

# Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association Newsletter

May 2010 Volume 1, Issue 1

[www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org)



## Welcome MIRPA Members & Friends

MEMO TO:

MIRPA's Board: DON DEVINE, Driver - Meister Brauser Racing Team, Can-Am Racer and Vintage Race Car Driver; RONNIE KAPLAN: Team Manager and Crew Chief for Nickey Chevrolet and American Motors Trans Am Team 1968; and as per Ronnie "the only non-cheater in the paddock"; TOM STEPHANI - Nickey Chevrolet and current Vintage Race Car Driver; LEONARD W. BESINGER III - Porsche Club Racer and grandson of Meadowdale visionary and developer Leonard W. Besinger; and more recent additions - Trustees MIKE MULCAHY - Mulcahy Motorsports, Vintage Race Car Driver and 2007 HSR Stock Car Class Champion; RICK PARSONS - Single Seat Can Am Driver, Meadowdale Go-Kart Racer and current Formula 5000 Driver; LARRY BEST - Formula Ford Racer and Board Member of the Chicagoland Sports Car Club.

MIRPA members; There are just about 100 of you. John Fahey and the Kane County Forest Preserve; Bruce Simms and the Mounted Rangers; The Besinger Family and Frank Scarpelli;

East Dundee, West Dundee and Carpentersville Board Members; Frank Hartl with his Kaboda; Harry Heuer and the Meister Brauser Racing Team; and on a personal note my parents Bob and Barbara Deja and my children Meghan and Matthew who offered support through all the downs and ups, and who were a tremendous asset in the preparations and execution of THE EVENT.

I am personally so very proud of you. You were the ones who believed. When there were road blocks, you provided the support needed to get it done. This time last year we weren't sure we would have a show on the historic Meadowdale Straight. A year later we look back on an incredibly successful event, have around 100 Founding Members, and had a wonderful winter banquet at Emmets in Dundee. We are planning this years car event, have been invited to participate in Carpentersville's Memorial Day Parade and in August will be presenting an exciting program at the Dundee Township Library and that's just so far!

Our stated objective is to promote and preserve the history of Meadowdale International Raceways. Meadowdale Raceway as a piece of land has been preserved. It is to us then to share the stories, the excitement and the memories. The history is there and when you walk Meadowdale, if you listen, you are certain to hear the faint rumblings of a distant thunder.

Thank you....

Linda Daro

## Meadowdale, Motorsports & Memories

### 2nd Annual Classic Car Event, September 18th

The 2nd annual Meadowdale Motorsports & Memories Classic Car event will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2010 on the historic main straight of Meadowdale International Raceways located at Raceway Woods in Carpentersville, Illinois. A rain date of Sunday, September 19th is planned. This year's event promises to be an even more exciting presentation of classic racing and street cars, local car clubs and specialty vendors combined with historical recollections of Meadowdale history.

Plan to attend the 2010 event as a participant showing your car, or as an enthusiast with an interest in motorsports. Local vendors will provide a variety of food and refreshments. Schedule and registration information will be published as it becomes available, the website will post pre-registration forms as well current show schedule information. Members interested in helping the MIRPA team staff this event, may contact Linda Daro at 847-421-2891 or via email at, LD1enterprise@aol.com.

# 1968 Trans-Am Event at Meadowdale Remembered

## An Introduction To Pro Racing By Mike Mulcahy & Photo By Peter Luongo

As an 8 year old boy, my first professional SCCA Trans-Am race was the Inaugural (and only) Trans-Am event at Meadowdale. Meadowdale had just "re-opened" and this event was surely one not to be missed.

My Dad, a relatively "recent" NAPA Auto Parts Store owner (established in 1961), had a reputation for having an excellent performance machine shop. One of his customers, Duane Winkel, was a soon to be A-Sedan competitor with a '68 Z28 Camaro just purchased from Wilson Chevrolet in Morris, IL. My Dad did all the machine work on Duane's Camaro engines for free in return for sponsorship recognition (NAPA was not a household name in 1968). Duane asked if we'd be interested in going up to Meadowdale to check out the Trans-Am Cars in action.

Owning a successful excavating business, Duane would have been considered "wealthy" by 1968 standards. He and his race partner Al Wilson (yes, "Wilson" Chevrolet) had dreams of being factory race car team owner's and drivers. Although that never materialized, dad and I tagged along as go-fers while they spent their own money in the Trans-Am (and later the F-5000 series).

