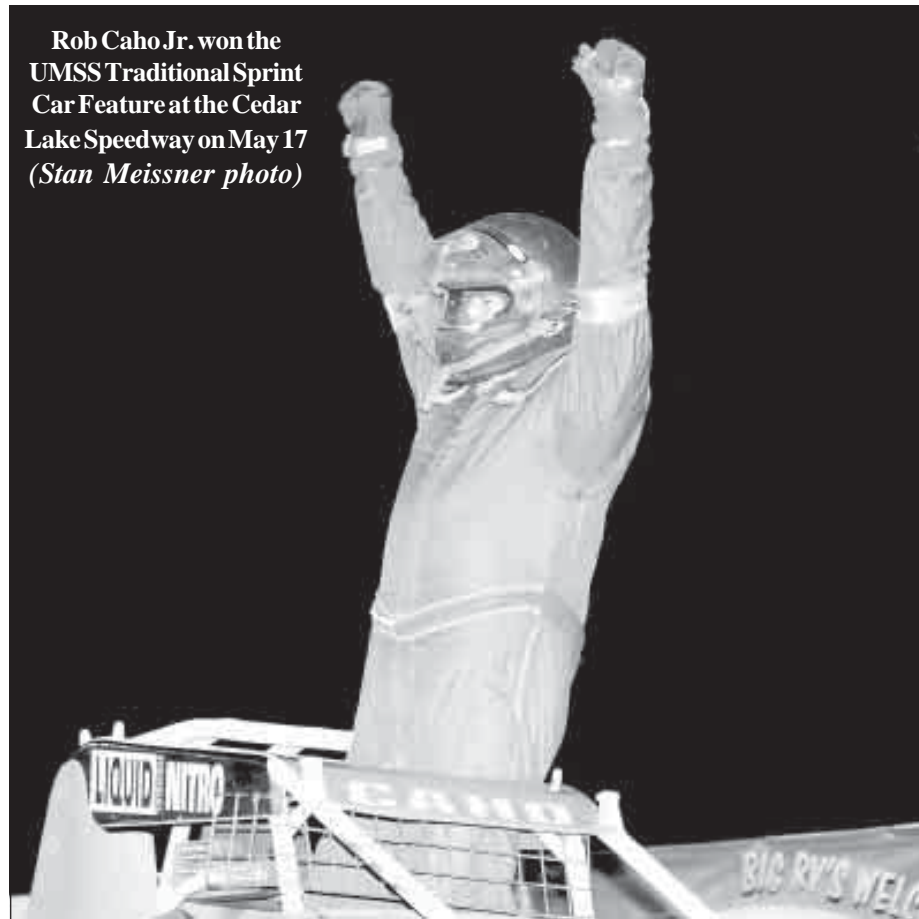
Racing at CLS has been very good, the track has held up nicely and the program has been moving along and concluding around the 9:30 – 10:00 pm range. Some fans miss the "good old days" of B Mains in every class and running up against the curfew at the end of the evening. I don't mind larger than normal fields for special events, that's what makes them special, but I don't have a problem with getting home in time for the 10 o'clock news after a weekly show. Weekly racing doesn't have to be a marathon to be entertaining and I think that marathon weekly shows have chased away a lot of potential racing fans over the years. Other forms of entertainment that racing is up against don't make fans suffer through a seemingly endless ordeal so I'm happy when shows are run quickly and efficiently.

The next race on my schedule was the Dave Tabor Memorial for the UMSS Winged Sprints. Dave was the owner of the 34tw and he was also a friend who was the same age as I am so I make it a point to attend every year. The Traditional Feature was won by Cam Schafer and the UMSS Winged Feature by Jerry Richert Jr. The series moved up the road to Rice Lake the next night where Richert would sweep the weekend in the winged division. Carson McCarl was in attendance with his father Terry turning the wrenches and Brooke Tatnell performed the same duties for Jerry Richert Jr.

Saint Croix Valley Raceway is a great little place to watch Sprint Car racing and I have seen some great Stock Car and Modified shows there as well. It can be difficult to get to on a busy Friday night, especially from the south or west Metro, but it's well worth the effort. If you haven't been there and don't live in the east Metro be sure to schedule at least one trip to Saint Croix Valley Raceway this season. You can check out the SCVR schedule on their website at scvraceway.com.

Family obligations the next evening kept me away from the races but did not prevent me from watching dirt track racing. My son and I watched the Knoxville Raceway PPV broadcast on thecushion.com. The front row for the 410 Feature was an all

Rob Caho Jr. won the UMSS Traditional Sprint Car Feature at the Cedar Lake Speedway on May 17 (Stan Meissner photo)



Minnesota affair with Craig Dollansky on the pole and Davey Heskin on the outside of the front row. Heskin led a good portion of the race with Dollansky in pursuit. Craig showed his Outlaw experience when he got by Heskin in lapped traffic and never looked back. There were 31 410's on hand for their weekly show and the talent level was extremely high.

The Cushion broadcast had good resolution and getting signed up was not difficult. I did run into one small glitch of my own doing and the tech folks responded to my request for help within seconds. I run Linux Mint 16 on a Dell laptop connected to an HDTV by a VGA cable and the stream worked great. There was one brief time near the end

The Inside Dirt continued on page 21

Jerry Richert Jr. won the UMSS Sprint Car Feature at the Saint Croix Valley Raceway on May 23. The event was billed as the Tabor Memorial after the late UMSS car owner Dave Tabor (Stan Meissner photo)



Auto Racing Facts, Observances and Opinions



Dale P. Danielski

Well, sadly Wisconsin has lost another true icon of short track racing as Marlin Walbeck of Rib Lake, Wisconsin passed away earlier this spring. Marlin was the first prolific winner in our part of the Country when paved short track racing was in its infancy but soon to begin growing at a rapid pace.

Before Dick Trickle became the short track king it was Walbeck barnstorming the circuit which consisted of racing nearly every night of the week. According to Walbeck, "It was pretty rough, but you could race 6-7 nights a week and make some good money. We'd race Tuesday through Saturday and twice on Sunday. We raced at Tomahawk, Wausau, Wis. Dells, Tomah, Adams Friendship, Black River Falls, Stratford, Wisconsin Rapids and everywhere else we could. Then on Monday we'd work on the car so we could race again the next week."

The good money Walbeck was talking about was \$35,000 dollars one particular year in the early '60s. "That was really

good money back then and we only had \$500 in the race car! Expenses were low then too, one summer I used just one set of tires all year. You can't do that now."

Walbeck attributed much of his success due to having great help with the car. "When you have good people behind you like I had, it's tough to beat. Mogie Dahl was building me great Chevy engines that would last plus I had Bill Bernhagen, Frank Kresch and Ken Niemi working on the car and they were all good." Of course with winning comes the chant of cheating. "We won so much guys would try to watch everything we did to figure out what we were doing. One night Mogie put an STP sticker on the car and sure enough everyone else did too thinking that was a reason why we were so fast!"

Although Walbeck was the cream of the crop he did have good competition. "Augie Winkleman could really make a car go. But he'd get in such a hurry you really had to watch him, he'd run right into you. Ev Fox was a good racer, Ken Pancratz, Marv Marzofka, Dick Trickle, Tom Reffner were all good once they got going. With the other racers I always liked to start in the back. That way I could see what they were doing and before they knew it I'd passed them! I'd get three, four a lap that way."

Having seen Walbeck race for a number of years I was able to witness his plan of action night after night at Wisconsin tracks. What differentiated Walbeck from others was how smooth and clean a driver he was. While others were sliding around driving over their heads Walbeck had is every moved planned and 9 times out of 10 made it pay off with a win. He was that good. One of my fondest memories was a race at the Golden Sands Speedway in the late '60s between Walbeck and Jim Back. The two raced nearly side by side for the entire extra length Feature event. Finally Back edged Walbeck for the win but it to this day is one of the best races I've ever seen. Walbeck being more aggressive probably could have nudged Back out of the groove to win, but he didn't race that way, ever! Walbeck parlayed this smooth, clean driving style into a huge win at the most prestigious race of the time the National Short Track Championships at Rockford, Illinois Speedway. Letting everyone else wear themselves out and their cars driving like it was a 30 lap race, Walbeck bided his time taking a late lead and going on to win the race in 1967. An over \$1,000 pay-off for the win was icing on the cake.

The forward thinking Walbeck also secured sponsorship while racing in an era that



One of Marlin Walbeck's fast 1957 Chevy's.

virtually offered none for such efforts. "We had the use of a Tombstone Pizza truck for two years and all the pizza you could eat! They sold the pizza wherever we raced and got money from the sales. They treated us real well and it really helped with our racing. These days I don't know how guys can make it with all they spend on the cars."

With a career that spanned from the early '50s until the mid '70s Walbeck gave up the sport he proved to be one of the best ever yet at because of the time it consumed. "In order to race I had to be gone all the time. I hardly saw my kids so I decided to give it up."

