

THE VINTAGE AND HISTORIC RACING NEWS MAGAZINE

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# VICTORY LANE<sup>®</sup>

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**HSR**  
**The Mitty**  
**Road Atlanta**



**CVAR**  
at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit



**Old Number 7**



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#169 Steve Coleman, 1969 Austin Healey TFR 7.

# CVAR Mike Stephens Classic

## Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Oklahoma

April 1-3, 2016

– story by Don Gwynne

– photos by Jim Bowen

A near-record turnout of more than 120 drivers, including our invited guests from RMVR, HVR, SVRA and VSCDA, enjoyed a great weekend of Stephens family hospitality

on pole in his black #44 Crossle 35F. Jeff led every lap to take the overall and FF2 class win. His only FF2 competitor, Scott Clark, suffered DNF after only three laps. Steve Lafferty in his red #47 Merlyn Mk20 started in fifth, and ran behind Mitchell Hibbs' green & gold #5 Merlyn Mk11a for most of the race, but passed him on the last lap to finish second overall and win the FF1 class. Rumor has it that Hibbs experienced a "fuel delivery problem" on the last lap. A "Hard Luck" trophy was his only consolation.

Sunday morning's 45 minute **ENDURO** for closed wheel Group 1 and Group 7 cars was well attended and a lot of fun. Twenty cars started the race, and 28 laps later, George Kopecky's black #97 Porsche RSR took the overall win and the FIA class win. But it wasn't easy.

Mark Gohlke's ex-SCCA #123

red/white/blue Porsche 914-6 got in front of Kopecky on the 15th lap, only to be passed by Jeff Neathery's green #19 notchback Mustang. Neathery led the pack for four laps before Kopecky re-took the lead and never gave it back. Kopecky crossed the line with a 17 second lead over Tony Shores, who had muscled his blue and black #00 Boss 302

Mustang into second overall, thus winning the A Sedan class. Ross Mussina scratched up the roof of his black and blue #46 Mustang in a single car mishap at Turn 8 on his fifth lap, without injury. R. Burt Williams won the C Production class driving his blue #43 Porsche 911, finishing fifth overall. Back in eighth overall, Mike Lovay won the B Sedan class in his red/white/blue #57 Datsun 510.

The points races commenced after lunch on Sunday, with 15 **GROUP 6** (BSR, FF1, FF2, FA and FB) cars coming to the grid. Polesitter Jim Gewinner led almost every lap to take the overall win and the B Sports Racing class win in his green #33 Lotus 23B. The eventual FF2 winner, Scott Clark, took the lead briefly on the second lap, but other than that, it was Gewinner's day. Clark's black and yellow Lola T540 finished second overall. Mitchell Hibbs moved up from fourth on the grid to finish in third overall, in his green and gold #5 Merlyn Mk11a. After starting in eleventh position, Jim Barron worked his way up to



#144 Robert Rodgers, 1980 Abarth 33.

and sunny Oklahoma weather. Race Chairman Art Summerville kept everything running smoothly. Art has made a name for himself as a creative trophy maker, and he didn't disappoint. You can't buy one in a store; they are becoming collector's items. Happy hour, after the track got quiet, became noisy again with the help of a local rock band.

Eleven competitors went to the line for Saturday afternoon's **FORMULA FORD** feature race. Jeff Norris (aka "Old Smoky") sat



#14 Jim Barron, 1972 Lola T240.

finish sixth overall and win the FA class in his red and yellow #14. Mike Winn took the FB class win in eighth overall driving his red #17 GRD 372-F3.

Perhaps worn out from the morning's Enduro, only eight **GROUP 7** drivers turned out for the G7 points race, including five C Production cars and three B Sedans. R. Burt Williams started on pole in his blue #43 Porsche 911, led every lap, and took the overall and CP class wins. The orange #24 Porsche 914-6 driven by Tom Taff passed Louis Gladfelter's white and yellow #19 Datsun 510 near the beginning of the race, and held on to finish second overall and second in CP. Alex Smargiasso fought his way up from seventh at the start to slot into third overall on the tenth lap to finish third in CP with his silver #39 Datsun 240Z. Gladfelter's 510 won the B Sedan class, finishing just 0.3 seconds behind Smargiasso's 240Z.

The other Enduro participants, **GROUP 1**, fared about the same, with only seven drivers of 15 entrants coming to the grid for the Sunday afternoon G1 points race. Tony Shores started the race in pole position in his blue and black #00 Boss 302 Mustang A Sedan, with George Kopecky on the outside of the front row in his black #97 Porsche



**#99 Ann Hughes, 1972 Treuhaft; #49 Jason White, 1971 RCA.**

RSR. Kopecky jumped into an early lead, then Shores went DNF after his fifth lap. Kopecky didn't have much time to enjoy running in first overall, because he too dropped out at lap nine. Thus the overall win and the A Sedan class win fell to CVAR President Herb Hilton's yellow #17 notchback Mustang. Mark Gohlke's ex-SCCA red/white/blue #123 Porsche 914-6 finished second overall, winning CVAR's FIA class. Greg Reynolds won the B Production class single-handedly, so to speak, in his 1967 white #89 Shelby GT-350.

