

PEOPLE, CARS, EVENTS & RESOURCES
OF VINTAGE RACING

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**CVAR at Texas World
Speedway**

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CVAR Spring Driver's School & Races

Texas World Speedway, TX
February 20-22, 2009

#110 David McMillin, MGB; #75 CL Turcotte, 1968 Baker F-Vee;
#56 John Fudge, 911 Porsche.

-story and photos by Don Gwynne

More than 130 cars turned out for CVAR's Spring Drivers School and Races at Texas World Speedway on 20-22 February 2009. Friday was devoted to "test, tune & practice" for the experienced racers, and a full day of schooling for the new students.

The Sunday afternoon "points races" were led off by a 21 car field of **Group 7** competitors. Vernon "Ron" Shade, driving his blue & yellow #180 Porsche 911T, turned in the fastest lap (2:00.248) on his way to the overall win and the CP class victory. The next four finishers were all Porsche 911s, followed by the orange #78 Porsche 914-6 of Richard Reeves. Scott Brady won B Sedan, and finished seventh overall, in his brilliant blue #16 Fiat 124 Coupe. To keep his Fiat sedan in front of several Porsches, a Datsun 240Z and a Jaguar XKE is quite an accomplishment! Sherman Hart took an unopposed D Production win driving his red #38 Alfa Romeo Spider.

The **Group 1** cars thundered out next. Jody O'Donnell drove his white A Production #46 Corvette to the overall win, but second overall Jeff Anderson turned the fastest lap of the race (1:54.419) driving his yellow & white #29 Lola

T-212 to win A Sports Racing. Third overall and first in A Sedan went to the blue #67 Camaro driven by Sam LeComte, and Tom Upton won the FIA class in his red #77 Pantera. Michael Saxe finished fifth overall and second in FIA class, with his #979 Porsche RS sporting a shiny new orange and white Jägermeister livery. Charles Jones won B Production driving his immaculate white & gold Hane-prepared #289 Mustang. Once again, Alan Trotter easily won the "traveled the most distance to race with CVAR" honors, having flown in from Prague, Czech Republic, just to drive his yellow #96 FIA Corvette in this event.

Third points race of Sunday afternoon was for **Group 2**. Herb Hilton proved again that it is the "nut behind the wheel" that makes the biggest difference, after jumping into a back-up car following mechanical problems with his red & white #02 MG Midget. The back-up car, black & green #52 MG Midget, served him just as well, on the way to the overall win and first in F Production. But it wasn't easy... Darren McDougal was nipping at Herb's heels when the checkered flag dropped, finishing second by less than a quarter of a second. Rodger Soucy

was the first C Sedan across the line, finishing sixth overall to win CS in his blue #155 Mini Cooper. With his MGB-driving EP rivals Tony Welch and George Curl both DNS, Kenneth Morris drove to an unopposed EP win in his black #08 MGB.

Team Geezer's Mike Callahan's white & blue #68 Zink Z-5 just nipped Bill Griffith's red #5 Adams 5C for the **Group 3** win by less than 0.3 second. Gary Emery drove his green #31 Spec Sprite to the SFP win, finishing seventh overall.

The **Group 4** race saw Jim Yule drive his green #9 Cooper T-56 rear-engined Formula Junior (FJr) to the overall win and the FJr class win. There was quite a gap at the checkered flag to the rest of the pack. Mike Orlie's blue #18 Porsche 356 won VB class, finishing second overall. Third overall and second in VB was Charlie Barns, driving his red #61 Alfa Romeo. Lou Marchant, in her green #186 MGA, tried valiantly to reel Charlie in, but had to settle for the third VB slot.

Fifth overall in his green #15 Cooper T-56 was Jim Sharp. Back in the early sixties, Charlie Barns bought this same Cooper T-56 from Hap Sharp, who was Jim Hall's partner in the Chaparral Can-Am cars. After going through a few hands, this particular Cooper Formula Junior has finally made it all the way from father to son.

Steve Foster was unopposed in the front-engined Formula Junior (FFJr) class, finishing sixth overall. Tom DeSalvo was likewise unopposed in VC class, driving his silver #198



Students: #75 CL Turcotte, 1968 Baker F-Vee; #26 Chris Cornwell, F-Vee.



The weekend featured racing, friends and fun.

Edwards/Blume H Mod Crosley Special, which has a competition history dating back to the early fifties.

Steve Smith set the fastest lap of the weekend (1:43.646) on his way to the overall win and the FA class win in the **Group 6** points race. His red #27 Ralt Rt1 was the class of the field, winning by more than a 23 second margin. Second overall and first in FF2 class was Mike Bond, driving his lime green #98 LeGrand Mk21. Third overall and first in FF1 class was Mexico's Patricio Junco, in his blue

and silver #32 Lotus 51-B. The lone B Sports Racing entrant, Bruce Revenaugh, suffered a DNF on lap four in his green #23 Lotus 23.

