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VICTORY LANE

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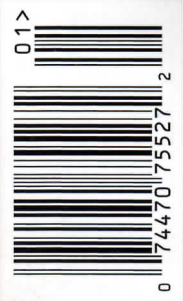


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CVAR Thunder on the Cimarron VIII

Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, OK October 17-18, 2009



#97 George Kopecky, Porsche 911S; #810 Vernon ("Ron") Shade, Porsche 911T; #71 Skip Duplissey, Porsche 911T.

-story by Don Gwynne and George Curl

-photos by Don Gwynne

One hundred twelve entries made for good racing in all groups. In addition to the CVAR regulars, Thunder on the Cimarron VIII drew a large contingent of racers from RMVR and a few other more distant clubs. The weather was cool, which made for a really pleasant weekend. The Group 6 grid (mostly Formula Fords) was full and that made for some good spectator racing. Ed Copley, the CVAR Group 6 rep, saw the bulging entry list and flew all the way back home from England to register late and run. The Group 1 "big iron" entries were thin, so Group 1 was combined with Group 7 (CP, DP, BS) to fill the field. Two lone Group 1 Mustangs seemed to do just fine running with the Group 7 crowd.

One of the best parts of the entire weekend was the Group 2 cookout Friday night. The guys in Group 2 have elected to make this an annual event. So next fall plan on a CVAR Pot

Luck Dinner on Friday evening, hosted by **Group 2**. Thanks to everyone that brought things for the grill. A special thanks to Jack McClanahan for allowing the riffraff to invade his covered race ports to cook, eat and socialize. More special thanks go to Hallett's Stephens family for the Saturday night dinner party, and for their constantly gracious hospitality to all the racers and their crews.

The undisputed stars of the weekend were the front engined Formula Juniors (FF Jr). They were fun to watch and beautiful up close. Seven FF Jrs came to race:



#16 Scott Brady, Fiat 124 Sport Coupe; #77 Bill Ronke, Lotus Super Seven.

#12 Huffaker BMC, owned by Tom Atlas, Barrington, Illinois.

#124 Bandini, owned by Tupper Robinson, Gardnerville, Nevada.

#5 Bandini, owned by Hugh Ruthven II, Barrington, Illinois.

#59 Elva 100, owned by Jim Yule, Springtown, Texas.

#150 Elva 100, owned by Bruce Revenaugh, Marble Falls, Texas.

#15 Elva 100, owned by Steve Foster, Dallas, Texas.

#2 Elva 100, owned by Lon McKinstry, Dallas, Texas.

Hugh Ruthven II, who towed to this event all the way from Barrington, Illinois, has owned his red Bandini for 30 years. His 1959 Bandini is one of six

built, and was raced primarily on the east coast of the USA. Tom Atlas, also from Barrington, Illinois, recently sold his yellow Lola T-70 Coupe, which has already been shipped back to the Lola folks in the UK. The Lola sale was timely, as it financed the recent purchase of his BMC-powered Huffaker FF Jr. Joe Huffaker Sr. personally signed Tom's fresh instrument panel. This historic Huffaker was raced primarily on the west coast of the USA. Tupper Robinson, a long-time friend of CVAR old-timer Charlie Barns, towed to this event all the way from Gardnerville, Nevada.

Unfortunately, as is sometimes the case with cars a half-century old, of the 7 entries, only a few were able to start Sunday's Front Engined Formula **feature race**. During the race, Hugh Ruthven II's red #5 Bandini suffered a gearbox breather problem, forcing his retirement. The winning green #150 Elva driven by Bruce Revenaugh and the silver #124 Bandini driven to second place by Tupper Robinson ran well throughout the feature event. One long



#5 Hugh Ruthven II, Bandini Front Engined Formula Junior.

distance Front Engined Formula Jr. driver said he couldn't wait to get his car back together and come back. That's the spirit!

Following the F Jr feature race, the rest of the CVAR groups started their duels in the Oklahoma sun. **Group 4** (HP, CM, VB) saw Pensacola's Bob Lembcke drive his #30 green Triumph Spitfire to the overall win, finishing more than 30 seconds ahead of Springfield, Missouri CM driver Forrest Tindall in his Lola Mk1. Texan Jack McClanahan placed third overall and first in VB class with his green & white #104 Austin Healey 100.

With 30 **Group 6** cars entered, 24 actually took the starter's flag for their Sunday afternoon points race. The starting field included 14 of the older FF1 cars, 7 of the newer FF2 cars, two FA cars, and one FB car. At the end of twenty minutes of racing, Fort Worth driver Pete Hoekenga drove his blue #1 Lola T540 to the overall win and the FF2 class win. Scott Clark, also of Fort Worth, and also driving a Lola T540, crossed the line in his black #3 car for second overall and second in FF2 class. James Stiehr posted a fine third overall finish, winning the FF1 class, in his red & black #31 Winkelmann WDF-1. Deeper in the pack, Jeff Anderson took an unopposed FB class win in his black #16 Brabham BT-29, and Kent Liming won FA in his red #15 Centaur.

