

CVAR Race Against Kids Cancer Texas Motor Speedway

September 20-22, 2019

— story by Don Gwynne

— photos by Brandall Binion

The Saturday night banquet was a catered buffet, with a DJ and a charity auction. Bobby Whitehead circulated a helmet collecting CVAR signatures, then donated it to the Morgan Adams Foundation auction. Bill Wolff won the helmet for a \$2,500 donation, besting Karen Gladfelter's last bid.

Besides the weekend of excellent racing, CVAR raised a lot of money for the Morgan Adams Foundation supporting children's



#27 Jeffrey Walker, 1961 Austin Healey Sprite;
#186 Lou Marchant, 1959 MGA.

cancer research. One popular item was lunchtime ride-arounds in a wide range of exotic cars, for a small donation.

Despite 12 **GROUP 4** cars entered, only three answered the call to the grid for the first points race of Sunday afternoon. Jeff Walker, for example, fought water pump and overheating problems in his black #27 Spec Sprite on Friday and Saturday, and the problems won. After starting on pole in his red Porsche 911, Danny Piott dropped out after one lap, leaving Houston's Mike Vecellio a clear path to the overall win and the VB Class win in his black & white #12 EMPI Crusader. Chris Kellner crossed the line only eight seconds back in his big red & white #23 Austin Healey 3000 to take his unopposed VA Class win.

The **GROUP 6** race fared better on the grid call, with 11 racers answering the call of 16 entries. Gray Gregory's blue #11 Chevron B39



#4 Robert Hoemke, 1962, Cooper, T59; #53 Tom O'Grady, 1962 Cooper T59.

was clearly the class of the field, and he led every lap on the way to the overall win and the FA Class victory, setting the fastest lap as well. He got around the 2.63 mile course in 1:27.44, yielding an average speed over 108 mph. After starting third, Pat Magruder moved his red #57 Van Diemen Formula C into the second spot on the third lap by passing Jim Gewinner's green #33 Lotus 23B. Gewinner

eventually finished a lap down on the leader, but took the B Sports Racing Class win nonetheless. At the checkered flag, third overall went to Angus Lemon in his purple #86 Merlyn 11A/17A, notching him the FF1 Class win. In seventh overall, Len Root took the FF2 class win in his black #72 Dulon DB-17. Although two laps down on the leader, William Trimbur took an unopposed FF3 class win in his red #21 Van Diemen.

The second biggest (16 cars) and by far the loudest field of the day came next to the grid.

GROUP 1 included examples of A Production, B Production, A Sedan, FIA, and a couple of non-compliant cars, namely Doug Oliver's silver #111 1989 Nissan Silvia, and Scott Young driving the ex-Mike Stephens red #05 Jaguar XKE coupe. Seth Higgins started on pole in his blue #31 Porsche RSR, led every lap, finished first overall, first in FIA Class, and turned the fastest lap of the race. That's not to say that there wasn't some close racing behind him. After managing to pass CVAR President Herb Hilton's yellow #17 Mustang by the

third lap, David Fershtand went on to take second overall and win the A Sedan class in his blue #18 Mustang. Hilton was still within a second of Fershtand's rear bumper at the checkered flag. Michael Saxe drove a steady race, starting fourth and running in fourth overall the entire distance, in his orange #979 Porsche 911 Carrera RS. In perhaps the most impressive drive of this race, Joe Robau started dead last and carved his way up to fifth overall to win the B Production Class in his white #11 Chevrolet Corvette. David's brother John Fershtand finished sixth overall for third in A Sedan driving his blue #47 Boss 302 Mustang. John Scott's white #71 Chevrolet Corvette finished seventh overall to win A Production.

Of the 25 cars entered in **GROUP 2/7**, only eight came to the grid for the combined G2/G7 points race. After starting third, Donnie Cluck moved into the overall lead by the second lap in his yellow #39 Datsun 510 and never looked back, to win the B Sedan Championship Class (for cars prepared to the 2.5 Trans-Am sedan rules). Thomas Schluter won the C Production class in second overall driving his tangerine #34 Porsche 911. In third overall, the B Sedan class win went to Stuart Blackwood in his red and white #17 Ford Escort. Dan Hilton took the F Production win in fourth overall driving his



#15 Chris Chilton, 1972 Lynx B; #26 Bill Griffith, 1965 Autodynamics.