Last race of the day was solely for the **Group 5 Students**. David Mock won in his red & yellow #33 Merlyn Formula Ford, with a five second margin over Chip Fudge and his green & yellow #56 Lister-Maserati. Long standing CVAR member Howard Phillips dusted off his (street legal) green #11 Alfa Romeo GTV to reinstate his licensure, and drove a competent race to finish a very creditable third overall.

Robert Anderson came fourth in his brother Jeff's red #9 Crossle Formula Ford, while C.L. Turcotte finished fifth in his rare white & red #75 Baker Formula Vee. Chris Cornwell was sixth in the yellow #26 Bigger Hammer Formula Vee.

While there were a few mechanical breakdowns, no serious accidents marred the weekend. This was quite an accomplishment, considering the intermittent rain on Saturday morning.

CVAR Spring Drivers School

-story and photo by Don Gwynne

CVAR takes the development of new vintage racing drivers as its most serious responsibility. Each new student is required to attend each and every "chalk talk" session, no excuses accepted. On-track sessions are supervised by experienced CVAR instructors. Each car is subjected to a rigorous safety inspection; compliance with CVAR's vintage-correct car preparation rules can be partially overlooked the first time out, but safety provisions cannot.

The Spring 2009 CVAR student class included the following drivers and cars:

Greg Blake, #4 silver Triumph TR-3
 Robert Anderson, #9 red Crossle FF
 Howard Phillips, #11 green Alfa Romeo GTV
 Matthew Coleman, #25 purple MG Midget
 Chris Cornwell, #26 yellow Bigger Hammer FV
 Jeffrey Walker, #27 white A. H. Sprite

Andrew Kramer, #29 red Triumph TR-4A
 David Mock, #33 red & yellow Merlyn FF
 Kerry McEntire, #39 blue Nash Scrambler FV
 John "Chip" Fudge, #56 green & yellow Lister-Maserati A6Gcs
 C.L. Turcotte, #75 white & red Baker FV
 Patrick McPherson, #97 orange MG Midget
 David McMillin, #110 black MG Midget
 John Slade, #501 blue Porsche 911S

This is not to imply that a drivers school weekend isn't a whale of a lot of fun.

Every new driver is nevertheless given the same instructional attention. From MG Midgets and Bugeyed Sprites, to Formula Fords and Formula Vees, to street-legal Alfa Romeo GTVs, everyone has fun while learning. Initial sessions are conducted under strict double-yellow flag conditions - no passing allowed. As the students learn, they are gradually given more freedoms. For the final session on Sunday afternoon, the students that had behaved themselves properly were allowed to participate in a race all their own.



#97 Patrick McPherson, MG Midget.



#9 Robert Anderson, Crossle FF.

The CVAR Drivers School Experience

-by John "Chip" Fudge

I wanted to share my experience of the CVAR school with you for the magazine if anyone is interested.

I have loved cars, I think, all of my life. The chance to be able to drive my vintage race car "at speed" and to the limits of the car and my skill level was realized last weekend with CVAR at Texas World Speedway. I greatly appreciated the care that was taken during the school to help me improve my skill in a positive, safe, and focused environment. I was amazed at the improvement over the three days in both my comfort level and lap times. The Chief Steward and all of the track workers made the experience safe, positive and fun.

Tech was diligent in the review of all safety equipment along with verifying the correct setup of the car.

My instructor, Lou Marchant, went out of her way to call me prior to the weekend (as did many members of the Executive Committee) and introduced me to the other

members as well as helping me improve my driving line. She was a hoot and I know I have several new friends after this weekend because Lou never failed to introduce me to everyone.

To summarize, if you have a desire to pursue a vintage racing experience, quit thinking about

it and do it. After three days, you will be exhausted. You will have improved your driving skill and knowledge immensely and you will have a hard time trying to get the "grin" off your face the following week.



photo by Don Gwynne

John M "Chip" Fudge, and his 1956 Lister Maserati.