My Dad, Jim Mulcahy, loved racing... doing a bit himself with his buddy Bob "Two Gun" Tattersall in his famous #5 midget at local asphalt and dirt short tracks in the Midwest. For dad and I, racing was/is our passion. Even today at 86, my Dad gets out to a race or two with me and one of my T/A Sedans or Stock Cars. He can't recall what he had for lunch, but he can tell you what happened 60 years ago like it was yesterday!

The day of the Meadowdale Trans-Am my Mom, Alice, packed us a picnic lunch (I recall a cooler with peanut butter sandwiches, bottles of Dr. Pepper, and a few flat top Falstaff or Hamms Beers with the necessary "church key" to open them). We headed out early from our home in Morris in dad's NAPA Parts Delivery Van (a two seat, no interior, bright yellow, straight six, three on the tree Ford Econoline). I recall the day being overcast initially...but the skies cleared and the race was run in ideal temperatures and conditions.

Meadowdale was the 7th round of the SCCA Trans-Am Series contested on the twisting 3.2 mile Meadowdale road course for the FIA Group 1 & 2 cars. Mustangs, Camaros, Firebirds, and Javelin represented the over 2 liter field while Porsche 911, Alfa GTA, BMW 2001TI, BMC Cooper S and an NSU 1000TT rounded out the under 2 liter field.

Mark Donohue sat on the pole in the meticulously prepared Penske-Hilton/Sunoco Camaro with a lap time of 89.789. Mark had already won 5 straight races in the series. Although there were 6 more races left to the season, a win today would clinch the O-2 T/A Championship.

The Sunday race at Meadowdale would be a grueling 75 laps/240 miles. As the race started Donohue sped to a commanding lead over the Mustangs of Jerry Titus and Horst Kwech as well as the Ronnie Kaplan prepared Javelins of George Follmer and eventual second place finisher Peter Revson.



Revson was a mere 2.11 behind Donohue when the checkered flag fell. The only time Donohue gave up the lead was when he came in for fuel on lap 50. Donohue finished the race on the same set of R4 Goodyears that he started on!

Standout performance of the weekend went to Sam Posey in a Penske-Hilton prepared "twin" to Mark's Camaro. After running head first into a tire barrier and all but totaling his car in Saturday's final practice, the Penske crew completely rebuilt the car and had it ready for the green flag on Sunday. Posey started last and drove to an amazing 3rd place finish! Clearly when Sam had the best equipment he could run with the very best the SCCA Pro Driver Series had to offer.

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Jerry Titus' Mustang leading George Follmer's Javelin at Meadowdale.

### ***The Monza Wall Newsletter - About Us***

"The Monza Wall" is the official newsletter publication of The Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association (MIRPA). The almost quarterly publication is provided to the members of the MIRPA organization. Material published herein may not be reprinted without permission from the MIRPA Organization. The opinions and information presented in this newsletter are the best-effort results of our collective minds. We welcome your input and clarity on topics that you feel may need additional background. We request the opportunity to preserve your stories of Meadowdale. Please take a few moments and send us some of your favorite memories/photos.

Article submission is encouraged and accepted in MS Word format or as plain text format via eMail. When submitting photos or artwork, please request the material to be returned if that is desired.

Contents including text, artwork and photographs Copyright 2010, The Monza Wall. Questions and comments should be directed to the Editor, The Monza Wall - MIRPA, 300 Jandus Rd. #109 Cary, IL 60013. All inquiries will receive a prompt response.

The real excitement of the race came in the 6th lap when Jerry Titus in one of the two factory FORD Shelby Team T/A Mustangs collided with the factory AMC/Kaplan prepared Javelin of George Follmer. After an extended stay in the pits, Titus, an ex-magazine editor turned race car driver, finished 11th and Follmer, despite his attempt to continue, fought an overheating issue and eventually the engine seized causing Follmer to hit the wall. The race continued, until with 22 laps to go, Wilton "Rusty" Jowett flipped his Camaro violently. Rusty was not injured in the roll-over but the car was severely damaged.

The U-2 race-within-a-race was won by Tony A2Z (Adamowicz) in his Porsche 911 only 5 laps off the O-2 pace and followed by the Porsche 911 of Fred Baker 6 laps down to the O-2 race winner.

I was so fortunate to live in this day and age... but even more fortunate to have a Dad that encouraged me and my love for racing. These early, and frequent trips to tracks like Meadowdale, Road America, BHF, and even the local bull rings like the Mazon Speed Bowl, Illiana, the Joliet Stadium, and Grundy fostered my love for auto racing and the big Bore SCCA Sedans and NASCAR Stock Cars I so love today.

I'm proud to be a founding member and serve as a board member of MIRPA. Please join us in reminiscing about the track, the cars, the drivers and the fans that made Meadowdale such a legendary race track! Why not join MIRPA to see that the memories of Meadowdale survive for the next generation of race fans to remember?