And so a driver that to a large extent pioneered the sport and went about it in all the right ways is now gone. With all that he did during his era of racing it makes you wonder how it might be today if he hadn't chosen the sport of stock car racing way back when. I hope everyone realizes this and does not forget the first true superstar of racing in our area, as the sport today probably wouldn't exist as it does without his efforts. Rest in peace Marlin Walbeck.

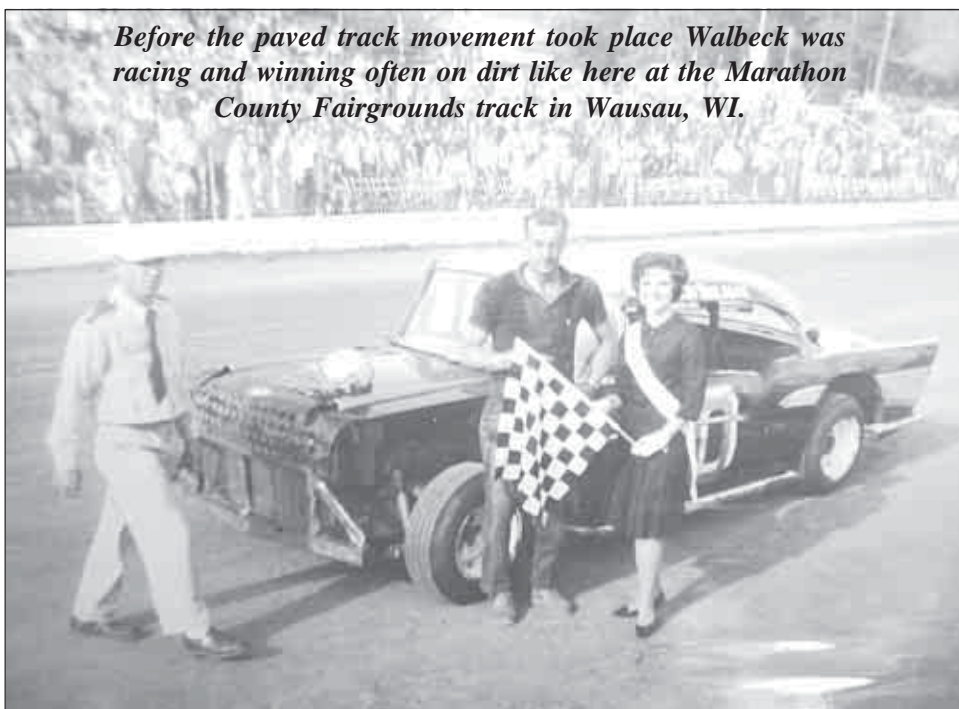
Here and there...The streak is over. Travis Sauter finally

***Racing Facts, Observances and Opinions
continued on page 9***

Marlin Walbeck #30 in a Chevelle that would take him to a huge win in the NSTC at Rockford Speedway in 1967. The #99 behind him couldn't catch the fleet Walbeck on this day.



Before the paved track movement took place Walbeck was racing and winning often on dirt like here at the Marathon County Fairgrounds track in Wausau, WI.



Racing Nuggets



Jacklyn Daniels-Nuttelman The Darndest Things

If I weren't already a race fan, I'd know it was race season just based upon the darndest things that show up around my house. Case in point, I just switched a load of clothes into the dryer for my husband the other day (he does his own laundry) and found a handful of plastic-looking things that looked like they had secured some item in its packaging. You know something that one would normally put in the garbage after opening said package.

I have since learned that those little buggers were bump-stop packers. Of course, I didn't realize what they were and ended up throwing them away, much to my husband's chagrin. He doesn't get mad very often, but this would've been one of those times.

It's at this point, I'm sure the male readers are freaking out that I threw those things away and pondering how could I have NOT known they were important?! Female readers are astounded that my husband does his own laundry.

Regardless, I made a mistake that will never happen again, and it has resulted in a pile of unusual things accumulating on his behalf because now whenever I find things in his laundry, or hear something thrashing around in the dryer from a load that he washed, I promptly pull it out and add it to his collection of items, that for whatever reason, he keeps in the bedroom.

On his side of the bed, there is a half-inch wrench, some sort of a shock tool, zip ties, and a bunch of those bump-stop

packers. I'm sure if strangers saw our bedroom, they'd question what our idea of romance is, especially if they spotted the stagger tape sitting on the nightstand. He may or may not have attempted to check my stagger after I've had a night out with the girls, but that's beside the point.

I try to be an understanding wife, because my husband is "in the zone" for the better part of the year, always thinking about race cars, and what he needs to do to make them better. I'm sure this is commonplace in many racing homes, but it's always a shock for me to be in the throes of passion with him and just when I think I've done something spectacular that put a look of delight on his face, I realize that it wasn't my actions. Instead, he just had a "vision" for what to do to his race car. I'm taking credit for many of those "inspirations" he's had, so if you're one of those people who periodically call my husband to inquire about a race car set up and he gives you some solid advice—"you're welcome." Even ideas show up in the darndest places.



trackratphotos.vfcfunding.com



www.speedtalkon1360.com

Going In Circles continued from page 4

Mark hails from Gilberts, Illinois, but is originally from Chicago. He is married to Linda, who works in the pits with him and his crew, and they have one Son, Cole, who is three years old. He is employed at one of his major sponsors, Buck Bros. Inc. John Deere. Other sponsors include Village Pizza and Pub, Mighty 100.5 FM in Rockford, and Time Warp Raceway.

After a weeks' delay for inclement weather, the Columbus 151 Speedway was able to get two shows in over the Memorial Day weekend. First, their regular Friday season opener, and then on Memorial Day they got the Big 8/Great Northern Sportsman Series event in the books, along with Bandits and Backup cars. The Memorial Day event was completed in the midst of rain showers and a county-wide power outage, and through it all, Casey Johnson emerged the winner. Great field of cars from various tracks were present, along with a nice crowd. A rainstorm hit the track just minutes after the conclusion of the race, with most fans able to get to their cars before getting wet.

Notable on the Friday opener was Wayne Hook's first ever win in the Backup cars. Wayne operates the pit gate at Columbus, so he is the guy who collects the money when you enter the pits, and he always has a smile on his face and a joke for all. He races strictly for the fun of it and is fond of saying, "No one has more fun out there than I do." Wayne had never won an event in several years of trying, but dominated on this night, saying, "The car just felt great, worked really good, and everything went off right on this night." Congrats to Wayne on that first and long-awaited victory!

Jimmy Ambruoso photo



Racing According to Plan from page 3

the Lucas Oil POWRi Midgets. The event was billed as the World Championships and featured drivers from Australia and New Zealand. The Sunday night show at Angell Park was one for the record books. The 30-lap Midget main event had everything a race fan could ask for. In addition to Rico Abreu's flip out of the park, there were multiple slid-jobs and lead exchanges between Tanner Thorson and Chris Bell over the final laps. We were glad to see Rico was OK after his nasty flip, and the battle between eventual winner Thorson and Bell was something you had to see in person to believe.

After a night in Sun Prairie, we were on the road for a short 10 minute drive to the Big 8 Late Model and Great Northern Sportsman Series event on Memorial Day afternoon. Columbus 151 is another track I've read about my entire life, but never had the opportunity to see a race at in person. One of the items that Columbus touts on their website is being Wisconsin's "Family Track". I would have to agree by the looks of the playground they have on the hill, along with Frisbee golf. The track itself is a tricky little joint, with passing at a premium.

The weather did present some challenging moments for track staff during the day. After the qualifying races were complete, a downpour hit the track. While the storm didn't last long, it did knock out power for the area surrounding the track. Using some creative thinking, the Big 8 officials and Columbus staff utilized a generator to get the speakers working during the power outage. With another bank of storm clouds approaching, the main event was announced with a reduced number of laps, and the remainder of the show moved along in quick order. Minnesota's Devin Schmidt picked up his second Great Northern Sportsman win in two attempts. Schmidt also won at Oktoberfest last fall. Casey Johnson made a late race pass of local competitor Brady Little to pick up the Big 8 win. The highlight of the day for me at Columbus was seeing the "World Famous" back-up racers compete. You always need something to keep the folks that might not be die hard race fans entertained, and the back-up racers accomplished that.

If you get a chance, I would highly recommend taking a racing vacation. You might see something your local track could use to improve their show, or you might realize just how lucky you have it. Either way, it's always a good time.

