

THE MIDWEST RACING CONNECTION

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THE MIDWEST'S SHORT TRACK AUTO RACING AUTHORITY

Chatty Madi & Racing Nuggets



April 2022

Inside...



Going In Circles



Discovering Your Roots



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Publisher's Note Racing According to Plan



Dan Plan

The 7th Annual Racers Reunion recently took place during the month of March. After a 2-year hiatus, the event returned in fine fashion. The event is hosted at the Yaggy shop in Rochester, MN. I came across this event courtesy of one of the “good guys” of the sport, Todd Narveson.

The idea for this event came about several years ago from Mark Noble’s idea of getting his late father

Racers Reunion

Dave Noble out to see some of his old racing friends. That was a pretty good idea. I’ve heard of this event since its inception, but for one reason or another, I could never find the time to make way to Rochester for the reunion. I’m glad I made the trip this year.

I really enjoy events like this during the off-season. Some of the vintage cars on display were before my time, but it’s always interesting see cars from years past and learn the history behind. This was my first time seeing the Rex Garr coupe raced in Southern Minnesota. The driver and car even made an appearance at the Minnesota State Fair during their time on the track. Each time I see some of the cars from the early days of racing, I often wonder how anybody survived in those days. Safety sure has come a long way.

Other cars on display were ones I was able to see in person or read about in trade publications during their heyday of competition. Bob Steier had two of these gems on display during the show; the Mert Williams Wagon and the Charlie Swartz mid-engine

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The Midwest

RACING

Connection

April 2022

P.O. Box 22111
St. Paul MN, 55122
651-451-4036

www.theracingconnection.com

Publisher
Dan Plan

Contributing Writers

Dale P. Danielski

Dan Margetta

Jacy Norgaard

PJ "Jacklyn" Nuttleman

Madeline Schultz

Jason Searcy

Charlie Spry

Photographers

Vance Birno (612-308-3572)

Martin DeFries (651-346-1199)

Larry Douma (920-306-0751)

TJ Harron (608-301-5258)

Doug Hornickel (920-723-0522)

Jacy Norgaard (jacynorgaardphotography.com)

Bruce/Ryan Nuttleman (612-860-6622)

Vince Peterson (612-419-6372)

Jess Riedner (608-334-5329)

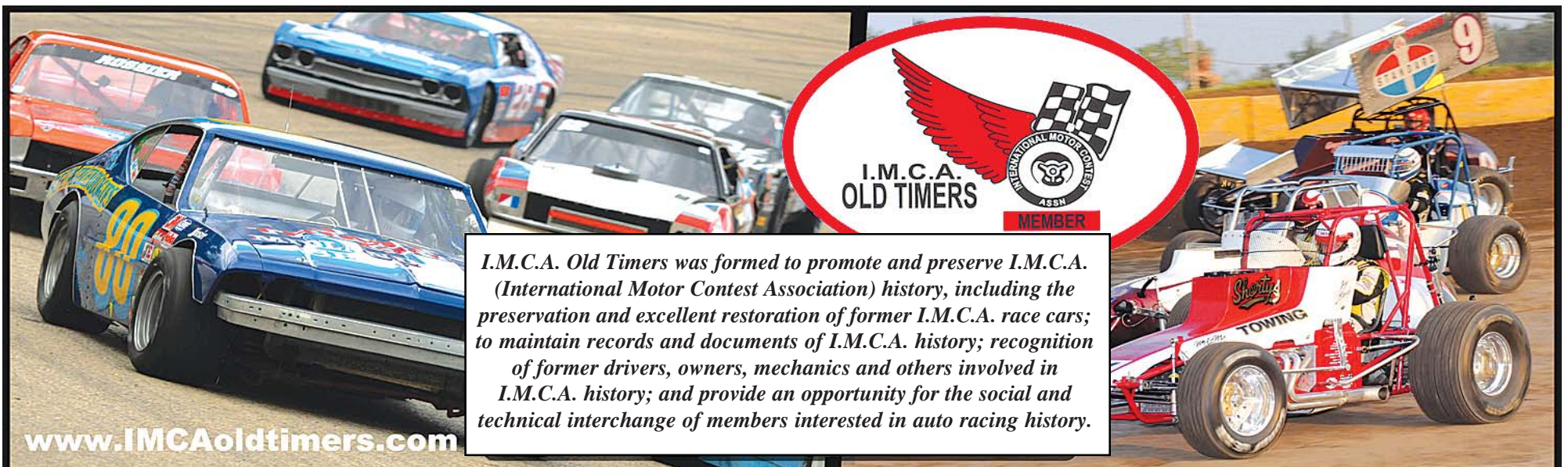
Jeff Taber (815-978-5450)

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

The Plan Company, Inc.

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651-451-4036.*

Cover photos by: Branden Aeling and Jacy Norgaard



I.M.C.A. Old Timers was formed to promote and preserve I.M.C.A. (International Motor Contest Association) history, including the preservation and excellent restoration of former I.M.C.A. race cars; to maintain records and documents of I.M.C.A. history; recognition of former drivers, owners, mechanics and others involved in I.M.C.A. history; and provide an opportunity for the social and technical interchange of members interested in auto racing history.

www.IMCAoldtimers.com

Publishers note from page 3

wedge.

I vaguely remember seeing the Mert Williams Wagon race in Southern Minnesota back in the early 1980's on the rare family trip to Kasson. Bob was nice enough spend some time with me to go into the detail of the build of this car. Turns out it was one of Bob's old Super Stocks built up to look like Mert's Wagon. They did a great job.

The Charlie Swartz car is really something else to see in person. Bob's done a great job of restoring this original piece of dirt track racing history. The mid-engine wedge car had a fairly short life span. After

dominating the few races it was in, promoters quickly outlawed the mid-engine concept.

There's part of me that wonders what would have happened if the Swartz mid-engine car wouldn't have been banned so quickly. Would traditional front engine cars have gone by the wayside and all Dirt



Late Models be mid-engine beasts these days? The ingenuity of the car reminds me of another innovator that was ahead of his time; Jim Shampine. Jim built some of the most radical Super Modifieds on the East Coast. Shampine had one of the first successful rear-engine

Super Modifieds. The Shampine car was also quickly banned after dominating races.

In addition to the really cool cars on hand, several current and retired drivers were on hand to enjoy the festivities. On top of the past and current drivers on hand, there were representatives from area tracks, photographers and others in the industry.

When the end of February rolls around in 2023, make sure to check your social media channels for the time and date of next year's event. Also, check out page 19 of this issue of *The Midwest Racing Connection* for additional photos from the event.

