



# Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association Newsletter

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

August 2010 Volume 1, Issue 2

## MIRPA Team Sets Plan for 2010 Show Volunteers, Sponsors, & Vendors Are Invited

With all good intentions by the wayside – we are now down to the final days of preparation for this year's Meadowdale, Motorsports and Memories Car Event. Last year's event was incredibly successful drawing 250 cars and almost 2,000 spectators. Following on that success, this year's event promises to be even better. We have improved access for both spectators and show cars. Additionally, to avoid maneuvering in the small silo lot, we have added trailer parking across the street (Spring Hill Industrial Center one-tenth mile north) where you will be able to load and unload. Please notify us of your trailer arrival time so we may escort you to the track.

We are very excited to announce the planned attendance of Tony DeLorenzo, famed corvette team racer and winner of the last race at Meadowdale. Also planning to attend will be Ronnie Kaplan, Crew Chief and Team Manager Nickey Chevrolet and AMC Trans Am Team, Don Devine, Meister Brauser Racing Team and many others who raced, worked or attended events at Meadowdale. Nickey Chicago, sponsor for this year's event, will have a wonderful display for you to enjoy. To finish off the weekend there will be an after the show banquet held at Biaggi's. Tony DeLorenzo and Ronnie Kaplan will be featured speakers.

MIRPA is honored to be able to share the history of Meadowdale and we look forward to seeing you on September 18th. Volunteers, sponsors, vendors are still needed to ensure the success of this event. If you are able to help in any way, please contact us.

Thank you for your support...

*Linda Daro*

## Meadowdale, Motorsports & Memories

### 2nd Annual Car Show and Banquet Event - September 18th

Registration is open for the 2nd annual Meadowdale Motorsports & Memories Classic Car Show that will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2010 on the historic main straight of Meadowdale International Raceways located at Raceway Woods in Carpentersville, Illinois. Pre-registration forms are available for download from the [www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org) website under the "Events" navigation button. Getting registered early will save \$5 off the \$15 on-site registration fee. Pre-registered entrants will also receive early entry at 8:00 AM at the Silo entrance on Rt 31.

Join MIRPA members and guests for a very special "After the Show" Banquet at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, located at 1524 S. Randall Rd. in Algonquin, IL. An evening of great food and discussion with two Guest speakers will highlight the evening. Tony DeLorenzo, winner of the last road race held at Meadowdale, and one of the winningest Corvette racers ever, will share his experiences and introduction to racing that took place at Meadowdale. Ronnie Kaplan, Team Crew and Team Manager for the Nickey Chevrolet Racing Team, and the AMC Javelin Trans AM Team will present aspects of his career in professional motorsports and his roots to Meadowdale International Raceways.

The Banquet will be held on September 18th at 6:00 PM. The cost of the event is \$40 per person for MIRPA members and their guests, \$50 for non-members. A cash bar will be available, and seating will be limited for this special event. A Registration form is available on the [www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org) website, with responses due by September 10th, 2010. For more information, contact Linda Daro at 847-421-2891.

# Tony's "First Trip" to Meadowdale and Closing Race

## Story and Images By Tony DeLorenzo

My first trip to Meadowdale Raceway was in the summer of '63 I think – whenever the Meisterbrauser Racing team campaigned the Chaparral MK 1. I would have been about 20 years old at that time. My Uncle Chuck DeLorenzo was VP of sales and marketing for Peter Hand Brewery, and the race team activity was under his department's budget. Uncle Chuck knew that I had an interest in racing cars, but I had never been to a race.

I was visiting Uncle Chuck and Aunt Connie at their home in Libertyville from school in South Bend, IN (University of Notre Dame) and he suggested we visit Meadowdale to see the race team. Off we went to nearby Carpentersville, Illinois. I believe Don Devine was driving the Chaparral that weekend, although Harry Heuer may have been driving too.

When we approached the Meister Brauser team paddock, the Chaparral MK 1 was up on jack stands with the bodywork off and the crew chief was working on the engine. I saw him squirt some gasoline into the fuel injectors and thumb a remote starter as we drew closer. The small block Chevy engine cranked briefly and then fired with a noise I had never heard before. The sound was mesmerizing. The attraction for me was instantaneous and has lasted a lifetime. I remember saying to myself: "Somehow, someday, I am going to drive a race car..." I went to Meadowdale several more times and began to become familiar with what goes on at a racetrack.

I started to learn about what I had to do to get a license to drive by talking to Harry and Don. My 21st birthday would be the following summer. I would join the SCCA and then figure out how I would get a car to complete driver's school and earn my novice competition license.

Somehow it seemed logical to me and my brother Peter to talk my father (Anthony G. – then VP of Public Relations for GM) into getting a Corvette for a company car in the spring of '64. Busy man that Dad was, he only made one slight error in the process: He let me and Peter fill out the order blank.