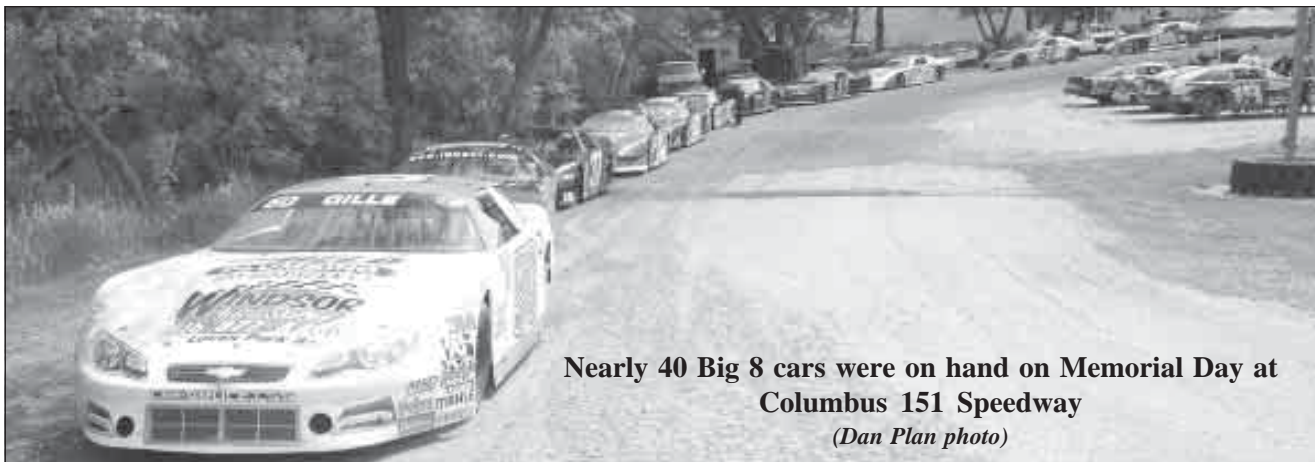
Miscellaneous News & Notes

The weekly racing at Cedar Lake Speedway, Elko Speedway and LaCrosse Speedway this year has seen several veteran drivers visit victory lane in the Late Model ranks. "The Sheriff" John Kaanta picked up a win early in May at Cedar

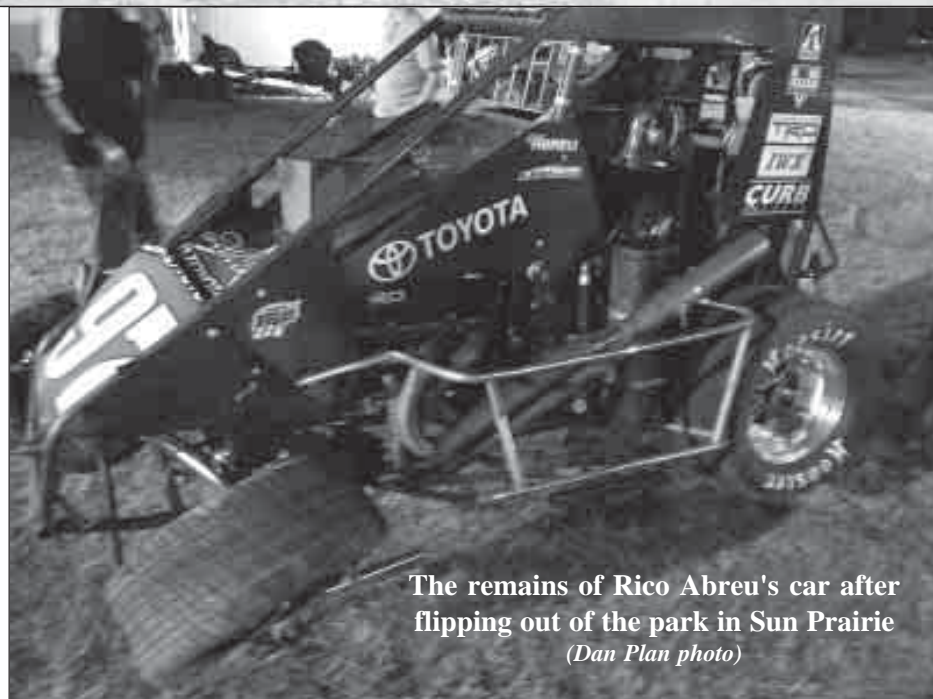
Lake, while "The Bloomington Bandit", Mark Lamoreaux picked up a win at Elko and "The King of the Short Tracks" Steve Carlson won at LaCrosse. Meanwhile at Rockford Speedway, Alex Papini won every main event in the month of May.

Prior to leaving on our racing vacation, we did sneak away from the campground to watch some racing at Cedar Lake Speedway during their annual Pack The Stands night. A jam-packed crowd was on hand to see short-track racing. Our hats go off to Andy Jones and Darrell Nelson for the show they put on one of the Modified heat races. You would have thought a million dollars was on the line during this race. They raced each other hard, but didn't wreck. The best part was all of the people in the stands got to see their display for free. Hopefully some new race fans were encouraged to come back a few more times this year for a regular Saturday night show.

Question of the month; Did Big 8/Rockford Speedway announcer Eric Huenefeld accidentally press the SAP (secondary audio program) button on the PA system prior to the rain delay?



Nearly 40 Big 8 cars were on hand on Memorial Day at Columbus 151 Speedway
(Dan Plan photo)



The remains of Rico Abreu's car after flipping out of the park in Sun Prairie
(Dan Plan photo)



The Badger Midget show car at Angell Park Speedway
(Dan Plan photo)

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

www.facebook.com/themidwestracingconnection

@MidwestRace

www.youtube.com/theracingconnection

facebook



You Tube

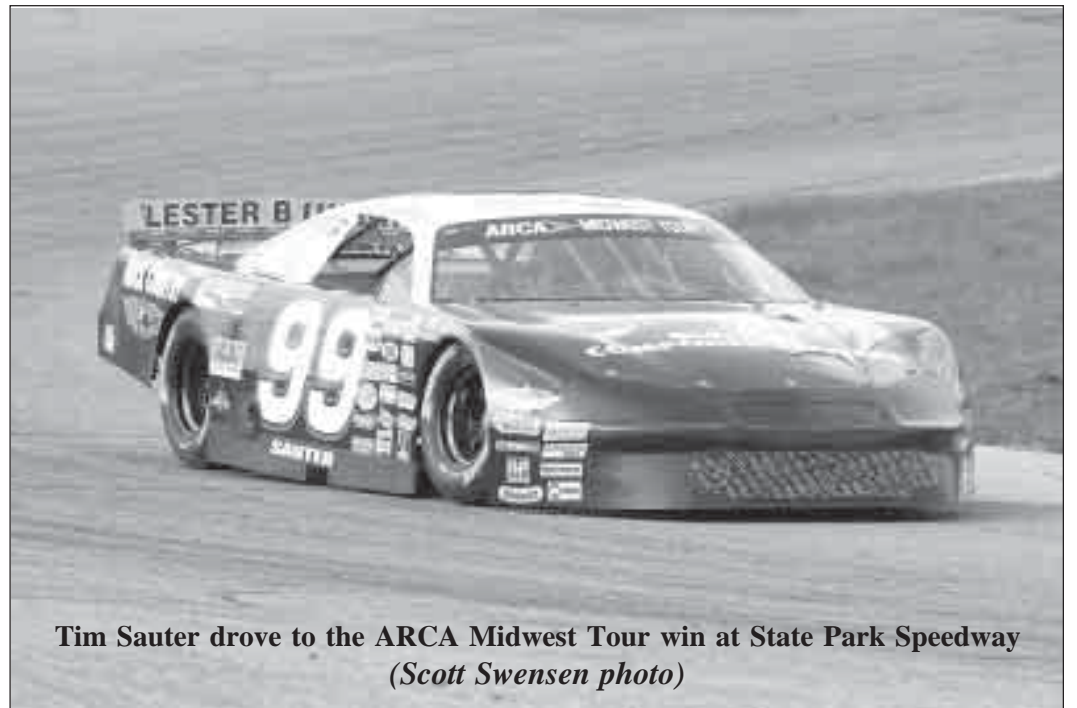
Racing Facts, Observances and Opinions from page 7

LOST a race at Madison International Speedway, Oregon, WI. as it was Nate Haseleu taking the 100 lap main event win there in ARCA Midwest Tour action May 4th. Sauter was looking for his 11th in a row at the track but a late race wreck put a halt to his chances of winning. Kyle Shear in his first ever attempt at Super Late Model racing almost pulled off the upset win but had to settle for 2nd at the checkered flag. Behind Shear was Skylar Holzhausen, Jeremy Miller and Nick Murgic. The race was again held in honor of the great racing legend, Joe Shear...It was off to Wausau, WI., where the mill still smells horrible, the ginseng is still popular with the Chinese and snow is on Rib Mountain well into May. But there was also Midwest Tour racing at the 1/4 mile track on May 17th and it was another one of those racing Sauters, this time Tim, taking the 125 lap Feature win. Following Sauter at the finish was Chris Wimmer, Ty Majeski, Skylar Holzhausen and Chris Weinkauff. Good to see Chris and his brother Jason back racing as separate crashes at MIS severely damaged both their cars. I'm sure car owner Jay Vandergeest was absolutely sick looking over the damage to his cars after MIS but he appeared in much better spirits with good looking repaired cars at Wausau. Majeski's 3rd place run was his best in Tour action so far as he set aside early season gremlins to post an excellent finish...Got to the La Crosse Fairgrounds Speedway, West Salem, WI., for their 2nd event of 2014, May 24th and it was you know who in victory lane after 25 laps of Feature racing. Mr. Steve Carlson used his millions of laps of experience to hold off a reluctant to try and pass on the outside Brad Powell to take the win in front of a huge \$1.00 concession night crowd. Following the two at the line were Mike Koenke, Matt Henderson and Shawn Pfaff...The May 31st show at La Crosse Featured two 20 lap Features for the NASCAR Late Models. Harley Jankowski pulled off the upset win in the 1st 20 holding off Ty Majeski or 5 laps who tried everything to get by on the outside. Unable to make the move pay-off, Majeski ultimately lost the 2nd spot to Brad Powell. Rounding out the top five was Steve Carlson, and Mike Koenke. 20 number two went to Koenke who withstood pressure from Majeski who had to settle for 2nd. Top 5 finishers in that race were Carlson, Powell and Cole Howland... The Dick Trickle Memorial Fund ground breaking event took place in his hometown of Rudolph, WI., on May 18th and what a great turn out appeared for the fund raiser. Saw many folks I hadn't seen in years at the ground breaking and it was almost like being at a race somewhere back in the '70s! A great time was had by all and numerous

other Memorial Fund events are planned for the future to honor the racing Legend, Dick Trickle...