A promotional graphic for the 'ICEBREAKER DELLS RACEWAY PARK 100' event. The graphic features a stylized mountain peak in the background, with the event name 'ICEBREAKER' in large, bold, blue letters, 'DELLS RACEWAY PARK' in smaller white letters, and '100' in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the date 'SUNDAY APRIL 10TH' and the times 'TIME TRIALS - 12:30 | RACING - 2:00' are displayed. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'WEHR'S MACHINE & RACING PRODUCTS'. The background of the graphic shows a blurred image of a race track with several cars.

2022 EVENT SCHEDULE



DATE	ALL RACES START AT 6:00 P.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED	ADULT/STNDT/PITS
FR, APR 1	- Postponed -	
SAT, APR 2		
FR, APR 8	OPEN PRACTICE (6:00-9:00 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER ALL CARS WELCOME	NA NA \$10
SAT, APR 9	CLS DASH RACE #2: UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USFALAIEMODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS	\$15 \$7 \$30
THE LEGENDARY OPENER! (APR 13TH - 16TH)		
WED, APR 13	OPEN PRACTICE (6:00-9:00 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER ALL CARS WELCOME	NA NA \$10
THU, APR 14	PRELIMINARY FEATURE NIGHT 1 FOR 10 CLASSES - PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS. TIME TRIALS AT 5:00. RACE BEGINS AT 7:00	\$20 \$10 \$35
FR, APR 15	PRELIMINARY FEATURE NIGHT 2 FOR 10 CLASSES - PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS. TIME TRIALS AT 5:00. RACE BEGINS AT 7:00	\$25 \$12 \$35
SAT, APR 16	MAIN EVENTS (B MAINS AND A MAINS) FOR 10 CLASSES - PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS. RACE BEGINS AT 5:00	\$30 \$15 \$35
THU, APR 21	OPEN PRACTICE (6:00-9:00 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER ALL CARS WELCOME	NA NA \$10
SAT, APR 23	CLS DASH RACE #3: UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USFALAIEMODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS	\$15 \$7 \$30
SAT, APR 30	CLS DASH RACE #4: UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USFALAIEMODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS	\$15 \$7 \$30
SAT, MAY 7	SPRING OPEN WHEEL SPECTACULAR: UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MICROSPRINTS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS & AMODIFIEDS	\$20 \$10 \$30
SAT, MAY 14	SCHOOL BUS SPECIAL - UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS & SCHOOL BUS RACES (5/21 RAIN DATE)	\$20 \$10 \$30
SAT, MAY 21	CLS DASH RACE #5: UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, USFALAIEMODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS (RAIN DATE FOR BUS RACES)	\$15 \$7 \$30
SAT, MAY 28	PACK THE TRACK NIGHT AND COOK MEMORIAL - FREE GRANDSTAND ADMISSION FULL RACE OF MICROSPRINTS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS & PROSTOCKS	FREE FREE \$30
SAT, JUN 4	CLS DASH RACE #6: MM MODS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINTS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS	\$15 \$7 \$30
FR, JUN 10	3RD ANNUAL TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULL 6:30 PM START	\$15 \$7 \$15
SAT, JUN 11	CLS DASH RACE #7 & KIDS NIGHT (16 & UNDER FREE!) UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS & MODIFIEDS	\$15 FREE \$30
23RD ANNUAL MASTERS (JUNE 16TH - 18TH) USMTS MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS! COMPLETE SHOW EACH NIGHT! 7:00 START TIME.		
THU, JUN 16	MASTERS DAY 1 - THREE COMPLETESH-O-NS - \$3,000 TO WIN USFALAIEMODELS, \$3,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS & USFALAIEMODELS	\$30 \$15 \$35
FR, JUN 17	MASTERS DAY 2 - THREE COMPLETESH-O-NS - \$5,000 TO WIN UMBS MODIFIEDS, \$5,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS & USFALAIEMODELS	\$35 \$17 \$40
SAT, JUN 18	MASTERS DAY 3 - THREE COMPLETESH-O-NS - \$10,000 TO WIN UMBS MODIFIEDS, \$10,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS & USFALAIEMODELS	\$40 \$20 \$45
SAT, JUN 25	CLS DASH RACE #8: UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USFALAIEMODELS, MM MODS, PROSTOCKS & MODIFIEDS	\$15 \$7 \$30
8TH ANNUAL WORLD OF OUTLAW SHOWDOWN (JULY 1ST & 2ND) 7:00 START TIME. COMPLETE SHOW EACH NIGHT!		
FR, JUL 1	DAY 1! COMPLETE WORLD OF OUTLAW 410 SPRINT CAR SHOW AND A FULL PROGRAM OF UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS	\$40 \$20 \$40
SAT, JUL 2	DAY 2! COMPLETE WORLD OF OUTLAW 410 SPRINT CAR SHOW, FULL PROGRAM OF UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS & HUGE FIREWORKS!	\$45 \$22 \$45

MULTI-DAY NATIONAL EVENTS

THE LEGENDARY OPENER
WED-THU-FRI, APR 13-16

23RD ANNUAL MASTERSEVEN
THU-FRI & SAT, JUNE 16-18
UMBS MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS

8TH ANNUAL WORLD OF OUTLAW SPRINT CARS SHOWDOWN
FR & SAT, JULY 1 & 2

35TH ANNUAL USA NATIONALS
THU-FRI & SAT, AUG 4-6
\$50,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS

17TH ANNUAL LEGENDARY 100
WED-THU-FRI, SEPT 14-17

SPRINT CAR EVENTS

SPRING OPEN WHEEL SPECTACULAR
UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MICROSPRINTS, MIDWEST MODS & AMODIFIEDS

8TH ANNUAL WORLD OF OUTLAW SPRINT CARS SHOWDOWN
HUGE FIREWORKS SATURDAY

TRADITIONAL SPRINT CAR CHALLENGE
FR & SAT, AUG 26 & 27

22ND ANNUAL JERRY RICHERT MEMORIAL
410 OUTLAW SPRINT CARS

CAN'T MISS SPECIALS

SCHOOL BUS SPECIAL
SAT, MAY 14 (RAIN DATE OF MAY 21)
W/ TRADITIONAL SPRINTS & MIDWEST MODS

PACK THE TRACK NIGHT
FREE GRANDSTAND ADMISSION
SAT, MAY 28

TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULL
FR, JUNE 10

AFT MOTORCYCLE RACE
SAT, SEPT 24

18th ANNUAL ENDURO
SAT, OCT 1

DATE	ALL RACES START AT 6:00 P.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED	ADULT/STNDT/PITS
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MONTH OF MONEY - 4 RACES TO WIN \$50K TO WIN
FOR MW MODS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, AND LATE MODELS

