

THE VINTAGE AND HISTORIC RACING NEWS MAGAZINE

Vintage Race Reports, Schedule,  
Cars for Sale, Auctions and More

# VICTORY LANE®

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## Lime Rock Historic Festival 33 Lime Rock Park



NHMS Vintage Oval Celebration



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#55 Barbara Wright, 1964 Zink; #110 Elliott Barron, 1972 Pegasus; #32 Elliot Barron, 1969 Zink C-4.

# CVAR Thunder on the Cimarron

## Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Oklahoma

Aug. 28-30, 2015  
 – story and photos  
 by Don Gwynne

Some drivers tried (unsuccessfully) to outguess Oklahoma weather, and didn't register for Thunder on the Cimarron XIV because they thought racing at the end of August would be too hot. Too bad, it was their loss. Eighty drivers enjoyed a dry track, moderate temperatures and gentle breezes. There were even a few cases of tape over the grill on Friday morning, it was that cool! The support teams did a wonderful job of keeping the even on schedule throughout the weekend, aside from an occasional oil cleanup delay. During the course of the weekend, a total of 13 drivers got their logbooks signed off. Well done, and welcome to the vintage racing community!

The Test/Tune/Practice (TTP) sessions on Friday were characterized by "vintage spirit" consideration for fellow drivers; no work for the Safety team at all. Well done, people! Happily, one broken front stub axle on a Sprite

didn't result in significant car damage, but it did serve to remind all of us that our cars are more than 40 years old. Periodic non-destructive inspection (NDI), crack testing, Magnafluxing, etc. need to become part of our vintage racing maintenance philosophy.

CVAR's Chief of Timing & Scoring, Merl Hansen, deserves a medal for his dedication and hard work in getting a bunch of new T&S equipment and software to play well together. Lesser men would have given up, but eventually, T&S was up and running for the benefit of all competitors. Thank you, Merl!

The last event on Saturday was the half hour **FORMULA VEE FEATURE**, with 21 cars coming to the grid. Houston's Alexandre Acemyan sat on pole position in his #18 red and yellow Beach 5C. Alongside on the front row was fellow Houstonian Nathan Baldauff in a similar #38 yellow Beach 5C. Team Geezer's Mike Callahan was gridded third in his #68 white and blue Zink

flag. After starting on the third row, Dwight Calkins fought his way to fifth by the fifth lap driving his #87 red Lynx B, and held it to finish third overall.

Awards for the FV Feature race were hand crafted and presented by CVAR Past President Art Summerville. These creative prizes have become a tradition, with pistons, camshafts, etc. turned into really cool trophies.



#711 Skip Meyer, 1959 Austin Healey Sprite; #47 Richard Fisher, 1959 Austin Healey Sprite.

Dinner was special this year, with all the fixings, sit down style, not just a buffet, RSVP. The new food concessionaires have taken quite a load off the Stevens family members. Connie's smile was beaming brighter than ever.

Sunday's first points race was for CVAR's **GROUP 2** (EP, FP and CS). Polesitter Scott Schmidt of Lecompton, Kansas, was the grandest tiger in the forest, leading every lap for a flag-to-flag overall win, and the F Production class win driving his #174 white Austin Healey Sprite. It wasn't really as easy as it sounds, however. Fellow Kansan Dave Williams' #23 silver bugeyed Sprite was just 0.6 seconds in arrears after 20 minutes of

Z-5. Nick Palgrave rounded out the second row in his #43 red Caldwell D13. When the green flag waved, Acemyan led the first two laps, but was caught by Nick Palgrave, who then led all the rest of the race to take the win. It was a long tow from Indian Hills, Colorado for Palgrave, but it was worth it! After starting in second, Baldauff slipped to fourth for a few laps, but came back to grab the second spot on the eighth lap and held it to the checkered



#72 Gerry Tussing, 1972 Titan Mk 6; #33 Jim Gewinner, 1965 Lotus 23B.



racing. Although Randy Riney was not close to the leaders at the checkered flag, he had moved up from fifth at the start to finish third overall and third in F Production in his #45 blue Austin Healey Sprite. Scott Brady's blue Fiat Abarth 124 Spider won E Production in fourth overall, just over a second behind Riney at the finish. James Allen's bright yellow #20 Austin Mini Cooper (aka "LIL SHT") won C Sedan in fifth overall, making his tow home to Kansas City, Missouri a happy drive.