#05 Scott Young, 1962 Jaguar XKE; #10 Steven Seitz, 1965 Ford Mustang.

blue #33 Austin Healey Sprite. In fifth overall, CVAR's Chief Instructor Berkeley Merrill won E Production in his silver #12 Porsche 914/4.

on pole, and crossed the finish right next to Devin Boucher's red #114 MRA Riley, down to the thousandth of a second. After a lot of

The **GROUP 3** Formula Vee drivers set a good example, with 20 cars of 25 entries coming to the last race of the day. And most agreed that they put on the best race of the day, with lots of passing and an incredible finish. Mac Wolff 's white #68 Zink Z-5 started

head scratching, Timing & Scoring declared Wolff the winner, but only after analyzing video and still photography at the finish line. It was that close. Several were heard to be considering mounting their transponders as far forward on their cars as possible after watching their epic battle. Hunter Barron came third, only 0.387 seconds later, in his red #113 Kellison Mk 2.

Usually a 0.387 second margin would be called close, but not in this case. After starting fourth, Heather Barron climbed all the way up to the overall lead by the fifth lap, only to go four-off in the infield on the eighth lap, dropping her to the back of the pack at the checkered flag.

GROUP 1

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FIA S. Higgins/1973 Porsche 911 RSR 1:31.940
- 1 AS D. Fershtand/1968 Ford Mustang 1:33.086
- 2 AS H. Hilton/1967 Ford Mustang
- 2 FIA M. Saxe/1974 Porsche 911 Carrera RS
- 1 BP J. Robau/1964 Corvette 1:32.165
- 3 AS J. Fershtand/1969 Ford Mustang
- 1 AP J. Scott/1971 Corvette 1:35.337
- 4 AS K. Thomas/1969 Mustang Boss 302
- 5 AS G. Hassell/1968 Ford Mustang
- 6 AS R. Mussina/1965 Ford Mustang
- 7 AS D. Haynes/1970 Ford Mustang
- 8 AS T. Robinson/1966 Dodge Dart
- 9 AS L. Gladfelder/1969 Camaro
- 2 BP G. Jonas/1966 Ford GT 350 Replica

GROUP 2/7

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 BSC D. Cluck/1971 Datsun 510 1:37.268
- 1 CP T. Schluter/1969 Porsche 911 1:38.946
- 1 BS S. Blackwood/1971 Ford Escort Rs 1:38.797
- 1 FP D. Hilton/1959 Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite 1:42.810
- 1 EP B. Merrill/1972 Porsche 914/4 1:45.503
- 2 FP K. Keiger/1966 MG Midget

GROUP 3

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FV M. Wolff/1968 Zink Z-5 1:46.256
- 2 FV D. Boucher/1978 MRA Riley
- 3 FV H. Barron/1969 Kellison Mk 2
- 4 FV J. Strnad/1969 Lynx B

- 5 FV D. Calkins/1972 Lynx B
- 6 FV D. Phillips/1969 Zink C-4
- 7 FV J. Williamson/1970 Caldwell D-13
- 8 FV M. Rogers/1968 Bobsy Vega
- 9 FV T. Little/1965 Autodynamics Mk 2
- 10 FV P. Summerville/1967 Zink Z-5
- 11 FV K. Barron-Fuller/1963 Autodynamics
- 12 FV R. Phillips/1969 Zink C-4
- 13 FV H. Barron/1972 Caldwell D-13
- 14 FV D. McDowell/1969 Zeitler
- 15 FV E.O. Barron/1972 Taylor Stewart

GROUP 4

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 VB M. Vecellio/1963 Empi Crusader 2:05.494
- 1 VA C. Kellner/1959 Austin Healey 3000 2:20.704

GROUP 6

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FA G. Gregory/1977 Chevron B39 1:27.440
- 1 FC P. Magruder/1995 Van Diemen RF95 1:32.997
- 1 FF1 A. Lemon/1969 Merlyn 11A/17A 1:35.209
- 2 FF1 S. Clark/1972 Merlyn 20A
- 1 BSR J. Gewinner/1965 Lotus 23B 1:34.416
- 3 FF1 S. Robinson/1969 Winkelmann
- 1 FF2 L. Root/1974 Dulon DB-17 1:39.912
- 2 FF2 J. Edwards/1978 Citation Z16
- 1 FF3 W. Trimbur/1982 Van Diemen 1:54.425
- 4 FF1 T. Blakeney/1972 Royale RP-16

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