SAT, JUL 9	CLS DASH RACE #9 AND RACE 1 OF THE MONTH OF MONEY! USFALAIEMODELS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, LATE MODELS & \$5K TO WIN MODIFIEDS!	\$20 \$10 \$35
SAT, JUL 16	CLS DASH RACE #10 AND RACE 2 OF THE MONTH OF MONEY! UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINTS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, USFALAIEMODELS, BATWING OUTLAW, MM MODIFIEDS & \$5K TO WIN PROSTOCKS!	\$20 \$10 \$35
SAT, JUL 23	CLS DASH RACE #11 AND RACE 3 OF THE MONTH OF MONEY! USFALAIEMODELS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS AND \$5K TO WIN LATE MODELS!	\$20 \$10 \$35
SAT, JUL 30	CLS DASH RACE #12 AND RACE 4 OF THE MONTH OF MONEY! UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS, STEFFES STREET STOCK TOUR, AND \$5K TO WIN MIDWEST MODIFIEDS!	\$20 \$10 \$35

35TH ANNUAL USA NATIONALS! (AUG 4TH - 6TH)
\$50,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS! 7:00 START TIME EACH NIGHT

THU, AUG 4	FULL PROGRAM OF WORLD OF OUTLAW LATE MODELS AND USFALAIEMODELS	\$30 \$15 \$35
FR, AUG 5	NATIONALS DAY 1 - WORLD OF OUTLAW LATE MODEL DOUBLE HEATS, DASH & FAN FUND RAISER FOR \$50K TO WIN EVENT & COMPLETESH-O-N OF LOCAL LATE MODELS	\$35 \$17 \$40
SAT, AUG 6	NATIONALS DAY 2 - WORLD OF OUTLAW LATE MODEL SEMIS, LOCAL 100 LAP \$50K TO WIN EVENT & COMPLETESH-O-N OF LOCAL LATE MODELS	\$40 \$20 \$45
SAT, AUG 13	CLS DASH RACE #13 & HEROES NIGHT! FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL FIRE, POLICE, FIRST RESPONDERS, MEDICAL, ETC. RACE PROGRAM FEATURES USFALAIEMODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS & MODIFIEDS	\$15 \$7 \$30
SAT, AUG 20	CLS DASH RACE #14, SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP & FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT! FREE T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 1,000 GUESTS AND FREE CORN ON THE COB FOR ALL! RACE PROGRAM FEATURES UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USFALAIEMODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS	\$20 \$10 \$30

5TH ANNUAL TRADITIONAL SPRINT CAR CHALLENGE! (AUG 26 & 27)

FR, AUG 26	COMPLETE RACE PROGRAM FOR TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, MICROSPRINTS & VINAGE CARS	\$15 \$7 \$35
SAT, AUG 27	COMPLETE RACE PROGRAM FOR TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, PROSTOCKS, MICROSPRINTS & VINAGE CARS	\$20 \$10 \$35
SAT, SEP 3	LABOR DAY WEEKEND - NORRONG	
SAT, SEP 10	22ND ANNUAL JERRY RICHERT MEMORIAL FEATURING 410 OUTLAW SPRINT CARS, 360 SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS & MICROSPRINTS	\$25 \$12 \$30

17TH ANNUAL LEGENDARY 100! (SEPTEMBER 14TH - 17TH)

WED, SEP 14	OPEN PRACTICE (6:00-9:00 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER ALL CARS WELCOME	NA NA \$10
THU, SEP 15	PRELIMINARY FEATURE NIGHT 1 FOR 10 CLASSES - PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS. TIME TRIALS AT 5:00. RACE BEGINS AT 7:00	\$20 \$10 \$35
FR, SEP 16	PRELIMINARY FEATURE NIGHT 2 FOR 10 CLASSES - PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS. TIME TRIALS AT 5:00. RACE BEGINS AT 7:00	\$25 \$12 \$35
SAT, SEP 17	MAIN EVENTS (B MAINS AND A MAINS) FOR 10 CLASSES - PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, USFALAIEMODELS, UMBS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMBS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MM MODIFIEDS, PROSTOCKS, MODIFIEDS & LATE MODELS. RACE BEGINS AT 5:00	\$30 \$15 \$35
SAT, SEP 24	1ST ANNUAL AMERICAN FLAT TRACK MOTORCYCLE RACE	TED TED TED
SAT, OCT 1	18TH ANNUAL \$10,000 TO WIN ENDURO! RACE BEGINS AT 5:00	\$15 \$7 \$30
SAT, OCT 8	UMBS ARRIVE AND DRIVE/ TEST AND TUNE (\$30 PER CAR, ALL CARS WELCOME)	NA NA \$10

NOTES: (2) STUDENTS ARE AGES 16 AND KIDS AGES 5 AND UNDER ARE FREE (3) PRICES NOTED ARE AT THE GATE. DAY OF THE EVENT. ADVANCED SEATING TICKETS AND RESERVED SEATS MAY BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

NOTE: (1) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, RACES START AT 6 PM. GRANDSTANDS OPEN AT 5 PM. PITS OPEN AT 3 PM. DRIVER CUTOFF IS 5:15 PM

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Going in Circles



Charlie Spry

As we approach the 2022 racing season on the local level, there are many people moving to different divisions, or maybe just working hard to chase perfection in the same division.

One driver making a big step is 16-year-old Charles Rufi. He is moving up from a four cylinder stock car to a midget. Charles told a bit about how everything came about, saying, "My name is Charles William Miguel Rufi. I was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where at five months of age I was adopted by my loving parents, Bill and Connie."

Charles then grew up around racing, saying, "At the age of two, I started driving a go-kart around the yard. Ever since that time, I have had a need for speed." At a young age, his parents started taking him to the races, including World Of Outlaws events at Beaver Dam, as well as weekly races at tracks such as Lafayette County Speedway and Madison International Speedway.

As he grew, it was practically a given that he would want to try his hand at the driving part of racing. "I bought a four cylinder and raced at Darlington (LCS) and Wilmot on the dirt. Then, I decided that I wanted something faster," said Charles. "At first I wanted to get a 604 wingless sprint car to race in the series in Wisconsin. Then, I thought about getting a 360. Then, I came across a midget being sold in Vermont. I looked it over on Facebook and talked to the fellow who was selling it. I read up on midgets and the history of the USAC and the legendary Badger Midgets and

thought this would be the way to go."