**#4 Greg Blake, Triumph TR-3;
#29 Andrew Kramer, Triumph TR-4A.**

RACE RESULTS

GROUP 7 RACE 3

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 CP V.Shade/Porsche 911T 2:00.248
- 2 CP G.Kopecky/Porsche 911S
- 3 CP S.Kent/Porsche 911 S
- 4 CP S.Duplissey/Porsche 911
- 5 CP E.Cullen Iv/ Porsche 911
- 6 CP R.Reeves/Porsche 914
- 1 BS S.Brady/Fiat 124 Coupe 2:07.123
- 7 CP T.Taff/Porsche 914/6
- 8 CP T.Murphy/Jaguar XKE
- 9 CP B.Merrill/Datsun 240Z
- 10 CP J.Bartos/Porsche 914-6
- 2 BS S.Smargiasso/Mercury Capri
- 11 CP K.Caldwell/Porsche 911E
- 12 CP K.Marshall/Porsche 911 S
- 3 BS D.Gwynne/Ford Escort
- 4 BS K.Brown/BMW 2002
- 1 DP S.Hart/Alfa Romeo Spider 2:18.013
- 13 CP D.Piott/
- 5 BS W.Thacker/BMW 2002
- 6 BS S.Cole/ Fiat 124 Coupe

GROUP 1 RACE 3

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 AP J.O'donnell/Corvette 1:55.214
- 1 ASR J.Anderson/Lola T-212 1:54.419
- 1 AS S.Lecomte/Camaro 1:54.790
- 2 AS M.Upton/Pantera
- 1 FIA M.Saxe/Porsche 911 RSR 1:55.102
- 2 FIA C.Jones/Mustang
- 1 BP S.Higgins/Mustang 1:57.802
- 3 FIA R.W.Suggs/Mustang
- 2 AS J.Fershtand/Corvette
- 3 AS J.Atwell/Mustang
- 4 AS T.Filer/Mustang
- 2 BP D.Schultz/Corvette

3 BP J.Seligman/Mustang

5 AS J.Mangham/Mustang

6 AS A.Trotter/Ford Falcon

4 FIA M.Jennings/Corvette

6 AS J.Neathery/Mustang

7 AS A.Shores/ Mustang

GROUP 2 RACE 3

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FP H.Hilton/
- 2 FP D.Mcdougal/A.H. Sprite
- 3 FP J.Setar/Mga Mk II
- 4 FP G.Reed/MG Midget
- 5 FP A.Mcdougal/A.H. Sprite
- 1 CS R.Soucy/A.H. Cooper S 2:11.200
- 2 CS T.Bond/
- 6 FP A.Hofeling/MG Midget
- 7 FP J.Mcclanahan/A. H. Sprite
- 8 FP R.Fisher/A.H. Sprite
- 9 FP J.Hovey/Triumph Spitfire
- 10 FP D.Doidge/MG Midget
- 3 CS B.Barnes/Austin Cooper S
- 11 FP P.Glawe/A.H. Sprite
- 1 EP K.Morris/MGB 2:21.699

GROUP 3 RACE 3

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FV M.Callahan/Zink Z-5 2:06.035
- 2 FV B.Griffith/Adams 5C
- 3 FV J.Gaudette/Zink C4
- 4 FV D.Harrison/Zink C4
- 5 FV T.Stege/FV
- 6 FV R.Bailey/Lynx B
- 1 SFP G.Emery/A.H. Sprite 2:20.385
- 2 SFP M.Vecellio/MG Midget
- 3 SFP E.Dick/A.H. Sprite
- 7 FV D.Rolison/Zink Z-5



#89 Don Gwynne, Ford Escort; #97 George Kopecky, Porsche 911; #111 Darren Mcdougal, A.H. Sprite.

8 FV K.McEntire/

9 FV J.Revenaugh/Zink C-4

GROUP 4 RACE 2

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FJR J.Yule/Cooper T56 2:08.180
- 1 CM D.Chapman/ 2:14.157
- 1 VB M.Orlie/Porsche Roadster
- 2 VB C.Barnes/Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce
- 3 VB L.Merchant/MGA
- 2 FJR J.Sharp
- 1 FFJR S.Foster/Elva

2 FF2 S.Jacobs/FF Dulon Mp-15

2 FF1 M.Hibbs/

2 FA K.Liming/Centaur FSV

3 FF1 J.Kelleher/Merlyn FF

4 FF1 L.Lydicke/FF Merlyn Mk 11a

5 FF1 A.Brussich/Lotus 61 FF

6 FF1 B.Powell/

GROUP 5 STUDENT RACE 2

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 Student D.Mock/ Merlyn FF
- 2 Student J.Fudge/ Lister-Maserati A6Gs



#52 Steve Coleman, MG Midget.

1 VC T.Desalvo/

GROUP 6 RACE 3

PL CL DRIVER/CAR

- 1 FA S.Smith/Ralt Rt1 1:43.646
- 1 FF2 M.Bond/Legrand Mk21 1:51.599
- 1 FF1 P.Junco/FF Lotus 51-B 1:54.813

3 Student H.Phillips/ Alfa Romeo GTV

4 Student R.Anderson/ Crossle FF

5 Student CL.Turcotte/ Baker FV

6 Student C.Cornwell/FV



**#15 James Sharp Cooper;
#2 Lon McKinstry, Elva 100.**



**#18 Mike Orlie, Porsche Roadster;
#61 Charles Barnes, Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce.**