Taking a look back in time at a small portion of the Marlin Walbeck racing file, on Sunday afternoon, June 25th, Marlin Walbeck captured the 25 lap Feature at Wausau's State Park Speedway outdistancing Ken Pancratz and Dick Trickle. On Thursday night, June 13th 1963, Marlin Walbeck in his famous #30 won the 25 lap Feature at the Dells Motor Speedway, Wis. Dells, WI. On Friday night, June 23rd, 1961 Marlin Walbeck won the Feature at AF Speedway of Adams Friendship Wisconsin out racing Larry Drake, Cal Breezer, Art Link and Vern Piotrowski. On Saturday night, July 7th 1962, Marlin Walbeck won the Feature event at the Black River Falls Speedway, Black River Falls, WI., racing ahead of Dave Frogatt, Dean Spohn and Everett Fox. On Wednesday night, August 14th, 1963 Marlin Walbeck took the special main event 50 lap race at Stratford Speedway, Stratford, WI. Walbeck out dueled Everett Fox, Dave Marcis and Dick Schultz for the win. On Sunday night May 23rd, 1965, Marlin Walbeck took the 30 lap Feature at the Griffith Park Speedway of Wis. Rapids, WI. Walbeck finished ahead of John McNamara, Dick Trickle, Rich Somers and Lyle Nabbefeldt. On Sunday afternoon, April 21st, 1968, Marlin Walbeck took his 1965 Chevelle to the 30 lap Feature win at Golden Sands Speedway of Plover, WI.

News, notes and comments welcome to Dale P. Danielski at Starmaker Multimedia 967 10th Ave N Ste A, Onalaska, WI 54650, at 608-783-5827 or at dale@starmakermultimedia.com, www.starmakermultimedia.com

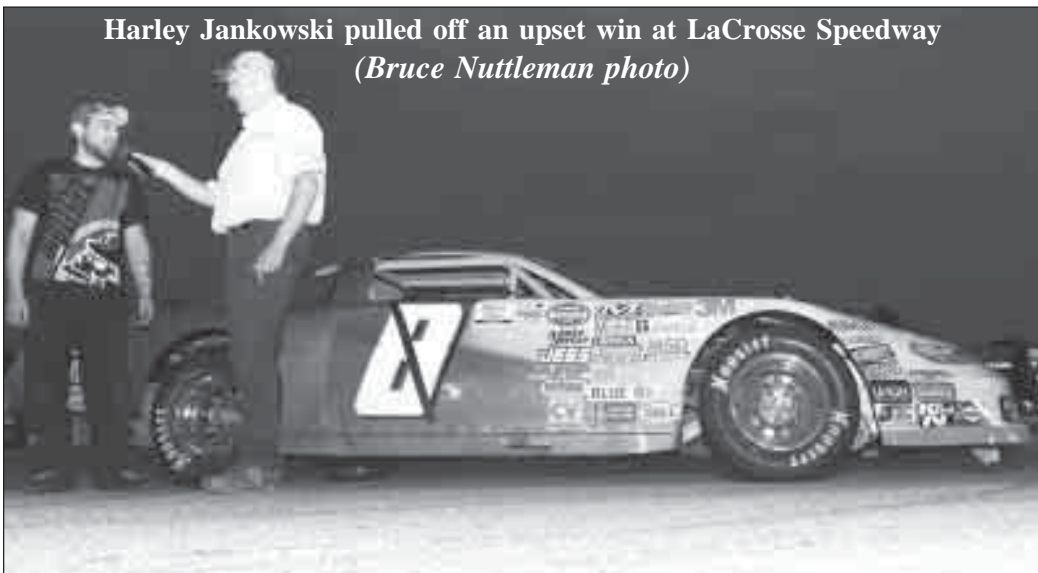


**Tim Sauter drove to the ARCA Midwest Tour win at State Park Speedway
(Scott Swensen photo)**



**THE MIDWEST
RACING CONNECTION**

**Harley Jankowski pulled off an upset win at LaCrosse Speedway
(Bruce Nuttleman photo)**



LIL' CALE *shanty
ALONG*

**TELL THE T.V. GUY'S, THEY
MAY NEED TO ADJUST THE
RACE CAM!**



ARCA @ Elko Review/Preview

The 2014 running of the ARCA Racing Series AKONA 250 at Elko Speedway will be the third time the drivers of the Automobile Racing Club of America have visited Elko Speedway in Minnesota.

The first event was held in June of 2012 with Venturini Motorsports driver Brennan Poole taking the win in the 200-lap event. Hometown favorite, Joey Miller,

Kimmel leads the pack during the 2013 ARCA show at Elko

*Photos by
Martin DeFries*



returned for an ARCA start and came away with a 6th place finish. Our neighbors to the North were also represented by Fort Francis, Ontario's Steve Arpin in the field. Arpin wound up 12th at the checkers.

The second ARCA race at Elko took place in June of 2013, and the event was increased to 250 laps. Veteran NASCAR driver Ken Schrader set fast time to earn the pole position. Ten-time ARCA champion, Frank Kimmel, would drive away for the win in last year's version. Local driver Jonathan Eilen earned a podium finish with his third place effort. Another local driver, Nick Barstad, made his ARCA debut in a WinTron ride for the show.

The 2014 event will once again feature the veterans of ARCA such as Kimmel, along with many up and coming short track stars of today.

Frank Kimmel celebrates in victory lane (left photo), Kenny Schrader set fast time last year (right photo)
(Martin DeFries photos)



**CEDAR VIEW
ELECTRIC, INC.**
952-469-2100

New Construction - Remodel - Service Work
Pools/Hot Tubs - Basements - Additions

Residential & Commercial

Lakeville, MN

www.cedarviewelectric.com

www.cedarlakespeedway.com

UMP DIRT CAR SUMMER NATIONALS TOURING LATE MODELS AND
USMTS MODIFIEDS INVADE CEDAR LAKE THE FOR THE MASTERS!



Like Us On...



16th Annual

MASTERS WEEKEND



Thursday, Friday & Saturday
JUNE 12, 13 & 14

COMPLETE SHOW EACH NIGHT!

THURSDAY - DAY 1

FEATURING...

MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS,
MIDWEST MODS & HORNETS

TICKETS

ADULT \$12 • STUDENT \$6
PIT PASS \$25

FRIDAY - DAY 2

FEATURING...

UMP DIRT CAR SUMMER
NATIONALS TOURING
LATE MODELS AND
USMTS MODIFIEDS!

TICKETS

ADULT \$25 • STUDENT \$12
PIT PASS \$35

SATURDAY - DAY 3

FEATURING...

UMP DIRT CAR SUMMER
NATIONALS TOURING
LATE MODELS AND
USMTS MODIFIEDS!