During Thanksgiving break of 2021, they took the trip out to Vermont to bring the car back. "Wayne Stearns was the guy selling the car, and he was a successful big block Chevy modified race car driver, and he was happy to see that youth were still interested in racing," said Charles.

So, in 2022, Charles will be doing some open wheel racing. He intends to race the Badger Midget series, as well as some IMRA and USAC races. You may be thinking to yourself that this is another instance where a young guy is given a car with parental backing only, but that is not the case, as Charles stated, saying, "This is supported by Me. I work every day that I can at Truttmann dairy farms, LLC, as well as at Devoe family farms." So, he works for his racing desires, as well as attending classes at New Glarus high school.

With that being said, Charles and team have also found many sponsors which help a great deal, including Judd's auto body, Marv's farm toys and antiques, Luna Maya authentic Mexican food, Monroe Powersports, Cork down Saloon, Andy Templeton trucking LLC, Super Shox, RPM Motors, and Disch trucking LLC.

Should be fun watching Charles gain a foothold to his dream in 2022!

Another driver making a step up in 2022 will be

Ronnie Osborne. Ronnie started racing a few years ago in the Sixer division at Madison International Speedway, but quickly moved up to four-cylinder Bandits, where he was quite successful, racing at any track he could find that was racing, gaining a ton of experience and quickly winning.

This year Ronnie is making a big step up to a UMA Pro Late Model, which was formerly known as



Branden Aeling of BA Photography

a late model or limited late model. Ronnie told of how this came to be, saying, "I talked with Frank Kreyer at the Dells banquet last Fall, and he told me about the car." The car had been raced a limited amount of time by Chad Miller in 2021.

After pondering things over a bit, Ronnie decided to get the car and make the move up. "Frank is building the car, and we will race with the help of his team, SuperStar Motorsports, mostly at the Dells, but some other shows as well if all goes well."

Kyle Hoffmann is the defending champion in the sportmod division at the Lafayette County Speedway, and plans to stick with his same car, albeit with a little fine tuning, saying, "We plan to defend our 2021 IMCA sportmod championship at LCS, and maybe hit up a couple of other tracks during the season as well."

Kyle also noted, "We will be racing the same Dirt Hustler



Branden Aeling of BA Photography

*Going In Circles
continued on page 7*

Going In Circles continued from page 6



chassis, with minimal updates, and get the engine dyno tuned at Robbins Precision Machine. My 1-year-old Daughter Indy and Wife Kristin are hoping for some

more victory lane photos this year, and as usual, thanks to all of the sponsors and pit crew that help on the car every week.”

Former High school Racing Association and Sixer racer Doug Nighswonger will be moving up to the four cylinder Bandit division this year at Rockford Speedway, with a car that came from around the Green Bay, Wi. area.

It looks like the very first big super late model special will take place at the Dells Raceway Park on Sunday, April 10th, with the Icebreaker 100. The pre-entry list of expected drivers looks simply amazing for this race. Also on hand will be the Midwest Trucks and 602 outlaw late models.

The Big 8 late models will open at the 45th annual spring classic at the Rockford Speedway on Saturday night, April 23rd. This will be the first time this event will take place in the evening, with start time being at 5:00 P.M. Mid-Am cars and the Bandit division will also compete during this show. Speaking of Rockford, the track will be kicking off its 75th season of operation, which is simply amazing!

Madison International Speedway will open up its oval track schedule with the annual Joe Shear Classic 200 for the ARCA Midwest Tour, on May 1st, with the event paying \$15,000 dollars to win. 602 Late Models will also be on the card.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of another racer, as we recently lost Tom Webb on March 9th. Tom raced in the “old” sportsman division at Columbus and Jefferson back in the late 1970’s, then raced a late model for a time at Rockford in the early 1980’s. He then got involved with the building of Mod Lite race cars. He also owned a vintage car in recent years and had others drive this. I enjoyed listening to Tom talk about racing in the “old days,” like I do with any driver who raced back in the day. I even did some lettering on his vintage car for him, and he always treated me well.



The Midwest Truck Series and UMA 602 Outlaw Late Models will join Super Late Models at the Icebreaker at Dells Raceway Park and the Joe Shear Classic at Madison International Speedway

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**Talkin' Racin'
with Jason**



Jason D. Searcy

It is finally Spring so the annual preseason Race Team Fundraisers are in full swing, whether they are called a Beer Bust, a Beer Bash, or a Smoker they all serve the same purpose, as a fundraiser to help support a race team financially and it also serves as a motivational tool both for you and the race team. The annual Wolff Motorsports event was recently held at Turtles Bar in Shakopee (MN).

"This is our 9th or 10th event like this, we had one at Fireside one time, other than that it's always been at Turtles (owned by former racer Bryan Turtle), everyone loves this place, it's not hard to get people to come here. You get to see all the faces you haven't seen in a while and it kind of triggers everybody to get excited for what is to come soon."

Wolff Motorsports charged a \$10 entry fee that provided free tap beer and ½ price drinks. The place was

packed with hundreds of family, friends, sponsors and fans who also participated in a 50/50 raffle where the winner cashed in about \$1,000. Numerous businesses and individuals donated prizes that were given away by picking a random ticket out of the drawing bucket also raising funds.

"All of a sudden we got all this stuff donated, people are great out there, it was a great event," said Wolff.

Andover (MN) resident Jamie Hurd owner of J&L Collectables donates over a hundred die-cast cars to drivers in exchange for putting a sticker on their car, he attends a race fundraiser nearly every weekend of the Spring attending about 7 of them every year in MN and WI.

Dan Diecher is the announcer at LaCrosse (WI) Fairgrounds Speedway and Tomah-Sparta (WI) Speedway. For about 16 years Diecher has donated his time to race team "Smokers" in Wisconsin, where he sets up DJ equipment and is the event MC, he usually will do somewhere between a handful to a dozen of these events every Spring. "I see between 10-20 different drivers, from different divisions and different tracks at everyone else's smokers. I think family, friendship and the unity keeps local racing strong."

Wolff said he is going to race the #32 Late Model at Elko (MN) Speedway full-time in 2022 and race the Thunder Car mainly at special events away from home. Last year they found out that racing all three cars (including bando #32 driven by Jake Lipinski) was a difficult task to do well and the 2022 ELKO schedule has Bandoleros on the schedule every race night. The Late Model will be the primary focus this year, "We've been working on the car but not 'hard core,' so this is kind of our sign to get our butts in gear and get it done," said Wolff.