After Saturday's FV Feature race, polesitter Alexandre Acemyan was looking to score a win in **GROUP 3**, and he did, finishing more than two seconds ahead of Nathan Baldauff after 20 minutes of racing. Acemyan led from flag to flag. But Baldauff really impressed,

moved his #5 red Beach 5C from eighth on the grid to a fourth place finish. Tough FV competitor Bill Griffith had an unusually tough day, finishing tenth after starting on the outside of the front row.

The **GROUP 4** grid was pretty small, with only three cars starting. Lou Marchant sat on pole in her #186 dark green MGA, with Gary Bauer's #05 yellow bugeyed Sprite alongside. Wes Wigginton's #77 lime green MG Midget was on the second row. And that is how the race was run. No lead changes from start to finish. Would have been more fun for everyone if entrants Eddie Dick, Chip Fudge and Barry Heuer could have come out to play on Sunday afternoon.

The **GROUP 6** (FA, 1,2 and BSR) field filled six rows of starters, with Jim Gewinner on pole driving his #33 green Lotus 23B B Sports Racer. Mitchell Hibbs sat alongside in his #5 green and gold Merlyn Mk11a Formula Ford. Hibbs wasted no time moving to the overall lead on the first lap, which he held all the way to the checkered flag to win 1 and overall. Gewinner ran in second overall for most of the race, after fighting off a seventh lap challenge from Gregory Hibbs' #3 white and blue Merlyn 20A. Gewinner got around Greg Hibbs by the ninth lap, to finish second



**#015 Marty Baker, 1963 MGB; #155 Rodger Soucy, 1967 Austin Mini Cooper S; #20 James Allen, 1965 Austin Mini Cooper.**

overall and win BSR. Mike Winn took the 2 class win in sixth overall driving his #17 red Merlyn Mk31. Jim Barron drove his #14 red Lola T-240 to the FA class win in eighth overall.

Last event of the weekend was a combined **GROUP 1** (A Sedan) and **GROUP 7** (C Production) race. Just barely a bigger grid than the Group 4 folks, with one Mustang, a pair of Datsun 240Zs and one Porsche 914-6. CVAR President Herb Hilton predictably led from flag to flag in his #17 yellow A Sedan Mustang. After starting third, Dan Hightower wasted no time moving up into second overall and first CP, which is how he finished in his #77 blue Datsun 240Z. John Stephens finished third overall and second in CP after fighting off a brief second lap bid by Tom Taff. Stephens' #0 red and silver Datsun 240Z is a familiar sight at CVAR events, having been raced for years by CVAR's Chief Instructor, Berkeley Merrill, who now races an orange Porsche 914.



**#174 Scott Schmidt, 1972 Austin Healey Sprite; #45 Randy Riney, 1963 Austin Healey Sprite.**

fighting his way from 15th on the grid up to second overall by the sixth lap! Nick Palgrave started third, and finished third, after briefly running in second on the early laps. Ed Ziegler

#### FORMULA VEE FEATURE PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FV1 N. Palgrave/1977 Caldwell D13 1:32.308
- 1 FV N. Baldauff/1969 Beach 5C 1:32.391
- 2 FV D. Calkins/1972 Lynx B



**#05 Gary Bauer, 1959 Sprite.**

- 3 FV D. Harrison/1965 Zink C-4
- 4 FV G. Smith/1972 Lynx B
- 5 FV E. Barron/1969 Zink C-4
- 6 FV M. Callahan/1968 Zink Z-5
- 7 FV E. Ziegler/1967 Beach 5C
- 8 FV M. Rogers/1965 Autodynamics
- 9 FV W. Murphey/1966 Zink
- 10 FV E. Barron/1972 Pegasus
- 11 FV F. Brock/1967 Zink C-4
- 12 FV S. Smith/1968 Zink
- 13 FV C. Chilton/1972 Lynx B
- 14 FV M. Jones/1968 Nash Scrambler
- 15 FV S. Patterson/1968 Zink C-4
- 16 FV B. Wright/1964 Zink
- 17 FV A. Acemyan/1969 Beach 5C
- 18 FV D. Fisher/1965 Autodynamics Mk IIB

