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VICTORY LANE



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VARA at Spring Mountain

HSR Spring Fling Sebring International Raceway



CVAR at MSR Houston



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photo by David McCullough

#54 Tim Blakeney, 1974 Royale; #96 Nathan Baldauff, 1969 Beach; #23 Jim Barron, 1979 Lola.

CVAR Spring Driver's School & Races

Motorsports Ranch Houston, Texas

February 24-26, 2017

— story by Don Gwynne

Race Chairman Bill Wolff put together an excellent weekend of vintage racing, along with CVAR's spring driver's school. The school started on Friday, with the students and instructors meeting in the second floor of the clubhouse. After a mandatory driver's meeting, the Friday track sessions included open wheel and closed wheel Test/Tune/Practice (TTP) for non-students, and separate sessions for just the students, alternating in 15 minute sessions for closed wheel, then open wheel, then students.

This spring student class included the following drivers: John Carnew, Terri Cummings, Jim Eberle, Tom Giertz, Clint Hoffart, James Jard, Jim Jard, Nick Leonard, Thomas Quinlan, Jim Reiss, Erica Robau, Dale Schaper, Stefan Schluter, Thomas

Schluter, John Strnad, Larae Summerville, Patrick Summerville, Jeremy Suydam and Trey Woodruff. After working with instructors on Friday, they had a total of four separate "(Group 5) student races on Saturday and Sunday.

During the lunch break at noon Saturday, hot lap rides around the track were very popular, something relatively new for CVAR. After the track went cold on Saturday afternoon, CVAR held its annual awards banquet, with food and beverages served.

Sunday began with a non-denominational worship service at 7 a.m., followed by 10-minute warm-up sessions for open wheel and closed wheel groups, then the morning's racing began. After lunch, the Group 5 students raced first, then came the CVAR Championship Points races.

Out of 25 **GROUP 3** Formula Vee entries, 18 cars showed up on the grid. Elliot Barron sat on pole position in his silver #23 Pegasus, with Mac Wolff alongside driving his red #62 Lynx B. After the green flag waved, Wolff and Barron swapped positions several times, but it was Wolff ahead at the checkered flag, by a margin of only one second. Barron was consoled somewhat by posting the fastest lap of the race. Of the 18

starters, there was only one DNF. One driver was penalized 30 seconds for failing to report after a black flag.

CVAR's **GROUP 4** cars raced next, with the oldest car being Allen Johnston's 1952



photo by David McCullough

#43 Edward Copley, 1980 Ralt.

red #5 MG TD Special. Of 13 entries, nine came to the grid. John Furlow Jr started on pole, but that was all the fun he had, his red #38 Abarth Allemano went DNF on the first lap. Hank Noble, who started alongside Furlow, had a better day, leading the rest of the way for the overall win and the VB class win in his silver #36 MGA. Mike Vecellio and Lou Marchant ran second and third the whole way, to take second and third in VB. Eddie Dick placed fourth overall to win the SFP "Spec Sprite" class in his gold #54 Austin Healey Sprite. CVAR recently added the G Production class cars to Group 4, as a better



#776 Derek Vick, 1964 Triumph.

fit, performance-wise, than in Group 2 where they had been running. Robert Mackenzie placed fifth overall to win GP class driving his white #62 Spitfire.

The open wheel cars of **GROUP 6** raced next, with the quick FA cars predictably leading the way. Gray Gregory sat on pole in his blue #11 Chevron B39, with Peter Hardsteen alongside driving his blue #14 Brabham BT35. That's how they ran the entire race, with Gregory finishing 0.7 seconds ahead of Hardsteen at the checker. Half a minute back, Greg Smith finished third overall to win the FF3 class in his red #6 Swift DB1. Less than a second behind Smith came Nathan Baldauff in his blue & white #96 Beach T11F to win the FF1 class. In sixth overall, David Bell won the FF2 class in his #73 blue & yellow Lola T-342. Two students were invited to race with the

overall of 15 starters, and Dale Schaper came in twelfth overall in his blue #13 Hawke.

GROUP 1 and **GROUP 7** raced together on Sunday afternoon, with 20 cars coming under the Starter's orders. This made for a lot of classes within the joined Group 1/7, including A and B Sedan, FIA, B, C, D and E Production, and one C Production car that was subsequently re-classified as Non Conforming (NC), no points awarded.

George Kopecky sat on the pole in his black & green #97 Porsche RSR, with Kevin Ford alongside in his blue #49 Camaro. The second row was made up of Alain Vinson in his blue #7 Mustang and Stephen Seitz in his blue #89 Mustang. When the green flag waved, Ford jumped into the lead, and never gave it up, but Kopecky was only a third of a second behind at the checkered flag. Ford thus won A Sedan (while driving a Camaro) with Kopecky winning the FIA class. Alain Vinson came third overall to place second in A Sedan in his blue #7 Mustang. After starting way back in 14th

spot, Rob Pink took his ex-Dan Hightower Datsun 240Z up to fourth overall, but was scored as NC so the C Production class win

and points thus went to Alfonso Tomita in his white #88 Porsche 911. Jim Kelleher came up from 13th on the grid to finish sixth overall, winning D production in his red #471 Lotus Seven. The B Sedan contingent notched ninth, tenth and eleventh, with Tim Woodruff's blue #74 BMW 2002 winning the class, followed by Louis Gladfelter's white & yellow Datsun 510 and Cynthia Trifilio's blue #55 Fiat 124 Sport Coupe. John Hamilton took home an unopposed win in E Production driving his orange #80 MGB, and Joe Robau got an unopposed win in B Production in his white #11 Corvette.