These preseason race team fundraisers can be a very important part of a successful race team. There are a bunch of these events coming up in April and early May so I encourage race fans to follow your favorite team on social media, attend their local event and contribute. You most likely will have a great time and it is sure to get both you and the race team motivated for the upcoming 2022 race season. I can't wait to open the microphone and say "the Green is out and Here we Go!"



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New Construction - Remodel - Service Work

Lakeville, MN

Chatty Madi**Madeline Schultz**

I'm not a race car driver, so my off season looks a lot different than the race car drivers we see racing at the track. My off season seems to get shorter and shorter however with a boyfriend who drives a race car though. It's like I blinked and the race car was back in the garage and the cars that normally get to park there are booted to the driveway.

Like I said before, my off season consists of an excessive amount of Dirtvision and Floracing repeats and the World Finals. This off-season in specific was more special because I got to participate in not one but two Flat Out Fridays at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, WI. A lot of my off season was devoted to studying the new world of racing I was submerged in.

I wasn't the only one with a busy off season. In preparation for this article, I reached out to some of my friends at the track to get many perspectives on the off season. I first got to talking with Loren Kelly, the Managing Director at BOX3 Media.

"It's kind of funny how everyone calls the 'off season' a break or rest. It's still full steam ahead for everyone. The trip we put together to PRI in Indianapolis was huge for a lot of our guys in terms of forming partnerships with different companies and getting outfitted for 2022. On the PR side, we've overhauled everything at Box3. Better graphics, streamlined press releases

and bringing on more great teams is just the top of the iceberg. All that takes an insane amount of hours on the phone and in front of a computer screen. All those things and more set up our teams for success by representing them all the more professionally and giving their sponsors and partners the exposure they deserve

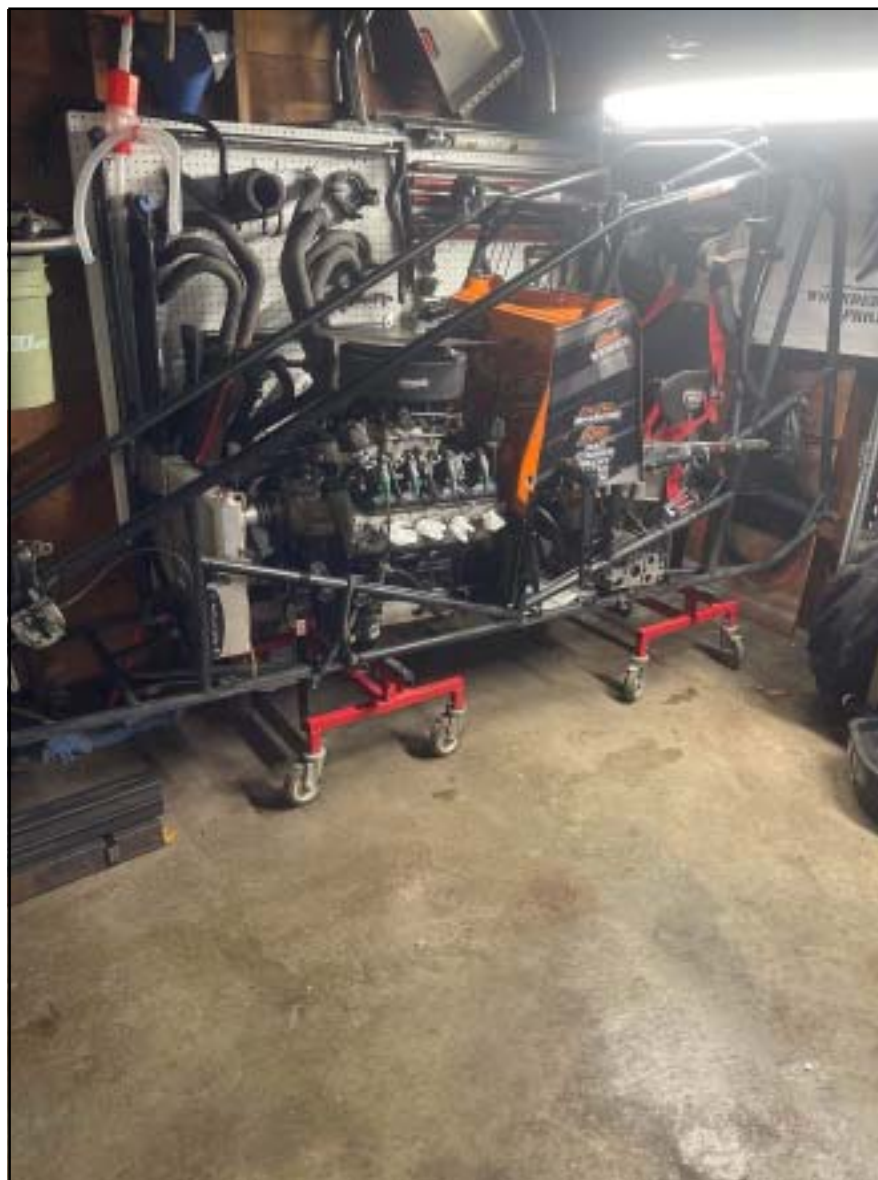
Someone in particular I wanted to discuss with about the preparation throughout the off season is one of Kelly's drivers, Tyler Tischendorf, who is running for the Bumper to Bumper IRA Sprint Car Rookie of the Year title in 2022. "We've spent hours and hours discussing the different possible schedules he could run based on the

Here's to 2022!

equipment he has and time available." Tischendorf himself even noted that, "We've had a very hectic off season making the decision in December to race with the IRA. After reviewing our program from a financial standpoint, it made sense to make the jump." After long hours in the shop we have gotten everything ready for our first season in a 410." He is looking forward to traveling to new tracks in the area that he didn't previously visit in his 360 career.

Every team's mindset has to be different since they all have very unique situations and schedules, but in talking with Joe B Miller and his father, Rick, they put it best I think. If you plan to race a lot, you have to treat every night as another opportunity to win or do well. You can't let past night's linger in your mind or weigh on you, as they'll only drag you down. You can learn from them for sure, but you have to move on to the next opportunity."