#### GROUP 1,7 PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 AS H. Hilton/1967 Ford Mustang 1:30.698
  - 1 CP D. Hightower/1972 Datsun 240Z 1:32.536
  - 2 CP J. Stephens/1972 Datsun 240Z
  - 3 CP T. Taff/1971 Porsche 914/6
- #### GROUP 2 PL CL DRIVER/CAR
- 1 FP S. Schmidt/1972 A-H Sprite 1:31.692
  - 2 FP D. Williams/1959 Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite
  - 3 FP R. Riney/1963 Austin Healey Sprite
  - 1 EP S. Brady/1972 FIAT Abarth 124 1:34.882
  - 1 CS J. Allen/1965 Austin Mini Cooper 1:36.855
  - 4 FP T. Fudge/1967 Datsun 1600
  - 5 FP R. Wright/1972 MG Midget



**#17 Herb Hilton, 1967 Ford Mustang.**

- 2 EP M. Baker/1963 MGB
- 6 FP R. Fisher/1959 Austin Healey Sprite
- 2 CS B. Pinkston/1966 VW Beetle
- 3 EP W. Reid/1964 MGB

#### 7 FP B. Barnes/1967 Austin Healey Sprite 3 CS T. Bond/1965 Austin Mini

- #### GROUP 3 PL CL DRIVER/CAR
- 1 FV A. Acemyan/1969 Beach 5C 1:32.374
  - 2 FV N. Baldauff/1969 Beach 5C



**#22 Mark Koegel, 1969 Zink C-4.**

- 1 FV1 N. Palgrave/1977 Caldwell D13 1:33.632
- 3 FV E. Ziegler/1967 Beach 5C
- 4 FV D. Harrison/1965 Zink C-4
- 5 FV G. Smith/1972 Lynx B
- 6 FV W. Wolff/1965 Zink C-4
- 7 FV S. Smith/1968 Zink
- 8 FV W. Murphey/1966 Zink
- 9 FV B. Griffith/1969 Warrior
- 10 FV M. Rogers/1965 Autodynamics
- 11 FV D. Calkins/1972 Lynx B
- 12 FV J. Yule/1969 Kaimann
- 13 FV F. Brock/1967 Zink
- 14 FV D. Fisher/1965 Autodynamics
- 15 FV M. Jones/1968 Nash Scrambler
- 16 FV S. Patterson/1968 Zink C-4
- 17 FV B. Wright/1964 Zink
- 18 FV K. Fuller/1969 Zink C-4

#### GROUP 4 PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 VB L. Marchant/1959 MGA 1:42.038
- 1 VC G. Bauer/1959 Austin Healey Sprite 1:43.774
- 1 SFP W. Wigginton/1972 MG Midget 1:44.929

#### GROUP 6 PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 11 M. Hibbs/1969 Merlyn Mk 11a 1:25.740
- 1 BSR J. Gewinner/1965 Lotus 23B 1:26.955
- 21 G. Hibbs/1972 Meryln 20A
- 31 P. Hardsteen/1968 Lotus 51
- 41 G. Tussing/1972 Titan Mk 6



**#74 Walter Reid, 1964 MGB.**

- 12 M. Winn/1978 Merlyn Mk 31 1:27.324
- 51 A. Acemyan/1969 Beach T11F
- 1 FA J. Barron/1972 Lola T240 1:30.676
- 61 J. Carr/1969 Caldwell D9
- 71 T. Blakeney/1972 Royale RP-16
- 81 R. Wark/1972 Hawke D19
- 91 N. Baldauff/1969 Beach T11F