A short time later, at my summer job at Chevrolet sales promotions, I received a call from God, alias Zora Arkus-Duntov. Zora informed me that my dad had ordered a heavy duty Corvette and wanted to know who was going to drive it. After a feeble attempt at dodging the question, I admitted that I would be driving it. Zora then asked what my plans for the car were, and I said that I was taking it to driver's school at Watkins Glen. He said that was all he needed to know. A short time later, the new Corvette fuel injected coupe arrived in our driveway with a freshly scrubbed in set of Goodyear Blue Streak racing tires on it. And the rest, as they say, is history. Except for the fact that I almost didn't survive when my Dad found out that the Chevrolet executive garage had to spend two weeks returning the Corvette back to street condition, before he could sell it to one of his PR staff managers in Chicago.

I spent 1965 and 1966 racing a Corvair in A Sedan, switching to a '67 L88 sponsored by Hanley Dawson Chevrolet in Detroit. In late summer of 1968 we obtained sponsorship from Owens-Corning Fiberglass in Toledo, OH.

*Continued on next page*

### ***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.

## Back to Meadowdale - The Last Race

In 1969 we started the year at the Daytona 24 Hour in February and Sebring 12 Hour in March. The first SCCA National that year was at Meadowdale Raceway. We arrived with our twin Owens-Corning A Production Corvettes and qualified 1-2 on the grid. Race day dawned with a steady drizzle falling, it would be an interesting race. We were running the short course; I don't think it was more than a mile in length, consisting of the last third of the straight and the back loop around.

I won the race with teammate Jerry Thompson a close second; and Ron Weaver's Corvette also close behind in third. This race turned out to be the last race ever held at Meadowdale, and I'm proud to be the lucky guy who won it. Jerry and I went on to win 22 straight races over the '69 and '70 seasons, finishing 1 - 2 in 14 of those events.

I will always have fond memories of Meadowdale and I am happy that some good people are working hard to preserve the track so we can all visit there.



Tony DeLorenzo (in the leading Corvette) and Jerry Thompson proceeded to make racing history, winning 22 events in a row, finishing 1-2 14 times - including nine first place finishes for Tony. Their uninterrupted streak of first place finishes makes Jerry Thomspon and Tony DeLorenzo the winningest Corvette racing team in history.

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### **Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association Individual Membership Application Fee: \$35 Club or Organization Membership Application Fee: \$100**

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

Organization 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

### 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. If you are interested, contact Linda Daro.

### Saturday, September 18th: After the Show Banquet

Join us at Biaggi's at 6:00 PM after the Car Show for an evening of dinner and Motorsports discussion, featuring Tony DeLorenzo and Ronnie Kaplan. Details are on page 1 of this newsletter.

### First Saturday of Every Month:

Join MIRPA members and guests in sharing a donut and discussion at Driveable Dreams in Cary, Illinois between 8:00 and 12:00 noon. Meadowdale memorabilia, photos, and motorsports bench racing is featured.

### January 2011: MIRPA Annual Winter Banquet

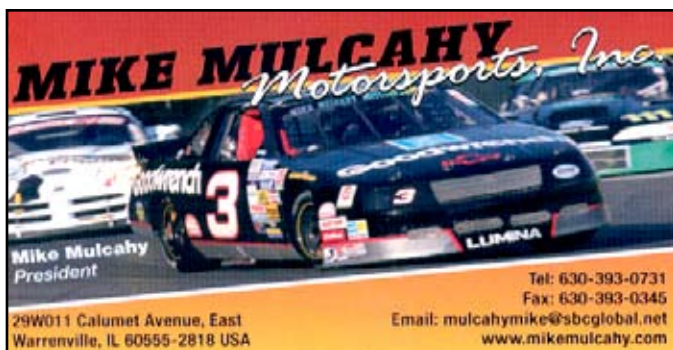
Coming Soon: The 2nd Annual MIRPA Banquet will be held in January, 2011. The date and details will be available soon!

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

## MIRPA Club Memberships Available

Membership in the Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association is also available to car clubs and organizations. If you are a member of a Car or Enthusiast Club, consider membership in an organization committed to the preservation of Motorsports history of Meadowdale International Raceways. Member organizations include:

- North Suburban Sports Car Club
- Chicagoland Replicar Association
- Daytona Superbird Club
- Chicago Region, Sports Car Club of America



### 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](mailto:LD1enterprise@aol.com)

#### Leonard Besinger III

[len@besingercorp.com](mailto:len@besingercorp.com)

#### Don Devine

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#### Ronnie Kaplan

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#### Tom Stephani

[tom@custombuilding.com](mailto:tom@custombuilding.com)

### Trustees:

#### Rick Parsons

[BarbaraParsons@Comcast.net](mailto:BarbaraParsons@Comcast.net)

#### Mike Mulcahy

[mulcahymike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mulcahymike@sbcglobal.net)

#### Larry Best

[ljb@foxvalley.net](mailto:ljb@foxvalley.net)



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