Other teams are preparing for a new beast to control. Preston Ruh out of Elkhart Lake is also planning on running his new 410 for the second half of the season. I got the chance to talk to Chris Clark who works on set ups for Ruh's car and is helping him transition to his new horsepower, he said, "I love working with young drivers that strive to make themselves better week in and week out, I am extremely excited to get the season started. We have put together a



Chatty Madi continued on page 10

Chatty Madi continued from page 9

package that I feel can be very potent and we showed lots of strength and chemistry at the end of the season last year. I felt like everybody was pleased and everybody was on the same page.” He is looking forward to seeing Ruh on the track in 2022.

With driver’s preparing to hit the track, Nathan “The Shirtless Wonder” Crane is gearing up for what seems to be a true outlaw year. He will be piloting the #89 car (Wingless) for Gaertner motorsports, the #1 car in the wingless division and the other #1 car with the winged 360 division all for Colburn Motorsports. And if you didn’t think that was crazy cool enough for the Shirtless Wonder, he will be making his USAC debut in 2022.

Crane talked about his emotions going into the 2022 “true outlaw” season commenting, “I have about 13 different emotions trying to fly out a little door all at once haha, Happy, scared, Anxious, fear, sad, nervous, adrenaline, gratitude, grateful, excited, Fun, enjoyment, and thrill.”

His goals for the 2022 season consist of making the A-Main with the wingless every night whether that’s through the B-Main, get at least 1 Win, and try to get a Top 5. With the winged 360, he plans on having fun in a wing car for the first time. With his debut with USAC wingless, Crane has the goal to make the feature.

Coming off of a double championship year, Travis Arenz is ready to pick up where he left off in

2022. In 2021, Arenz clinched both the Plymouth 360 Sprint Car track championship and was crowned the MSA champion as well. His plans for the 2022 season are to race in both the 360 and 410 ranks. He said that the best part of returning to the track after a long season is being able to compete again and do the one thing he loves in life and that’s racing. As for his goals in the 2022 season, “with the 410 car I’m hoping for top 5 finishes and to learn and get faster each time we get on the track. With the 360 I’m hoping to finish top 3 every race that we compete in and to just get out and have fun this season.” He’s ready for the warm weather and the smell of methanol. I cannot thank him enough for taking the time to talk with me about 2022.

One of the final drivers of this article is Chris Vogel from Cottage Grove, MN. Just like Crane, he has excitement and “a

*Chatty Madi continued
on page 11*





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Chatty Madi continued from page 10

little bit of fear.” His off season he said was very slow, and he’s waiting for it to get warm again. He also is building a custom trailer for his race team. Some goals that Vogel has in 2022 are “Zero mechanical failures, a few more heat race wins, and his first podium.”

As the 2022 season gets the green flag across the midwest, I’d like to wish any and every driver the best of luck in 2022. Be determined, be dedicated, and be passionate about what you are doing and I know you’ll find success.

You can follow all of these drivers as they tackle 2022 on their social media!

BOX3 Media on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter

Tyler Tischendorf as @tischracing on Facebook

Preston Ruh Racing on Instagram and Facebook

Nathan Crane as Colburn Motorsports on Instagram and Facebook

Travis Arenz as Team Two5 on Facebook

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A promotional poster for the ARCA Midwest Tour Joe Shear Classic. It features a photo of Matt Kenseth in a racing suit and cap, standing next to a black race car with the number 8 and "LEFTHANDER" branding. The poster includes details about the \$15,000 prize, the event date (Sunday May 1 at 2PM), ticket prices (\$25 in advance), and the location (Madison Int'l Speedway, Oregon, WI). It also lists sponsors like RE, Hoosier, Sunoco, and ARCA.

Racing Nuggets



PJ "Jacklyn" Nuttleman

A while back, I wrote a column lamenting how I feel like I've married a toddler. Toby Nuttleman—God bless him, is for all intents and purposes, a toddler. If something can be spilled, he'll spill it in grand fashion. If it can be destroyed, he'll find the most spectacular way to get it done without even trying.

He recently proved to me in a large way that he is indeed a toddler after we had to get him prescription eyeglasses. But as is the case with most chaotic stories—a time crunch had to be part of the equation.

He was scheduled to leave for Speedweeks the day after getting his brand-new glasses. He would be helping Justin Mondeik at New Smyrna Speedway for the World Series of Asphalt, and he was going to squeeze in a big race at Citrus County Speedway with Ty Majeski as well.

I crossed my fingers, and we purchased a \$400 pair of trifocals for him. I even picked up one of those straps on the glasses so he (hopefully) wouldn't lose them, and they could stay around his neck.

I felt (falsely) confident he was going to be just fine with something more expensive than the cheaters I had been getting for him at discount stores. Plus, the rep at the eyeglass store told us about the warranty to replace them if they ever broke.

What could possibly go wrong?!

It wasn't long before I got a text from Toby at Citrus Speedway that said: "Lost my glasses damit."

I tried to stay calm. After all, we had that

warranty to fall back on, right? I reassured him it was all going to be OK and prayed for him to find them.

As it turns out, Majeski won that race and Toby sent me a picture for posting on the TobyCar social media pages. In it—I spotted the eyeglasses around his neck! I honestly was more excited by the glasses having been found than I was over the win... at least in the immediate moment. Crisis (temporarily) averted!

Racing continued down in Florida and Toby was back at New Smyrna Speedway with Mondeik when just two days later, I got another text message from him:

"Broke my glasses trying to fix them."

I could easily imagine his sausage fingers trying to put the little, tiny screw in the joint between the arm and the frame. I took a deep breath and texted back to let him know they were covered under warranty. He made it back home and we got the glasses fixed and he was good to go again.

As everyone knows, toddlers are always on the move. It wasn't long and Toby was back on the road to The Rattler 250 at South Alabama Speedway with Majeski. It would turn out to be a history-making 5th win of the signature event for them. But it wouldn't be without more drama on the eyeglass front.

Another text from Toby the day before the big race:

"Lost my glasses again. Can you order me another set?"

Silly me, why did we ever think we could get

I Married a Toddler (Part 2)



regular adult eyeglasses for him? I began looking for those flexible, bendy glass frames for my near-Medicare-aged husband.

I want to thank Shelly Mondeik and Kayla Schmitt for taking such good care of Toby while at Speedweeks and trying to help him cobble those glasses back together. I also want to thank Krista Coon for assisting in trying to help Toby find his glasses at South Alabama Speedway. Despite never recovering them, we've learned that we need a better system to keep them secured.

The adventure continues. If you're reading this and you have a toddler who wear glasses, please feel free to share any tips and tricks. Until then, I'll be stocking up on super glue, duct tape, and patience.