The largest closed wheel field of Sunday afternoon included 21 of CVAR's **GROUP 2** cars (DP, EP, FP and C Sedan). Mike Floyd sat on pole in his yellow #614 Porsche 914-4. Richard Fiske surprised Floyd when his charge up from 13th at the start propelled him into the overall lead by lap 3! It took Floyd six laps to catch and pass Fiske to regain the



**#11 Reed Yates, 1954 MG TF; #92 Barry Heuer, 1958 Jabro Mk 1.**

lead, which he held to the finish, thus winning the EP class. Fiske's second overall finish in his red #28 Elva Courier secured him the DP class win. CVAR's Chief Instructor, Berkeley Merrill, finished third overall and second in EP driving his silver Porsche 914-4. Andrew Moore won FP by finishing sixth overall in his red #79 Austin Healey Sprite. Taylor Fudge came second in FP with his purple #11 Datsun 1600 roadster. The C Sedan class win went to David Patton and his white and black #35 Morris Mini. Second and third in C Sedan went to a matched set of VW Beetles, driven by Scott Pinkston and Bob Pinkston.

The largest open wheel field of the day was the snarling pack of 22 Formula Vees in CVAR's **GROUP 3**. For this event, an FV1 class accommodated Vees not meeting CVAR's FV 1200cc class rules. Randy Hablitzel was thus rewarded for his long tow from Hastings, Nebraska, with the overall win and the FV1 class win in his red #83 RCA 1385cc car. Up until the last lap

of the race, however, it was Bob Beirow from Juniata, Nebraska, that ran the show. Beirow's blue #17 Autodynamics 1385cc car started on pole and led every lap except the one that really counted, when Hablitzel got past him for the win after starting the race back in eighth position. Steven Murphy of Bailey, Colorado, took third overall and third in FV1 class with his red and silver Bobsy Vanguard 1385cc car. First of the 1200cc FV class cars was Dallas resident Dwight Calkins in fourth overall, after starting the race back in eleventh. Dwight drove his red #87 Lynx B. Elliott Barron, of Leander, TX,

started and finished in fifth overall, placing second in the 1200cc class in his unique-looking silver #23 Pegasus FV.

Last race of the day was for CVAR's most historically significant group, **GROUP 4**. Of 14 cars entered, six started the race, and all but one finished. With a few exceptions, Group 4 is for cars 1960 and earlier, with quite a few sub-classes, including FJ1, FJ2, VA, VB, VC, CM, CSR, and SFP ("Spec Sprites"). John "Chip" Fudge started on the pole in his green #28 Cooper T-56 Formula Junior and led every lap to take the overall win and the FJ2 class win. One of our most favorite "fast women", Lou Marchant, overtook Gary Emory's C Modified green #153 Arnold Special during the second lap, and went on to finish second overall and first in VB class in her green and rainbow striped #186 MGA. Gary McFarlane drove brilliantly to finish in fourth overall, less than two seconds in arrears to Emory's much larger engined CM car. McFarlane's "Thundermug" ran as an H Modified "back in the day" with an engine cobbled together by mating three 250cc Maico motorcycle engines. These days it is powered by a 748cc Crossley. Eddie Dick won the SFP class in his recently repainted gold #54 Austin Healey Sprite. It doesn't look like the Texas flag any more!

CVAR will return to Hallett Motor Racing Circuit to present "Thunder on the Cimarron XV" and Fall Driver's School and Races on August 26-28, 2016.



**#7 Bob Pinkston, 1966 Volkswagen Beetle.**

# 2016 PUT-IN-BAY ROAD RACES REUNION AUGUST 29-31



**The 2016 Put-in-Bay Road Races Reunion (August 29-31) offers:**

- Racing for qualified pre- '73 prod. cars up to 3.0L, sports racers up to 1.5L & others
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## FORMULA FORDS PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FF2 J. Norris/1978 Crossle 35F  
1:24.675
- 1 FF1 S. Lafferty/1971 Merlyn Mk 20  
1:25.625
- 2 FF1 G. Hibbs/1972 Meryln 20 A
- 3 FF1 A. Lemon/1969 Merlyn 17A
- 4 FF1 M. Hibbs/1969 Merlyn Mk11a
- 5 FF1 G. Tussing/1972 Titan Mk6a Ff
- 6 FF1 J. Carr/1969 Caldwell D9
- 7 FF1 R. Wark/1972 Hawke D19 FF

## GROUP 1

### PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 AS H. Hilton/1967 Ford Mustang  
1:27.104
- 1 FIA M. Gohlke/1970 Porsche 914  
1:28.241
- 1 BP G. Reynolds/1967 Shelby Mustang  
GT350 1:30.067