TICKETS

ADULT \$30 • STUDENT \$15
PIT PASS \$40



Photo Gallery



Mark Lamoreaux held off Paul Paine and Jacob Goede for a win at Elko
Martin DeFries photo



Greg Oliver, Steve Carlson and Brad Powell at LaCrosse
Bruce Nuttleman photo



Illini Midget Action at Rockford Speedway
Jimmy Ambruoso photo



Minnesota's Devin Schmidt one the GNSS race at Columbus 151
Mark Melchiori photo



Rob Caho Jr. and Chase Viebrock in UMSS Traditional action
Vince Peterson photo



Another of Wisconsin's great racers recently passed. RIP Marlin Walbeck
Dale Danielski collection



Photo Gallery



Correction from our last issue. The Lady From Rosemount - Tina Davis
Martin DeFries photo



3-Wide action at Rockford Speedway
Jimmy Ambruoso photo



The World Famous CLS Bus Races
Stan Meissner photo



The Six for Six dash at LaCrosse Speedway
Bruce Nuttleman photo



Deanna Chandler goes up in a ball of flames at Rockford Speedway
Jimmy Ambruoso photo



The Sheriff - John Kaanta in victory lane at Cedar Lake
Stan Meissner photo

NASCAR
LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway
NASCAR Weekly Racing: Through August 23
ALL-AMERICAN SERIES

DRAG RACE YOUR OWN CAR!
LaCrosse Speedway
STREET DRAGS

2nd Friday of the Month
May-September

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar!
 June 14 • Green Mamba / Smash-O-Rama
 July 3 • Star Spangled Spectacular / Fireworks
 July 19 • (2) 20 Lap Late Model Features
 July 26 • TUNDRA Super Late Models
 Aug. 16 • Mid-American Stock Car Series
 Oct. 2-3-4-5 • 45th **Oktoberfest** Race Weekend

WEEKLY EVENT TIMES:
 Qualifying - 6:15
 Racing Starts - 7:30

NASCAR
TIME TRACKS

LaCrosse
FAIRGROUNDS
Speedway

N4985 Cty Hwy M • West Salem, WI
 608-786-1525 • lacrossespeedway@yahoo.com
 www.lacrossespeedway.com



NATIONAL SPEEDWAY
DIRECTORY
 UNITED STATES AND CANADA

35th Anniversary Edition

OVAL TRACKS
 DRAGSTRIPS
 ROAD COURSES
 SANCTIONS
 PUBLICATIONS
 MUSEUMS
 2014 RACE SCHEDULES

NATIONAL SPEEDWAY
DIRECTORY

PRINT WEB MOBILE
NSD
 ISBN 978-0-931105-01-2
 WWW.SPEEDWAYSONLINE.COM

Cedar View Electric, Inc
 22776 Pine Trail, Lakeville, MN 55044

Presents Race Car Alley!
Friday July 11th
Lakeville's Pan-O-Prog Cruise Night 5:00PM-8:00PM

- Meet & Greet Autograph Session
- Scavenger Hunt For The Kids
- Test Your Skills at the Tire Changing Station
- Drawings and Prizes, Including Tickets To Elko Speedway

For More Information, Call 952-469-2100



www.IMCAoldtimers.com

2014 Event Schedule
 June 4-8 **ARCA Fest - Milwaukee Mile**
 June 8 **Slinger Super Speedway**
 June 21 **Jefferson Speedway (Tentative)**
 June 27 **Madison International Speedway**
 July 12 **Lacrosse Speedway**
 July 19 **Cedar Lake Speedway**

I.M.C.A. OLD TIMERS
INTERNATIONAL MOTOR CYCLES ASSN
MEMBER




"Hammer Down"



Eric Huenefeld

One of my favorite times of the year is Memorial Day Weekend. It is, by nature, our most solemn holiday, as we remember those who lost their lives defending our freedoms. I'm always awed by that. People fought and died and among other things have allowed us to continue to do what we love.

For me and people like me, what I love on Memorial Day Weekend is going to the race track. I've always kind of considered Memorial Day Weekend 'The Great American Racing Weekend.' Memorial Day Weekend marks the unofficial start of summer and brings with it a host of terrific racing events. From local short tracks to road courses carved through island kingdoms, it is truly an eventful weekend for gearheads worldwide.

My love of the weekend is rooted both locally and nationally. If I were to put my finger on it, I'd deduct my love affair with Memorial Day Weekend racing began with 'Greatest Spectacle in Racing,' the Indianapolis 500. In my viable days, Indy was big time. The first Indy 500 I remember vividly was 1989, when Al Unser Jr and Emerson Fittipaldi touched wheels at high speeds in pursuit of victory. Unser's day ended as he backed into the turn three wall. Fittipaldi's day ended in victory lane, as the multi-time world driving champion conquered the boxy Indiana oval.

I was hooked on Indy after that race. Year after year, the intrigue and tradition kept me coming back. In 1995, my dad and I ventured to Indy for the first time. Jacques Villeneuve won that race (the final CART Indy 500). But it was so much more than a race. It was the Purdue University Marching Band. Tom Carnegie. Jim Nabors. Balloons. Three-wide starts. Canyons of race fans as far as the eye can see. If you're a true racing fan, how can you deny that the Indianapolis 500 is 'the race'?

On a smaller scale, local short track racing has been a big part of my Memorial Day Weekend too. I recall heading to Dubuque Fairgrounds Speedway for Sunday night Busch

All Star Tour specials in my younger days, seeing my heroes Roger Dolan and Ray Guss Jr in action. Those were exciting nights. Memorial Day Monday trips to Kaukauna for the ARTGO Challenge Series shows were also juicy treats for a young race fan.

One of the most memorable local Memorial Day Weekend races I recall was in 2000, on a Sunday afternoon at Madison International Speedway. The event was a 250 lap race for the RE/MAX Challenge Series. As I recall, Nate Haseleu and Steve Carlson set a blistering pace to the race and at one point there may have been only 5 or less cars on the lead lap. Regardless of that fact, the race was very captivating.

Carlson and Haseleu battled on track most of the day and battled off of pit road late in the race. Then in the race's closing stages, the two drivers raced three-wide through traffic, with the local favorite Haseleu giving the hometown crowd all sorts of reasons to cheer. In the end, Carlson won, as he has done so much. That thriller at MIS was just the start of a memorable day, as later that night Matt Kenseth pocketed his first ever Coca Cola 600 win at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

All of these great racing memories occurred on 'The Great American Racing Weekend.' I have been pleased to see an increase in Memorial Day shows back on our local racing calendar, including the Big 8 Late Models at Columbus, the TUNDRA Travelers at Golden Sands, and the ARCA Midwest Tour at Illiana. Count 'The Hammer' as one race fan who hopes racing on Memorial Day and Memorial Day Weekend continues to be one of the great traditions we take part in for years to come!

The Great American Racing Weekend



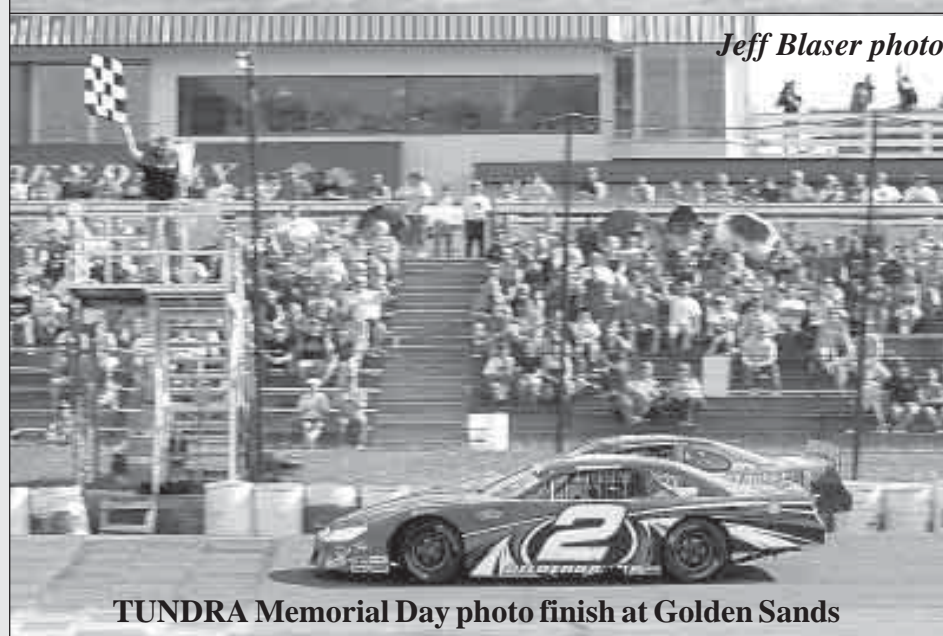
Mark Melchiori photo

Big 8 Late Model action at Columbus 151 on Memorial Day



Doug Hornickel photo

ARCA Midwest tour Memorial Day Border Wars at Illiana



Jeff Blaser photo

TUNDRA Memorial Day photo finish at Golden Sands

Dirty Talkin'



Kris Peterson

Young racing phenom Chase Viebrock, a third generation driver has grown up around the race track. At the young age of 15, Chase has had an impressive racing career thus far racing many different classes of Karts, moving on to a Mini Mod and now that he has reached the minimum age has moved into Traditional Non Wing Sprint car racing with the Upper Midwest Sprint Car Series (UMSS).

“The New Richmond Nightmare” as Chase has been dubbed has earned that nickname with over 100 feature wins throughout his short racing career. He has been racing since the age of 5 and the list of his accomplishments is quite remarkable. He was track champion at Flying Pines Raceway in the Junior Sportsman class, has won King of the Dirt, was track champion at Thunder Hill Speedway in the

Junior 1 division winning 15 of 16 feature races that year, and has been crowned the Wisconsin Dirt Track Champion in two different classes 4 times.

Chase, in his rookie year with the UMSS, has been quite exciting to watch this season. With only four race nights under his belt, has been the top point earner three times. Winning his last 3 heat races in a row with a best feature finish so far of third and his worse finishing position in a feature still being in the top ten. Watching all but one of his races this year, I see a racer who drives with passion, heart and determination, yet still runs a very clean race. With his success already this year I am sure that he will be a strong contender for the Rookie of the Year title.