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Date	City, State	Venue	Series	Date	City, State	Venue	Series
Fri.-Sat. Jan. 28-29	Cordele, GA	Watermelon Capital Speedway	Supers, Pros, Mods, Streets, & Legends	Sat., July 9	Nashville, TN	Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway	SRX Racing + JEGS/CRA All Stars Tour
Fri., March 18	Pensacola, FL	Five Flags Speedway	Season Opener Outlaws, Sportsman, PS	Sat., July 16	Pevely, MO	Federated Auto Parts I55 Raceway	SRX Racing + DIRTcar Modified
Sat., March 19	Pensacola, FL	Five Flags Speedway	ARCA Menards East & Vore's Compacts	Mon., July 25	Indianapolis, IN	Circle City Raceway	USAC Sprints + DIRTcar Modified
Sat.-Sun. Apr. 2-3	DeGraff, OH	Shady Bowl Speedway	Modifieds, LMS, SS, Vore's Compacts	Sat., August 20	Springfield, IL	Illinois State Fairgrounds	USAC Silver Crown + Sportsman
Sun., April 24	Salem, IN	Salem Speedway	CRA SLM, JEGS/CRA PLM, CRA Streets	Sun., August 21	Springfield, IL	Illinois State Fairgrounds	ARCA Menards Series + Sportsman
Sat., May 7	Nashville, TN	Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway	ARCA Menards East + Supers & JEGS	Sun., August 28	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee Mile	ARCA Menards Series + Big 8 Series
Wed., May 25	Indianapolis, IN	Circle City Raceway	USAC Sprints + DIRTcar Modifieds	Sat., Sept. 3	Du Quoin, IL	Du Quoin State Fairgrounds	USAC Silver Crown + DIRTcar Modifieds
Thurs., May 26	Indianapolis, IN	Circle City Raceway	USAC Sprints + DIRTcar Modifieds	Sun., Sept. 4	Du Quoin, IL	Du Quoin State Fairgrounds	ARCA Menards Series + DIRTcar Modifieds
Sat., June 11	Newton, IA	Iowa Speedway	ARCA Menards Series	Fri., Sept. 16	Indianapolis, IN	Circle City Raceway	USAC Sprints + USAC Speed2 Midgets
Sat., June 18	Knoxville, IA	Knoxville Raceway	NASCAR Camping World Truck Series	Sat., Oct. 1	Salem, IN	Salem Speedway	ARCA Menards Series + Great American Stock
Sun., June 19	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee Mile	ARCA MW Tour + 3 Other Classes	Fri. Oct 28-Sun. Oct 30	Nashville, TN	Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway	All American 400 Weekend
Sat., June 25	Elko, MN	Elko Speedway	ARCA Menards Series + 3 Classes	Updated	2/24/2022 10:38		



New Dirt



Jacy Norgaard

Before we ever moved to North Carolina, I made a spreadsheet of all the racetracks in the state. I paid particularly close attention to the asphalt tracks. I wanted to have the opportunity to experience local asphalt racing in the motorsport’s capital of the world. A string of rain outs and other issues opened my schedule to allow for some exploration in March.

I had the opportunity to photograph races at two asphalt tracks in North Carolina. The first was Caraway Speedway in Sophia, NC. The track was just over an hour from my Kannapolis home and off the beaten path. The track was built in 1966 as a dirt track and paved 6 years later. A little less than half a mile in length, the track has all the charm of a local short track. I got Raceway Park vibes just being there. My fellow photography friend, Blake and I journeyed to



Jacy Norgaard photo

Caraway on a bitterly cold Saturday for the CARS Tour opener. The Championship Auto Racing Series (CARS) is an asphalt late model series forged out of the remains of the old Hooters Pro Cup Series. Many of today’s NASCAR stars raced in the series on their way up the ladder. The track had breakfast sandwiches and coffee for sale which made dealing with the weather tolerable. We took some photographs of the facility and of the pits, but the cold weather and a wet racing surfaced pushed all on track activity to Sunday, and we were forced to go home having not

experience any racing. We returned Sunday for the two-division headliner of Late Model Stock and Pro Late Model.

Car types and surfaces aside, asphalt racing has a distinctive difference when it comes to photography that dirt racing does not have. The presence of time. When you photograph dirt races there are very few on track laps before heat racing begins. With asphalt you have practice sessions that allow you time to experiment around with your work. I was happy to have this extra time and used it to try some new techniques I had been researching. I walked all around Caraway Speedway that day making a mental note of places to shoot from and building out my journal for the track. The day ended with a double dose of Kvapil. Caden Kvapil picked up the Pro Late Model win and his brother Carson made a late gamble to stay out and win the Late Model Stock feature.

It was really rewarding to see this event and photograph a lot of these drivers. A few years from now, I have no doubt that they will be lighting up the Cup Series. I made the decision early the next week to check another track off my spreadsheet the following weekend. I journeyed to Hickory, North Carolina and the Hickory Motor Speedway. Dubbed both the, “Birthplace of the NASCAR stars” and “The World’s Most Famous Short Track”, I was ecstatic to witness everything the track had to offer. Like Caraway, Hickory’s story began on dirt and was later paved and reconfigured several times. The track now sits at just under 3/8 a mile. Many of my photography friends in the industry have boasted about the unlimited potential for photographs at this track. Numerous angles and interesting spots exist, you just must figure out how to



Jacy Norgaard photo

New Dirt continued on page 15

New Dirt continued from page 14

use them. The Easter Bunny 150 was on the schedule for the Pro All Star Series Late Models. A few of the drivers from the CARS event at Caraway were in attendance, as was NASCAR Cup Series driver William Byron. Seeing Byron back at a track where he cut his teeth early in his career for JR Motorsports only made the track slogan ring true. True to form, Byron would end up in victory lane that day, and in NASCAR victory lane at Atlanta Motor Speedway the next. I've only ever really watched Kyle Larson compete in another racing series and win; it was nice to know others have the same ability. Some would call it Cherry Picking; I call it racing. I've seen countless drivers from "higher levels" of racing compete and lose in the process. Byron's victory was no cake walk.

Hickory Speedway lived up to every ounce of hype that friends threw at me. In one appearance the track has already made its way to my list of favorite tracks to shoot at. Hickory was just under 45 miles from my front door and will become a go to place when time allows.

Taking in races at these two asphalt tracks allowed me to rediscover who I am. I grew up on asphalt tracks and spent countless summer nights under the lights at Raceway Park and occasionally Elko Speedway just being a race fan. Soaking it all in and falling in love with the sport. I chatted with several people at Caraway and Hickory while there. They told me stories and showed me photos from days that have long since passed. Memories of their childhood spent at these exact tracks. One guy recalled standing by the flag stand after every feature at Caraway, cheering on the drivers. He later raced in a division at the track and won a championship. Two decades later he was still there enjoying every minute of the place that grew him.