## #47 Richard Fisher, 1959 Austin Healey Sprite.

- 2 AS J. Neathery/1966 Ford Mustang
- 2 BP N. Shores/1965 Mustang Fastback
- 2 FIA G. Kopecky/1973 Porsche RSR

## GROUP 2

### PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 EP M. Floyd/1973 Porsche 914  
1:33.146
- 1 DP R. Fiske/1961 Elva Courier  
1:30.393
- 2 EP B. Merrill/1072 Porsche 914-4
- 3 EP S. Partin/1969 Alfa Romeo Gt Junior
- 2 DP P. Lee/1963 Triumph TR-4
- 1 FP A. Moore/1964 Austin Healey Sprite  
1:35.439
- 2 FP T. Fudge/1967 Datsun 1600
- 1 CS D. Patton/1962 Morris Mini  
1:36.130
- 4 EP T. Welsh/1974 MGB
- 5 EP K. Barstead/1965 MGB Roadster
- 3 FP G. Reed/1967 MG Midget



## #153 Gary Emery, 1957 Arnold Special.

- 4 FP R. Fisher/1959 Austin Healey Sprite
- 5 FP M. Briggs/1972 MG Midget
- 6 EP M. McCarthy/1972 FIAT 124 Abarth
- 7 EP M. Baker/1963 MGB
- 2 CS S. Pinkston/1957 Volkswagen Beetle
- 6 FP W. Miles/1961 Austin Healey Sprite
- 8 EP W. Reid/1964 MGB
- 3 CS B. Pinkston/1966 Volkswagen Beetle

## GROUP 3

### PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FV1 R. Hablitzel/1972 RCA 1:34.734
- 2 FV1 B. Beirow/1965 Autodynamics
- 3 FV1 S. Murphy/1964 Bobsy Fv1 Vanguard
- 1 FV D. Calkins/1972 Lynx B 1:35.697
- 2 FV E. Barron/1969 Zink C4
- 3 FV M. Rogers/1968 Bobsy Vega

- 4 FV D. Phillips/1969 Zink C4
- 5 FV W. Murphey/1969 Lynx B
- 6 FV B. Wright/1964 Zink
- 7 FV D. Harrison/1965 Zink C4
- 8 FV M. Jones/1968 Nash Scrambler



## #66 Philip Lee, 1963 Triumph TR-4.

- 9 FV D. Fisher/1965 Autodynamics Mk IIB
- 10 FV A. Schutts/1963 Formcar
- 4 FV1 J. Hackler/1971 Taylor Stewart
- 11 FV M. Koegel/1969 Zink C4
- 12 FV B. Griffith/1969 Warrior
- 13 FV C. Chilton/1972 Lynx B
- 14 FV F. Brock/1967 Zink C-4

## GROUP 4

### PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FJ-2 J. Fudge/1961 Cooper Fj T-56  
1:32.956
- 1 VB L. Marchant/1959 MG A 1:41.935
- 1 CM G. Emery/1957 Arnold Special  
1:42.807
- 1 VC G. McFarlane/1960 H-Modified Thundermug 1:42.549
- 1 SFP E. Dick/1967 Austin Healey Sprite  
1:46.877



## #159 Robert Merrill, 1959 BMC Mk 1.

## GROUP 6

### PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 BSR J. Gewinner/1965 Lotus 23B  
1:24.646
- 1 FF2 S. Clark/1979 Lola T540  
1:24.518
- 1 FF1 M. Hibbs/1969 Merlyn Mk 11a  
1:24.703
- 2 FF1 S. Lafferty/1971 Merlyn Mk 20
- 3 FF1 A. Lemon/1969 Merlyn 17A
- 1 FA J. Barron/1972 Lola T240  
1:26.193
- 2 FA R. Rodgers/1980 Abarth 33
- 1 FB M. Winn/1972 Grd 372-F3/B  
1:27.035
- 4 FF1 G. Tussing/1972 Titan Mk6
- 5 FF1 G. Hibbs/1972 Meryln 20 A
- 6 FF1 R. Wark/1972 Hawke D19 FF
- 7 FF1 J. Carr/1969 Caldwell D9
- 8 FF1 T. Blakeney/1972 Royale Rp-16
- 9 FF1 J. Langham/1972 Merlyn Mk 20a
- 2 BSR B. Maurer/1963 Elva Mk 7

## GROUP 7

### PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 CP R.B. Williams/1970 Porsche 911  
1:32.596
- 2 CP T. Taff/1971 Porsche 914/6
- 3 CP A. Smargiasso/1972 Datsun 240Z
- 1 BS L. Gladfelter/1971 Datsun 510  
1:33.041
- 2 BS C. Trifilio/1971 FIAT 124 Coupe
- 3 BS R. Rosenberg/1972 BMW 2002
- 4 CP J. Kish/1973 Porsche 911E
- 5 CP C. Stutzman/1970 Datsun 240Z