Two **Group 1** B Production Mustangs were thrown in with the Group 7 field, but it was Ron

Shade's C Production blue & yellow #810 Porsche 911T which took the overall win. Mark Hargrave battled valiantly in his red #56 Mustang to take the BP class win and second overall. His mirrors were full of the psychedelic #97 Porsche 911S driven by George Kopecky, who in turn was hounded by Skip Duplissey's green #71 Porsche 911T. Stephen Seitz drove his white #10 Mustang to second in BP and fifth overall. Bill Rinke of Reed Springs, Missouri drove his red #77 Lotus Super 7 to the DP class win, and Joe Pizzi of Littleton, Colorado scored the B Sedan win in his red/white/blue #57 Datsun 510.

Eighteen cars started the **Group 2** feature race, and all but one finished. Herb Hilton drove his red #02 MG Midget to the overall win and the F Production class win, with David Littlefield less than 5 seconds back in his red #57 MG Midget. Trevor Bond won C Sedan, placing sixth overall, driving his purple #98 Austin Mini. Right behind the Mini, Houston's Tony Welsh took the E Production win in his yellow #5 MGB.



#56 Mark Hargrave, Mustang.

Last race of the weekend was for **Group 3** (FV & SFP). The overall win went to Bigger Hammer Racing's Bill Griffith, in his red #5 Beach C. CVAR Newsletter Editor Jim Yule came second in his green #77 Kaimann MkIV. Although four "Spec Sprites" were entered, three were DNS for the final race, so Gary Emery took an unopposed SFP win in his green #31 Austin Healey Sprite. That didn't mean that Gary was just loafing around the Oklahoma countryside, however. He turned the fastest lap of the Group 3 race, almost 5 seconds quicker than the best FV time.

CVAR President George Curl proudly noted that entries for calendar 2009 are up approximately 20 percent over last year, at a time when many clubs are reporting declining turnouts. Fun weekends like the one at Hallett this October have a lot to do with it.

CVAR ENTRANT LIST

GROUP 1

CL DRIVER/CAR

- Grp 1 BP M.Hargrave/Mustang
- Grp 1 BP S.Seitz/Mustang

GROUP 2

CL DRIVER/CAR

- Grp 2 CS P.Weber/Austin Mini Cooper
- Grp 2 FP H.Hilton/MG Midget
- Grp 2 FP D.Littlefield/MG Midget
- Grp 2 FP J.Sharp/MG Midget
- Grp 2 FP W.Hill/MG Midget
- Grp 2 CS D.Patto/Morris Mini
- Grp 2 FP M.Reay/Turner Mk I
- Grp 2 CS S.Partin/Alfa Romeo GT Junior
- Grp 2 FP J.Setar/MGA MkII
- Grp 2 EP D.Dickey/MGB Roadster
- Grp 2 EP G.Curl/MG B
- Grp 2 EP G.Perser/MG B
- Grp 2 FP P.D. Sohn/MG Midget
- Grp 2 EP T.Welsh/MG MGB
- Grp 2 FP P.Glawe/Austin Healey Sprite
- Grp 2 FP D.Williams/Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite
- Grp 2 CS T.Bond/Austin Mini

- Grp 2 FP S.Coleman/MG Midget
- Grp 2 EP M.Floyd/Porsche 914
- Grp 2 CS R.Soucy/Austin Mini Cooper S
- Grp 2 FP D.Demarah/MG Midget
- Grp 2 FP G.Reed/MG Midget
- Grp 2 FP R.Hively/Austin Healey Sprite
- Grp 2 FP D.Bruce/Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite

- Grp 2 FP A.Hofeling/MG Midget
- Grp 2 FP M.Coleman/MG Midget
- Grp 2 EP B.Whitehead/Triumph GT6+
- Grp 2 EP K.Morris/MGB
- Grp 2 FP R.Noblett/Austin Healey Sprite
- Grp 2 EP B.Mitchiner/MG B
- Grp 2 FP M.Cory/Austin Healey Sprite

GROUP 3

CL DRIVER/CAR

- Grp 3 FV B.Griffith/Beach C
- Grp 3 FV D.Harrison/Zink C4
- Grp 3 FV T.Stege/Formula Vee Beach
- Grp 3 FV D.Rolison/Zink Z-5
- Grp 3 FV B.Heuer/Shark P69
- Grp 3 SFP E.Dick/Austin Healey Sprite
- Grp 3 FV A.Summerville/Jr. Zink C4
- Grp 3 FV M.Callahan/Zink Z-5