“The New Richmond Nightmare”



Vince Peterson photo

As I have been hanging out with the crowd at these races I have discovered that the young racer is quickly becoming a fan favorite not only with the teenagers but adults as well. In the meet your driver portion of the Traditional Sprint program, he takes the time to talk to fans and answer questions and is a very friendly likeable young man.

The UMSS Traditional Sprints run Friday nights at St. Croix Valley Raceway as well as several Saturday night shows at various area dirt tracks. This group never disappoints and always puts on a fantastic show for the fans.



The always poplular, mid-race fan autograph session held during UMSS shows (left photo) and "The New Richmond Nightmare" Chase Viebrock in action (right photo)
Vince Peterson photos

Dean & Jason Talkin' Racin'



Jason Searcy

Even with some of the familiar names at Elko Speedway not racing for points this year, the Super Late Models at Elko Speedway have been very entertaining the first month of the 2014 Season.

Nine time Elko Speedway Champion Donny Reuvers is racing the full ARCA Midwest Tour series this year and defending Elko Champion Adam Royle is not racing at all yet, and that opens the door for a new Champion at Elko Speedway or possibly one we have not heard from in a while.

62 yr old Mark Lamoreaux was a surprise winner of the main event on May 17th. He hadn't won a feature at Elko since the Mid 1980's "I think I am more than a veteran" said

Lamoreaux. He was the 1976 Champion at Elko and 1991 Champion at La Crosse but he usually prefers not to race for the title "I try not to race for points, I've been in too many of those and you go crazy," said Lamoreaux.

Paul Paine had a terrible wreck to start the season last year, it took him a good part of the year just to get back to the track. 2014 is a different story as he has clocked a fast time in qualifying and has had two runner up finishes and leads in the Elko Speedway point standings coming into June. "We weren't planning on running for points," said Paine "now maybe we better look at it."

On the other end of the spectrum was 20 yr old Derek Lemke who won on May 24th, he is only in his third year of racing in the Super Late Model division. They have a new car this year and really got it dialed in to start the season. "Right now I'm not thinking about points but, any racer will look at the points at some point and time, we will play it out and see how Mid-Season is," said Lemke.

Jacob Goede is joining his brother Matt racing full time at Elko this summer, this is the first time that they have raced each other at the same track for a point title. Jacob has raced full time in the ARCA Midwest Tour for quite some time, he won the Rookie of the year in 2009 and finished second in points in 2011. He had two victories on the tour; one at I-94 in Sauk Centre and one at Illiana. Remember he also won three big ASA Late Model races; one at Iowa Speedway, in Bristol, and also in Mansfield (OH).

Matt Goede has done quite well at Elko over the years, he finished fourth in points last year and scored four wins, he was runner up in points in 2012. Both drivers are capable of

**Derek Lemke in
victory lane at Elko
Martin DeFries photo**

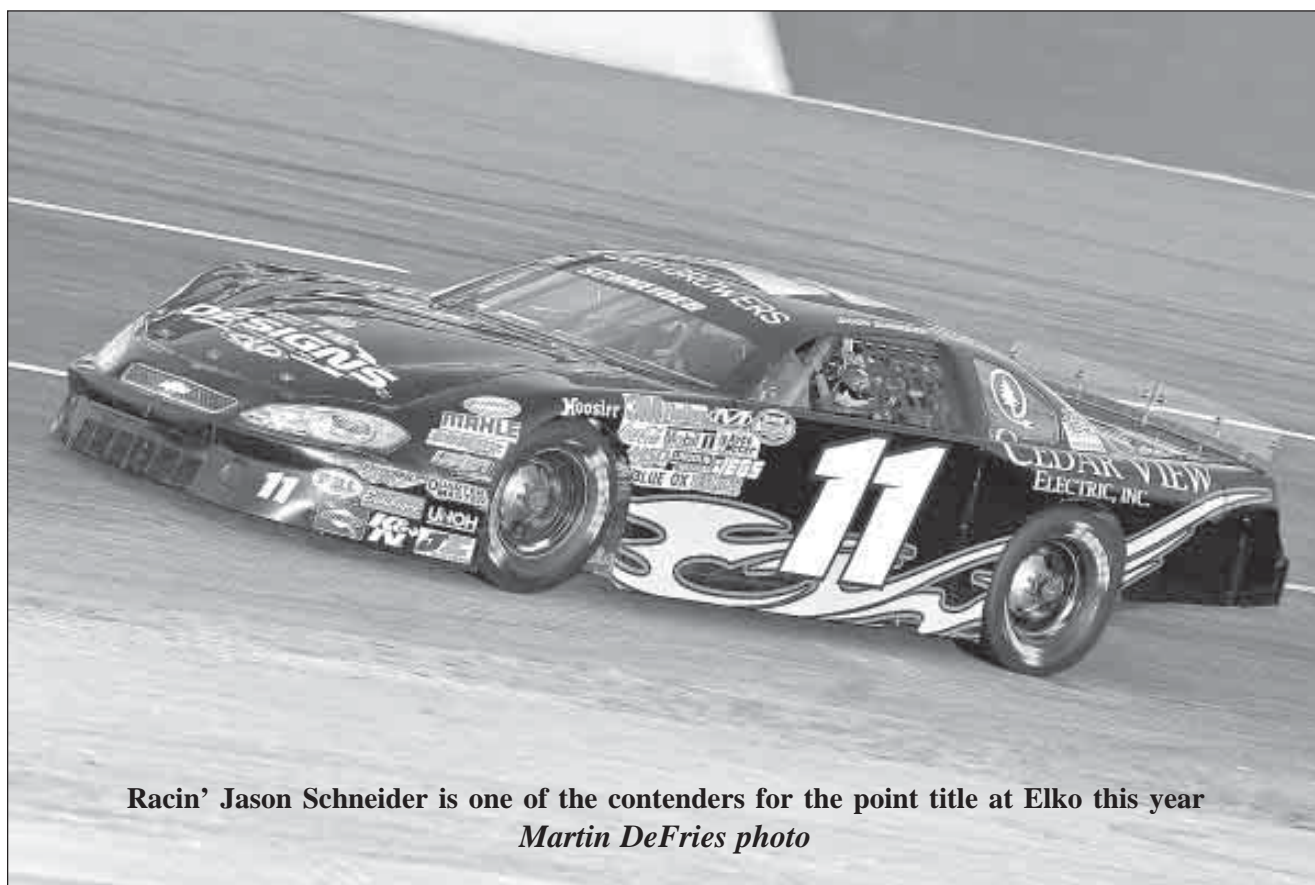


winning numerous races and fighting for the Title this year, maybe racing each other for it.

Lets not forget about Jason Schneider who has two Elko titles under his belt, he won the Championship in both 1998 and 1999, he is always near the front and has been ultra consistent. Chad Walen has never won a Championship at Elko but he won two feature events in 2013. He has won a bunch of MN state NASCAR titles in his career and two Championships at Raceway Park, he found a great set up at Oktoberfest last fall and it has carried over to a good start this season at Elko Speedway.

Bryan Syer-Keske is also a guy to keep an eye on this summer. This two time Great North Legends Champion won two races last year and has the talent to get the job done. Don't be surprised if you see Joey Garofalo, Steve Anderson or Bryan Roach in victory lane this summer either.

More than a handful of the former Elko Speedway regulars are racing the TUNDRA or ARCA Midwest touring series and that is a good thing. The Super Late Model car count is still healthy at between 16-20 every week at Elko Speedway and the racing is great. Minnesota drivers are proving their worth in Regional Touring series and that opens the doors for a new, or maybe revisited Champion at Elko Speedway this summer.



**Racin' Jason Schneider is one of the contenders for the point title at Elko this year
Martin DeFries photo**

Masters Preview

Once again, The Masters at Cedar Lake Speedway will be part of the DIRTcar Summer Nationals "Hell Tour". The Summer Nationals consists of 33 races in a little more than a month's time span. Last year's event saw eventual tour champion Brandon Shepard pull off several slide jobs to take the lead, only to jump the cushion and loose a few spots. Brian Birkhofer would go on to win the Late Model portion of the show.

The USMTS Modified drivers will make their 4th appearance at The Masters. The 2013 version saw Rodney Sanders from Happy Texas chase down race long leader Lucas Schott to take the win. Look for the USMTS drivers to be out in force once again for this year's version.

Mother Nature captured the Saturday night portion of the 2013 Masters.