CVAR's next race event will take place at the Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Mar. 31-Apr. 2. This will be the 10th Annual Mike Stephens Classic, plus the Ron Shade and Bill Hill Memorial Race, and a special set of Pre-War classes, with PW1 for cars 3 liters and over, and PW2 for cars under 3 liters.



#54 Bobby Whitehead, 1965 Ford; #90 David Lasco, 1965 Shelby.



photo by David McCullough

#23 Jim Barron, 1979 Lola, #13 Dale Schaper, 1969 Hawke.

Group 6 drivers, and they acquitted themselves very well. Jeremy Suydam drove his blue & orange #73 Royale to a very respectable eighth

**GROUP 1/7
PL CL DRIVER/CAR**

- 1 AS K. Ford/1969 Chevy 1:46.152
- 1 FIA G. Kopecky/1973 Porsche 1:45.995
- 2 AS A. Vinson/1966 Shelby Mistang
- 1 NC R. Pink/1972 Datsun 1:53.133
- 3 AS S. Seitz/1965 Ford
- 1 DP J. Kellerher/1962 Lotus 1:52.960
- 1 CP A. Tomita/1973 Porsche 1:53.980
- 4 AS D. Lasco/1965 Shelby
- 1 BS T. Woodruff/1974 BMW 1:54.050
- 2 BS L. Gladfelter/1971 Datsun



photo by David McCullough

#55 Scott Robinson, 1969 Winkelmann.

- 1 BP J. Robau/1964 Chevrolet
- 2 FIA J. Zittler/1970 Porsche

**GROUP 2
PL CL DRIVER/CAR**

- 1 FP G. Reed/1967 MG 2:03.066
- 1 EP J. Jones/1972 MG 2:03.072
- 2 FP D. Vick/1964 Triumph
- 1 CS T. Bond/1965 Austin 2:03.901
- 2 CS B. Pinkston/1966 Volkswagen
- 3 FP R. Fisher/1959 Austin Healey
- 4 FP P. Glawe/1966 Austin Healey

GROUP 3

- PL CL DRIVER/CAR**
- 1 FV M. Wolff/1969 Lynx 1:56.203
 - 2 FV E. Barron/1972 Pegasus
 - 3 FV B. Revennaugh/1967 Zink
 - 4 FV W. Wolff/1968 Zink
 - 5 FV H. Barron/1969 Kellison
 - 6 FV M. Rogers/1968 Bobsy Vega
 - 7 FV E. Barron/1963 Kellison
 - 8 FV D. Phillips/1969 Zink
 - 9 FV J. White/1965 Zink

- 10 FV W. Murphey/1969 Lynx
- 11 FV D. Fisher/1972 Lynx
- 12 FV B. Liming/1968 Zink
- 13 FV M. Jones/1968 Nash Scrambler
- 14 FV K. Barron-Fuller/1963 Autodynamics
- 15 FV H. Barron/1972 Caldwell
- 1 J. Sandberg/1972 Taylor Steward 2:11.086
- 16 FV J-P. Carter/1968 Zink



photo by David McCullough

#41 Andrew Fawcett, 1968 Lotus.

GROUP 4

- PL CL DRIVER/CAR**
- 1 VB H. Noble/1962 MG 2:05.237
 - 2 VB M. Vecellio/1963 Empi 2:05.527
 - 3 VB L. Marchant/1959 MG 2:09.626
 - 1 SFP E. Dick/1967 Austin Healey 2:09.577
 - 1 GP R. Mackenzie/1962 Triumph 2:18.678
 - 2 SFP J. Williams/1972 Austin Healey 2:17.666



photo by David McCullough

#6 Greg Smith, 1986 Swift.

- 3 SFP D. Turner/1964 Austin Healey 2:19.860
- 1 VC J. Furlow/1959 Abarth 2:12.514
- 1 VA A. Johnson/1952 MG 2:28.073

GROUP 6

- PL CL DRIVER/CAR**
- 1 FA G. Gregory/1977 Chevron 1:41.942
 - 2 FA P. Hardsteen/1971 Brabham
 - 1 FF3 G. Smith/1986 Swift 1:47.287
 - 1 FF1 N. Baldauff/1969 Beach 1:46.552
 - 2 FF1 A. Lemon/1969 Merlyn
 - 1 FF2 D. Bell/1974 Lola 1:50.939
 - 3 FF1 J. Carr/1969 Caldwell
 - 1 STU J. Suydam/1983 Royale 1:55.241
 - 4 FF1 T. Blakeney/1972 Royale
 - 5 FF1 J. Langham/1972 Merlyn
 - 6 FF1 S. Robinson/1969 Winkelmann
 - 2 STU D. Schaper/1969 Hawke
 - 2 FF2 J. Barron/1979 Lola



Jeffries Art

#186 Lou Marchant, 1959 MG.

- 3 BS C. Trifilio/1971 Fiat
- 5 AS B. Whitehead/1965 Ford
- 2 CP A. Smarigasso/1972 Datsun
- 3 CP T. Taff/1971 Porsche
- 1 EP J. Hamilton/1965 MG 1:58.229
- 4 CP J. Smith/1971 Nissan/Datsun
- 5 CP A. Fawcett/1968 Lotus
- 6 CP J. Kish/1973 Porsche