- Grp 3 FV F.Storer/Formcar
- Grp 3 SFP J.Walker/Austin Healey Sprite
- Grp 3 SFP M.Vecellio/MG Midget
- Grp 3 FV J.Gaudette/Zink C4
- Grp 3 FV J.Revennaugh/Zink C-4
- Grp 3 FV J.Summerville/Zink C4
- Grp 3 FV D.Peterson/Zink Danenhauer Special
- Grp 3 SFP G.Emery/Austin-Healey Sprite

GROUP 4

CL DRIVER/CAR

- Grp 4 FF Jr T.Atlas/Huffaker Junior
 - Grp 4 FF Jr T.Robinson/Bandini Formula Jr.
 - Grp 4 FF Jr H.Ruthven/Bandini FJr
 - Grp 4 VB L.Marchant/MG A
 - Grp 4 FF Jr J.Yule/Elva 100
 - Grp 4 FF Jr B.Revennaugh/Elva 100
 - Grp 4 VB J.Mcclanahan/Austin Healey 100
 - Grp 4 HP J.Westervelt/Austin Healey Sprite
 - Grp 4 HP B.Lembcke/Triumph Spitfire
 - Grp 4 FF Jr S.Foster/Elva 100 Jr
 - Grp 4 VB J.Page/Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce
 - Grp 4 FF Jr L.Mckinstry/Elva 100 Jr
 - Grp 4 VB R.Howard/Porsche Special
 - Grp 4 CM F.Tindall/Lola Mk I
- ##### GROUP 5
- ##### CL DRIVER/CAR
- Grp 6 FF1 N.John/Lola T-200
 - Grp 6 FA R.Rodgers/Abarth 033
 - Grp 6 FF1 J.Steinmetz/Merlyn 11A
 - Grp 6 FF1 R.Karnopp/Titan Mk-6 FF
 - Grp 6 FA K.Liming/Centaur FSV
 - Grp 6 FF2 H. H./Jones Lola T-342
 - Grp 6 FF1 M.Bracewell/Lotus Type 61 Ff
 - Grp 6 FF1 P.Junco/Formula Ford Lotus 51-B
 - Grp 6 FB J.Anderson/Brabham Bt-29
 - Grp 6 FF1 C.Mcwilliams/Lotus 51A
 - Grp 6 FF1 G.Tussing/Titan Mk6a

- Grp 6 FF2 M.Anderson/Crossle F-35
- Grp 6 FF1 D.Salls/Lotus 51
- Grp 6 FF2 J.Macauley/Crossle 32F
- Grp 6 FF1 L.Lydyck/Merlyn Mk 11A
- Grp 6 FF2 S.Clark/Lola T-540
- Grp 6 FF1 M.Hibbs/Merlyn Mk11a
- Grp 6 FF2 M.Bond/Legrand Mk 21
- Grp 6 FF2 P.Hoekenga Lola T540
- Grp 6 FF2 B.Findley/Merlyn Mk30
- Grp 6 FF1 J.Stokley/Caldwell D-9
- Grp 6 FF1 S.Lafferty/Merlyn Mk 20
- Grp 6 BSR D.Alder/Miller
- Grp 6 FF1 R.Alder/Titan Mk 6B Ff
- Grp 6 FF1 J.Mihalich/Lotus Type 61 Ff
- Grp 6 FF1 B.Johnson/Royale Rp3a
- Grp 6 FF1 L.Reyburn/Merlyn Mk 20A FJr

- Grp 6 FF1 J.Stiehr/Winkelmann Wdf-1

GROUP 7

CL DRIVER/CAR

- Grp 7 DP T.Drews/Triumph TR4
- Grp 7 CP T.Murphy/Jaguar XKE
- Grp 7 CP V.Shade/Porsche 911T
- Grp 7 DP G.Fuqua/Triumph TR 4
- Grp 7 S7 N.Dodson/Lotus Super Seven
- Grp 7 DP G.Hibbs/Lotus Super Seven
- Grp 7 BS S.Cole/Fiat 124 Coupe
- Grp 7 CP B.Mcclung/Porsche 914/6
- Grp 7 CP G.Kopecky/Porsche 911S
- Grp 7 CP S.Duplissey/Porsche 911 T
- Grp 7 BS D.Gwynne/Ford Escort RS 1600
- Grp 7 DP B.Rinke/Lotus Super 7
- Grp 7 CP R.Reeves/Porsche 914-6
- Grp 7 CP J.Bartos/Porsche 914-6
- Grp 7 CP T.Taff/Porsche 914 6
- Grp 7 BS D.Olive/BMW 2002
- Grp 7 DP B.Krame/Triumph TR4a
- Grp 7 BS S.Brady/Fiat 124 Coupe
- Grp 7 BS D.Stiehr/BMW 2002
- Grp 7 BS J.Pizzi/Datsun 510



#140 Doug Oliver, BMW 2002;
#5 Jim Bartos, Porsche 914-6.

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