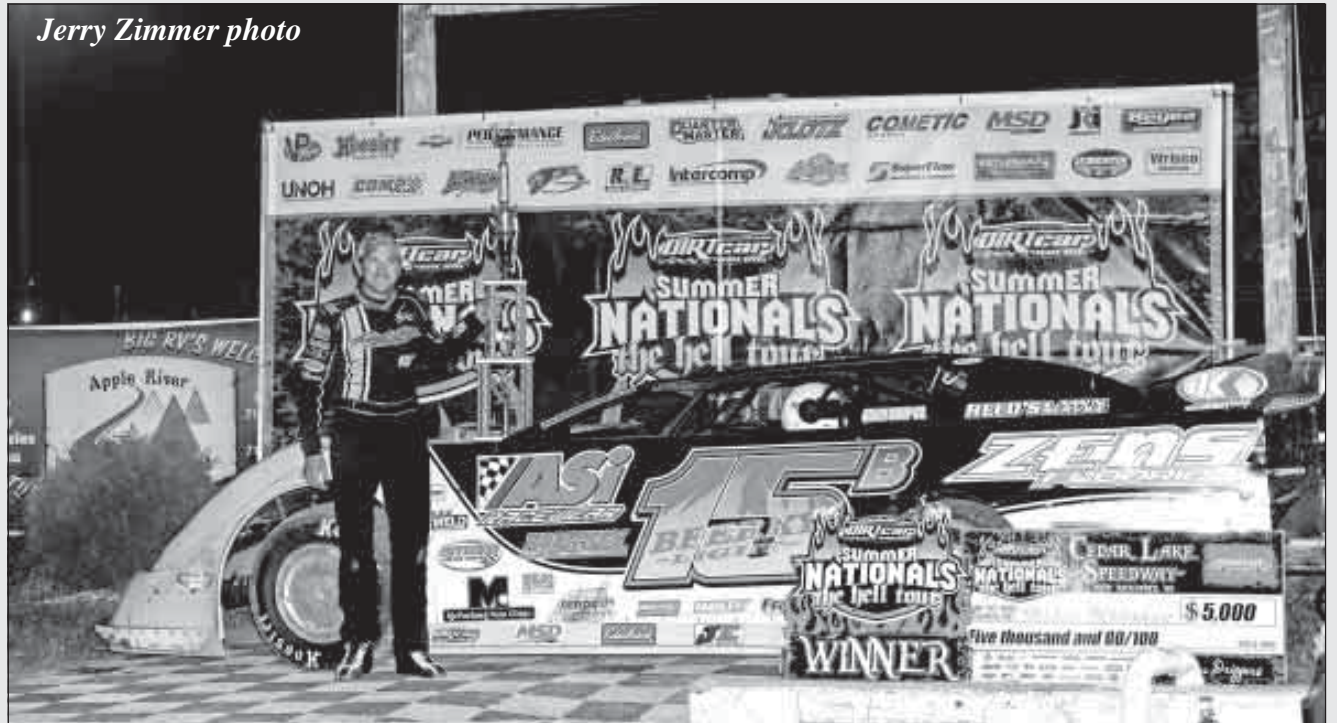
Past Masters Late Model Winners

1999 - Wendell Wallace
 2000 - Rick Aukland
 2001 - Scott Bloomquist
 2002 - Rick Eckert
 2003 - Wendell Wallace
 2004 - Earl Pearson, Jr.
 2005 - Don O'Neal
 2005 - Donnie Moran
 2006 - Earl Pearson, Jr.
 2007 - Jimmy Mars
 2007 - Scott Bloomquist
 2008 - Jimmy Mars
 2008 - Brady Smith
 2009 - Jimmy Mars
 2009 - Jimmy Mars
 2010 - Billy Moyer
 2010 - Brian Birkhofer
 2011 - Scott James
 2012 - Billy Moyer Jr.
 2013 - Brian Birkhofer

Past Masters UMSTS Modified Winners

2011 - Ryan Gustin
 2012 - Rodney Sanders & Ryan Gustin
 2013 - Rodney Sanders

Jerry Zimmer photo



Jerry Zimmer photo

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

www.facebook.com/themidwestracingconnection

@MidwestRace

www.youtube.com/theracingconnection

facebook



You Tube



Dan Plan photo

Mike Gilomen started out in racing as a 14-year-old watching his dad race the two-person Cruiser cars at the local tracks. The younger Gilomen started racing himself the next year in the Power Stock class. After destroying the Power Stock, the family set out to build a Thunder Car/Sportsmen type car, and have been at it ever since. ***The Midwest Racing Connection*** recently caught up with Gilomen as the team was getting ready to start the 2014 season.

Last year, in addition to racing at Elko and Raceway Park, you did a bit of travelling. What other tracks did you visit?

Last year, we went on two trips out to Slinger and one race at Rockford. At the Bahama Brackets (Rockford) we have an older Impala we brought there. It's still a Thunder Car, but has steel bumpers and it's gutted out around the wheels.

Do you plan on running for points at Elko, or travelling again this year?

Nope, we're not going to run for weekly points this year. We are going to run for points in the Great Northern Sportsmen Series (GNSS). We start at Columbus 151 Speedway on Memorial Day. We're going to race Slinger on Sunday, and then Columbus Monday. We also plan on going to the Dells later in the season.

A while ago, this type of car (Thunder Car/Hobby/Sportsmen) was different from track to track. Do you think things are better now?

Yeah, we don't have to change a whole lot. I know when I brought my Elko car out to other tracks last year, I had to add some weight. There are some things with the motors and the shocks we run, but for the most part, they are pretty much the same from track to track.

What is your favorite track now that you've had the opportunity to visit a few?

I would have to say Slinger. Slinger is a lot of fun. It's a hard track to get a grip on, but it's a really fun race track.

What do you enjoy most about traveling from track to track?

I would have to say getting the chance to meet new people. Last year at Slinger, I met a handful of people I still talk to on a weekly basis, just great people. You also get to see what other tracks do for race procedures and then get the experience of learning a new track. Every time you get on a new track, you learn a ton.



Dan Plan photo



Martin DeFries photo

Bring Your Kids to the Track

Your Saturday night home track offers plenty of activities for the kids. Shown here are Cedar Lake Speedway, Elko Speedway, LaCrosse Speedway and Rockford Speedway. Photos by Jimmy Ambruoso, Martin DeFries and Bruce Nuttleman.



ROCKFORD
Speedway

Saturday Night Racing

"Mid-America's Finest Racetrack"
April - September
Action Starts at 7:07pm

Coming in the next issue of

THE MIDWEST
RACING CONNECTION

Driver interviews, Mid-Season
highlights and more!

The Inside Dirt continued from page 6

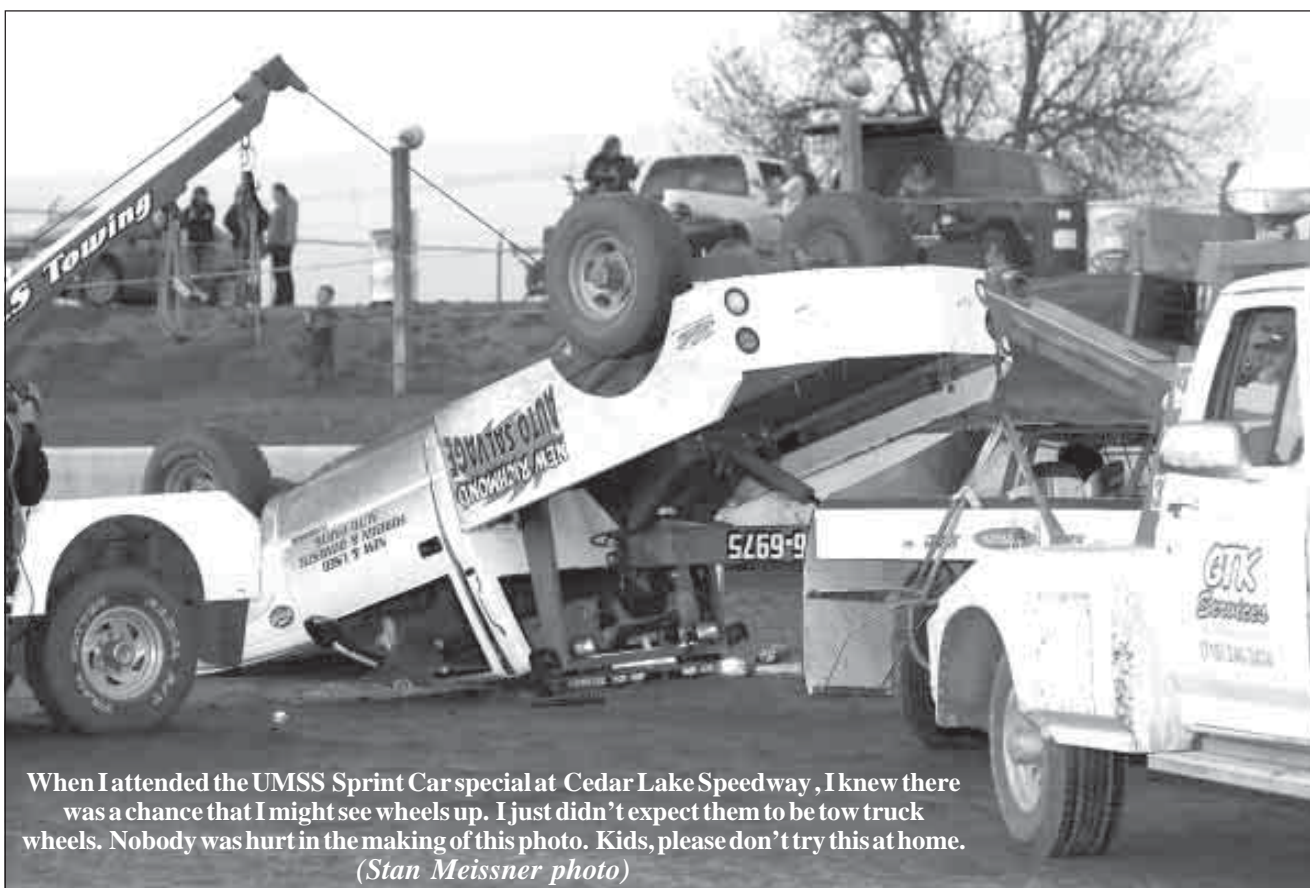
of the 305 Feature that the broadcast locked up and we had to reboot and log back in but that was the only problem I experienced with their stream.