My career has been spent and made on dirt tracks. It has gotten me to the national stage and weekends are now spent going from town to town. Another new track almost every weekend. Places that are sometimes a thousand miles from where it all began. From time to time I will look back at my life in racing and smile at how far I've come. Two racetracks in the Carolinas have now taught me to appreciate these moments even more. Because even if my time at these places is for just one night, these tracks mean so much to others. To borrow and turn phrase on Hickory, these places are the birthplace of the racing fans.

I may spend one night at a bull ring in Tennessee this year and never return there. But while I'm there, I am experiencing the place that gave way to someone else's best moments and most cherished memories. If even for a moment in time, I am living inside someone else's Raceway Park.

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“The Birthplace of the NASCAR stars” and “The World’s Most Famous Short Track” - Hickory Motor Speedway in Hickory, North Carolina

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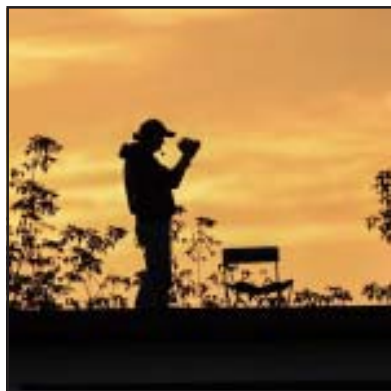


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Dangerous Dan**Dan Margetta**

The turning of the calendar towards Spring brings optimism as the short track racing season is on the horizon here in the upper Midwest. After a couple of quick winter trips to Daytona and Las Vegas for Speed Weeks and NASCAR races, my “local” season is set to begin, weather-permitting, with the World of Outlaws Late Model Series Illini 100 at Farmer City Raceway the first weekend of April followed by the IceBreaker 100 at Dells Raceway Park on April 10th. From there, the main focus will turn to my “home” track, the Slinger Speedway for what is shaping up to be a special 2022 season. Only three years ago, it seemed it would take nothing short of a miracle to bring the ARCA Midwest Tour to the World’s Fastest Quarter-Mile Oval but that’s what will greet fans at the season opener as the popular touring super late model series comes to Slinger April 24th, for the Miracle on the High Banks which will also serve as the opening round for Slinger’s Elite 8 Super Late Model Series. Having been privy to some of the behind the scenes situations over the past several

years, I can’t tell you how special this event is and how much work went into putting it together. It’s a grand way to kick off an incredible 2022 season featuring many highlights including the return of Matt Kenseth for the now \$20,000 to win Slinger Nationals in July (Kenseth also returns to the Madison International Speedway in May for the Joe Shear Classic). In addition to the super late models, the Wisconsin pro late models (last year’s late models), Midwest sportsman, modifieds, 602 outlaw late models, Midwest trucks, super beez, Slinger bees, Slinger sixers, figure 8’s, legends, bandoleros, super cups, and sport trucks will all make 2022 stops at Slinger. I’ll be there for all of it atop my familiar perch on the roof operating the camera for the live internet streaming of the races which this year will be available on the Racing America platform.

I’ve been standing on that roof above Slinger for better than 30 years now, having first been introduced to the view by then PR Director Mark Gundrum back around 1991. Over the years, I have stood next to and watched amazing racing action with NASCAR Hall of Famers Buddy Baker, Dale Jarrett, Bill Elliott, Alan Kulwicki and Rusty Wallace (who told me I like racing way too much). Dick Trickle, Butch Miller, Ted Musgrave, and even Tom Bigelow stood up there with me at one time. I’ve watched Matt Kenseth go from late model rookie of the year to Alan Kulwicki Memorial and Slinger Nationals winner to NASCAR Cup champion. I’ve had the pleasure of watching Joe Shear, Kyle Busch, Ken Schrader, Jim Sauter, Dennis Lampman, and Scott Hansen win Slinger races and saw Michael Waltrip, Ernie Irvan, Sterling Marlin, Kenny Wallace, Jimmy Spencer, and Kerry Earnhardt take on the high banks (I even had to keep an eye on a 15-year-old Jeffrey Earnhardt while Kerry raced). I have felt the intensity as John Close spotted for Rich Bickle and experienced the thrills of victories with his Nationals wins and even seen a few “agonies of

defeat” as well. I’ve seen Wisconsin Hall of Famers Al Schill Sr., Al Schill Jr., Conrad Morgan, Lowell Bennett, Jerry Eckhardt, and Bill Prietzel win countless races and watched Wisconsin racers Ty Majeski and Luke Fenhaus win and launch their national careers. I’ve watched national super star Bubba Pollard conquer the high banks and have seen barnstormers Steven Nasse and Erik Jones compete as well as Wisconsin racers Johnny Sauter and Derek Kraus whose path to NASCAR wound through Slinger. Last year I had a front row seat as Tony Stewart, Marco Andretti, Helio Castroneves, Paul Tracy, Hailie Deegan, Willy T Ribbs and Greg Biffle all learned quickly how to get around Slinger.

I’ve witnessed some of the greatest short track rivalries around from Robbie Reiser and Joel Laufer to Brad Mueller and Dave Feiler to Alex Prunty and Gary LaMonte to Dennis Prunty and Steve Apel. I have also had an up-close view of the unbridled passion of the fans, friends, and families of the drivers and can hear the thunderous sounds of joy that resonate above the cars when their driver finally scores his or her first victory. Other times you can hear the kids screaming the name of the drivers they are rooting for in unison and the roof is a pretty kick-ass seat for the fireworks shows too. But most importantly of all, I have gotten to know hundreds of true friends that most likely I would have never met or even talked to if not for all that time spend standing on the roof above Slinger Speedway.

The memories continue this month as the new short track season gets underway and I hope if you can’t be there in person, you follow along with the live internet streaming coverage on Racing America. I’m sure all of you have similar stories that have played out at the many short tracks throughout the area and could write your own columns with the many races and drivers you have seen. Let’s meet up this season and compare notes while we have a few.



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Racers Reunion Photo Gallery



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A classic short track Nova at the Racers Reunion



The Dale Earnhardt Sr. tribute short track Chevelle



More of the Dale Earnhardt Sr. tribute short track Chevelle



IMCA Oldtimers President Mark Langer was on hand for his legion of fans



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