For historic photos from back in the glory days of the SCCA Trans-Am Series and some of my historic SCCA Trans-Am and NASCAR Stock Car Collection of cars check out my website at [www.mikemulcahy.com](http://www.mikemulcahy.com) under the Historic Racing icon.

In the spirit of the sport,

*Mike Mulcahy*



Road Racing Cars like the Genie MK10B "Vinegaroon" (above) were featured at the 2009 Meadowdale Motorsports & Memories Car Show.

## Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association 2010 Individual Membership Application: Fee: \$35

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to MIRPA, and Mail to:

**Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association  
300 Jandus Rd. #109  
Cary, IL 60013**

## 2010 Meadowdale Event Schedule

**Sunday, May 30th: Carpentersville Memorial Day Parade 4:00pm**

We are looking for participants with or without a show car. Any race car that would like to trailer for the parade we can decorate as a float. Any other cars of interest are welcome.

This is Carpentersville's first parade and will feature a "missing man" fly by. Contact Linda at 847-421-2891 or LD1enterprise@aol.com for more info.

**Monday, August 23rd: 7:00 pm. Dundee Township Library**

Come hear the roar as MIRPA presents an evening of insight into this important historical landmark. Highlights include a film of the raceway circa early 1960's, first hand recollections from those who were there, and memorabilia. This program is free. Space is limited, so registration is recommended.

**Saturday, September 18th: Meadowdale, Motorsports & Memories**

Meadowdale International Raceways at Raceway Woods in Carpentersville. We are currently seeking volunteers, vendors, car clubs and community groups to help ensure the success of this event. The Rain Date is Sunday, September 19th. Are you a planner, available for set-up, take down, or day of event assistance? We welcome you! There will be a meeting in June for all volunteers. Contact Linda Daro

Please check our website for up-to-date information: [www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org)

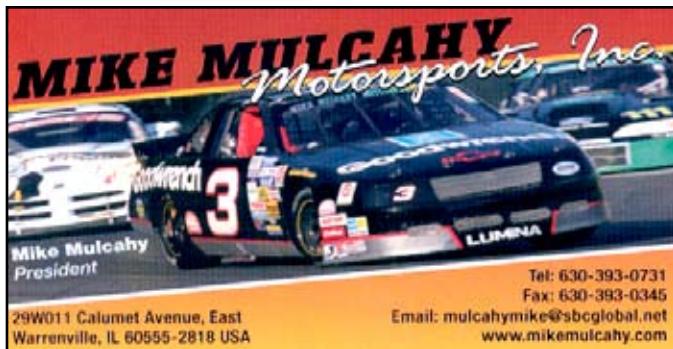
## Meadowdale Raceways Remembered



The May/June issue of "Vintage Motorsport Magazine" features a comprehensive story about the history and current state of the Meadowdale International Raceways track by renowned local author, Burt Levy.

Burt's account of his first trip to MIR for the September, 1958 opening event reinforces the excitement that many felt when attending their first "real" road racing event. The words in Burt's piece are punctuated with a wide variety of excellent photographs by Ron Nelson. Burt's turn by turn virtual tour of the track highlights the dramatic elevation changes that gave Meadowdale its personality as a "drivers track".

Pick up a copy of the current issue or visit [www.vintagemotorsport.com](http://www.vintagemotorsport.com) for subscription information.



**First Saturday of the Month**



Coffee & Cars 8:00 am - Noon  
300 Jandus #109  
Cary, IL 60013  
Info: [www.driveabledreams.net](http://www.driveabledreams.net)



## MIRPA Leadership

### Board of Directors:

**Linda Daro**

LD1enterprise@aol.com

**Leonard Besinger III**

len@besingercorp.com

**Don Devine**

scarabmkii@sbcglobal.net

**Ronnie Kaplan**

ronniekaplan@comcast.net

**Tom Stephani**

tom@custombuilding.com

### Trustees:

**Rick Parsons**

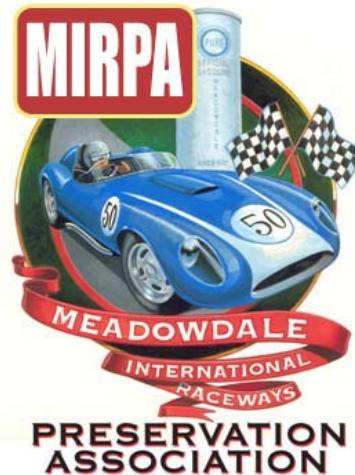
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