The entire event cost \$15, the price of one general admission for a Knoxville weekly show. When one factors in the cost of gas along with a motel, meals and 10-12 hours spent sitting in a car the PPV makes a lot of sense. Don't get me wrong, I prefer to attend races live in our beautiful summer weather. Nevertheless, I keep this option in mind for those nights when I can't get to the track or it's raining in our area but skies are sunny in Knoxville.

My son and I both agreed that Knoxville has a good business model with the PPV. Hard core racing fans are going to be at the track on Saturday night and the PPV allows the Raceway to offer their entertainment product to people who are not able to attend. Knoxville is in the unique position of having some of the most talented drivers in the country not currently on the road with the Outlaws racing there weekly. They've got consistently good car counts and their drivers are familiar to Sprint Car fans everywhere. Tracks resisted PPV internet broadcasts at first but Knoxville has bucked that trend and embraced this evolving technology. Live dirt track racing probably will never be picked up by the major cable channels but internet broadcasting with its lower production cost is a perfect fit. For most of the night Knoxville had one camera angle from the top of the grandstand but we have become so spoiled by multiple camera angles and in car cameras that we tend to forget that we watch racing from a single vantage point when we're at the track. I give the experience a thumbs up and won't hesitate to tune in again.

I was looking forward to the Cedar Lake Triple on May 31 but my trek to the Cedar Lake Speedway ended up being a 70 mile round trip run for a cheeseburger and fries. I got there around 4:30 and planned on walking around the pits taking photos of the cars but most of the cars were sitting in the haulers due to a brief downpour shortly before my arrival. I had a burger and a nice conversation with Jerry "Zimmy" Zimmer and his dad then headed out to the lot to organize some camera equipment where I ran into another fellow photographer Scotty Swenson. We shook hands and were catching up on the past six months when we started getting hit by some large rain drops. Before Scotty could get the words "I'm heading to my car before we get soaked" out of his mouth those big drops had turned into a downpour. I spent the next twenty minutes sitting in my car thinking that the golf umbrella in the trunk wasn't doing me any good. Note to self, keep the umbrella in the car and not in the trunk.

After driving home through the rain I went down to the man cave and setup for XSAN's streaming of the weekly show from Virginia Motor Speedway. VMS is a great looking facility with nice fields of Late Models and Modifieds but the lack of familiar drivers wasn't doing it for me. The solution was to watch the video from VMS while listening to the Knoxville Raceway audio. XSAN provides excellent picture and sound quality so I'm going to keep tabs on their schedule so I can catch an event that includes some drivers I'm familiar with. Thirty 410's took time trials at Knoxville with Minnesotan Davey Heskin taking top honors. Unfortunately Knoxville was hit by heavy rain after one 305



When I attended the UMSS Sprint Car special at Cedar Lake Speedway, I knew there was a chance that I might see wheels up. I just didn't expect them to be tow truck wheels. Nobody was hurt in the making of this photo. Kids, please don't try this at home.
(Stan Meissner photo)

Heat had been completed. I ended up watching an Iron Maiden concert on Palladia.

I am contributing a \$40 bonus to the winner of the UMSS Traditional 40 at the Saint Croix Valley Raceway on Friday June 27. I decided to extent the opportunity so others could match my \$40 hoping that by doing this we could collectively extend the bonus further back in the field. So far we've got commitments taking us back to ninth place only three days after I presented the idea. You can read about it on the gotomn.com website by clicking the "Traditional 40 for 40 Bonus" link at the top of the page. If this first attempt proves to be successful (which it appears that it's going to be) I'll do something for another one of my favorite events later this season.

We're heading into the annual specials and some of the best racing of the season during the coming weeks. My upcoming schedule includes the Cedar Lake Masters on June 12-13, the weekly show at Saint Croix Valley on June 20 and the Traditional 40 on June 27, the CLS Firecracker on June 28 and the World of Outlaws Sprints at CLS on June 29. There could be one or two weekly shows added as well. I had originally said in these pages that I would be attending the USAC show at Amsoil but have revised my schedule due to other obligations. Maybe I can catch USAC next year if this year's show is a success and they make another appearance. We'll see you at the races!

**THE MIDWEST
RACING CONNECTION**

651-346-1199
NASCAR Insight

Shane Carlson
Will return in the next issue of MRC.

The Midwest Racing Connection Directory Page



Turtle's
BAR & GRILL

Downtown Shakopee
952-445-9668

Custom Wheels, Tires & Accessories



Todd Thompson
9743 Humboldt Ave So, Bloomington, MN 55431 • 612-867-6120
www.ShowCarSupply.net • showcar@comcast.net



★ Race Car Bodies
★ Custom Formed Racing Windows
★ Custom Plastic Thermoforming
★ Advanced Composite Design and Manufacturing
262.877.2171 • www.fivestarbodies.com




WILSON
RACE FUELS

RED WING, MN

1-800-634-9666

www.wilsonoilcompany.com

WEHRS CHEVROLET



I-90 and Hwy. 162 Bangor, WI 54614-0409
800-562-0907 www.wehrschvrolet.com



20152 Kenrick Ave. West
Lakeville, MN 55044
Phone (952) 469 - 3182 * Fax (952) 469 - 7724



651.457.6348 | 20 Thompson Avenue, Suite 201
West Saint Paul, MN 55118



RaceFab
Street Stock/Sportsmen Parts
LaCrosse, WI
www.dcaracefab.com

**IMPACT
PRINTING**

651-489-0803

WWW.IMPACTPRINTINGINK.COM

Products — **MOTORSPORTS
MARKETING TOOLS**



www.starmakermultimedia.com

Sponsorship Packages
DVD Marketing Packages
Star Cards • Consulting

Dale P. Danielski
dale@starmakermultimedia.com
608.783.5827

Services



www.aRaceWorthWinning.org



RACE CARS PARTS & ACCESSORIES
Rosemount, Mn 651-423-5800



1710 Pearl St.
Bangor, WI 54614
877-460-7211

CLAMP	WHEEL	STEERING	TRANSMISSION
SUSPENSION	FRONT END	TOOLS	PAINT
ENGINE	AXLES	DRIVE	COOLING

www.wehrsmachine.com

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

www.facebook.com/themidwestracingconnection

@MidwestRace

www.youtube.com/theracingconnection

facebook



YouTube

**A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION
AT CEDAR LAKE SPEEDWAY**

FIRECRACKER SPECIAL
ANNUAL HUGE FIREWORKS DISPLAY!
SATURDAY, JUNE 28

NASCAR LATE MODELS, MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS & HORNETS



WORLD OF OUTLAWS
SUN, JUNE 29TH
WITH MIDWEST MODS



DEATH DEFYING STUNTS, TRAILER RACERS, SPECTATOR DRAGS, AND MORE!
6TH ANNUAL

NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION!

**PLUS MIDWEST MODS
AND PRO STOCKS**

SAT, JULY 5¹⁴



WWW.CEDARLAKESPEEDWAY.COM



✓Yes



✓Yes



xNo



✓Yes

✓Reliably Low Prices
✓Huge Selection



ALL THE PARTS YOUR CAR WILL EVER NEED
www.rockauto.com

✓Easy To Use Website
✓Fast Shipping

MPLS/ST. PAUL

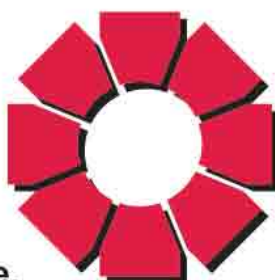
(651) 641-1414

2161 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55114
www.pirtekusa.com/fwp/midway/

PLYMOUTH

(763) 475-0475

11350 Highway 55
Plymouth, MN 55441
www.pirtekusa.com/fwp/plymouth/



PIRTEK

**Proudly Serving The Construction And
Racing Communities Since 1996!**

PIRTEK fluid transfer solutions for automotive, marine, off-road and custom applications work to your advantage and your budget. Get the right part the first time. No more leaks or endless trips to the parts store. **No More Headaches!**



**Hoses-Adapters-Fittings • Standard-Metric
D.O.T. Certified Brake Hoses and Lines •
Power Steering • Oil Lines • Transmission
Lines • Fuel • A/C**

**PROUD SPONSORS OF:
VINCE CORBIN, JOEY PRUSAK & ADAM ROYLE**

PIRTEK HAS AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS