

DRIFTING

DES MOINES VALLEY REGION
of the Sports Car Club of America

AUGUST 2022



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2022 Time Trials Schedule

Aug 13 Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, NE

Oct 15 . Raceway Park of the Midlands, Pacific Junction, IA

Iowa State Fair

DMVR

***Walking Rally/Scavenger Hunt
Wednesday, August 10th
6pm!***

Meet at the Stockman's Inn on the
Iowa State Fairgrounds for Fellowship, Rules, Food,
Drink and Prizes!

First Foot off at 7pm!



FUNDAY SIT-DOWN

with John Haluska

I sit down with long time DMVR Member Ric Johnson and we dish on Mantas, Minis (both old and new) and old school Radials!



JH

So, when we're talking at the last DMVR Meeting , I'm like, man, you'd be perfect for my next interview, so...

RJ

Well, thank you.

JH

There are not too many of us that have been here multiple decades.

RJ

Yeah.

JH

To begin with, when did you join DMVR? 1967?

RJ

I started participating in 67, but I probably didn't join till 1969.

JH

And did you go the membership meetings at Noah's?

RJ

Yes!

JH

That was really something. It was pretty cool, you know?

RJ

Yes, they still have a plaque on the wall there, saying we meet there every month.

JH

Oh my gosh.

RJ

Right by the coat rack. We made a plaque for Noah (Lacona) maybe 30 years ago.

JH

Wow. I kind of remember that.

RJ

Yeah, but it lies. (LOL)

JH

I'll never forget walking in there when I was 16 and I was really nervous. I had just got my Triumph Spitfire and Greg Scharnberg met me at the door and took me upstairs.

RJ

Cool.

JH



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And the rest is history.

RJ

Yeah. The first members I met were Dave Walker, Ron Sharp and Lyle Kreps.

JH

Oh yeah. I know all those guys.

RJ

I'd been interested for a while. I started spectating at Autocrosses when I was probably 15 or 16. Went to a lot of Corvette Club events, a lot of SCCA events. I didn't have anything to drive yet so...

JH

How did you find out about them?

RJ

You know, I don't actually recall. I was aware of the SCCA from Road & Track Magazine. I started reading Road & Track in 1961.

JH

Wow!

RJ

I'd been, building model airplanes and model cars and Slot Car racing and all of that. And I was kind of a hot rodder guy, reading Car Craft and Hot Rod magazines and then in the summer of 1961, I stumbled upon my first copy of Road & Track, and that just opened up a whole new world to me.

JH

Interesting! You know, Road & Track was influential in my youth as well! I was never a Hot Rod kind of guy. I don't know why I didn't go down that route. My uncle had a 1967 Corvette Stingray with a 427 Turbo Jet, which was a pretty cool car and was a big influence on me. But I've never really been a Corvette guy either, you know? They're very nice, but it's not a car that I'm really drawn to.

RJ

Me either. Too big. But I enjoy watching them at Autocrosses. You know, I still can't believe that they held a Corvette Club Autocross on the little postage stamp of a lot that's by the City Armory, on Robert D. Ray Drive. Doing an Autocross on that lot! I look at it and I think, that isn't possible! And it's a Corvette style autocross!

JH

Wow!

RJ

I just don't see how you would even make a course.

JH

(LOL) That's funny! Where was your first Autocross at?

RJ

The Children's Zoo parking lot. Now it's the Blank Park Zoo of course. On March 22nd, 1970.

JH

I forgot they used to run down there.

RJ

Yeah, it was the Mustang Club Spring Time Trials. And the reason I remember it so vividly is that, not only was it my first Autocross, but I've still got the dash plaque!



JH

Awesome! What did you drive?

RJ

It was my 62 Mini Cooper. That was my first my very first car,

a 1962 Morris Cooper 997 CC, the very first generation of Mini Coopers. They started producing them in the fall of 61. Mine was built in February of 1962.



Ric and his 1962 Morris Cooper

JH

Amazing.

RJ

And when I bought it, you know, I'd always heard about Mini Cooper's and Austin Cooper's, and I had no idea the difference. A friend's younger brother saw the ad in the paper and it said 1962 Mini Cooper for sale. I called the guy and I said, this is an Austin Cooper, right? He said "no, it's a Morris Cooper!" Huh? A Morris Cooper! And he said, "yeah, same thing. But it just different badging!"

JH

Like a Sprite and a Midget.

RJ

Yes. Or Spridget, if you want to be compact.

JH

Yes! (LOL).

RJ

I actually wanted to buy a 1967, 1275cc Midget or Sprite. And that's what I was saving for. But this friend's younger brother, who is still a devoted Mini guy, he's got like five classic Minis. He was maybe eight or nine at the time. And he saw the ad in the paper and I went and bought the 62 Mini Cooper for \$250.

JH

Wow. So, my first car, my 73 Spitfire, cost me \$4,200 bucks. I bought that brand new down at Ostrem's.

RJ

My first new car was in 1973 when I got an Opel Manta.

JH

Oh yeah. That's great car.

RJ

Yeah. I had an Opel Manta Rallye. And that became my Autocross car then.

JH

Were you a member of CIMA? Remember CIMA? Central



Iowa Motorsports Association?

RJ

No.

JH

They were their own club. And everybody that was in the DMVR was in CIMA, except for maybe just a couple of people. So we had two Autocrosses every month. You had a CIMA event and then a couple weeks later you had one with DMVR. They ran the same lots, mostly like Ankeny DMACC. I don't know what happened to that club. So, that was a thing for a while. Two events per month. Then in the wintertime, we'd have two Christmas parties! A DMVR and a CIMA Christmas party! So a lot of beer was drank. (LOL)

So you started Autocrossing in 1970?

RJ

Spring of 1970. Yes.

JH

So you've been Autocrossing for 50 years.

RJ

Yes.

JH

So a half a century of Autocross!

RJ

Yes. But there are some gap years.

JH

Oh?

RJ

Yes. Well, I got heavily involved in dirt bikes after I watched the movie "On Any Sunday" in 1971. I never really had an interest in motorcycles, but I saw the movie and I went out and bought a brand new Kawasaki F6 125 Enduro. Then I went through a series of dirt bikes. Spent a lot of time in

the dirt because it's kind of kind of like Autocross. You can go out and be as radical as you want and not have to worry about the red lights.

JH

Yeah, no doubt. So how long did you ride Dirt bikes for?

RJ

Oh, basically 1971 to maybe 75 or 76 when I got my right foot shattered in 13 places.

JH

So that put a damper on things for a while!

RJ

Well, yeah... I had met a friend of mine, and we used to go out early every Sunday morning before everybody came out. We called it First Church of the Open Throttle.

JH

(LOL).

RJ

We were riding one one Sunday morning. It's now a bike trail, but it was in the woods, across from what used to be the Target on Euclid.

JH

Oh, yeah.

RJ

There is a trail down there. We'd done all our heavy riding and got back to the little pickup we had and he said let's just take a ride to cool off. So we left our helmets and we just went for a slow ride and as we're coming back, about where you had to go under the bridge and up the hill to where the truck was. And we could see a guy coming really fast on a Kawasaki 250 motocross so we split and I went left and he went right and I was stopped there, with my foot on the brake to give this guy plenty of space and he decided he really wanted to show off. So he gassed it and hung it

out just far enough to hit my foot with his back wheel. And it turned my foot under. If I hadn't had really good riding boots, I probably would've lost my foot.

The hospital said it wasn't so much a broken foot as it was a squished foot. And so I spent a couple months on crutches and then I was on a cane for a while and my foot still looks weird and feels weird occasionally from it.

JH

Wow!

RJ

That was kind of the end of Dirt Bikes.

JH

Yeah.

RJ

My boss said I'll let you get by with this one. I was working for A.V. Services down on Ingersoll doing audio visual. And he said I'll let you have this one but don't think you can get



Ric showing how it's done on his Ossa Phantom 250

away with something like this again. I was riding a 1974 Ossa 250 Phantom at the time. Spanish bike.

JH

Well, that's something I didn't know that about you!

RJ

And then I spent a couple of years involved with Radio Control. I saw race out at South Ridge one day, and thought that looks neat. 1/8th scale cars powered by model airplane engines. And it was sports car racing. It looked like a lot of fun. So I got involved in that for a while. And then as with any motorsport, it just kept getting more and more expensive. And I finally reached a point where I said this is stupid. I'm spending so much money on these, I might as well go back to autocross and drive myself. My ultimate car was a little Porsche 917/30 Can-Am car. It was about a about a foot and a half long, weighed about 5 lbs, had a little Italian 3.5 CC model airplane engine that would make a horsepower and a half at 38,000 R.P.M..

JH

Wow.

RJ

Even with road course gearing, it'd go 80 or 90 miles an hour.

JH

It sounds challenging.

RJ

Yeah, it was a lot of fun. We ran what they called the Heart of America series. And we'd go to Omaha and Lincoln and St Louis and Kansas City to races, and then we'd race here at South Ridge.

JH

Very cool.

RJ

Yes, but then I said, Man, I'm going back to Autocross. That

was probably in 1985 or 86 around there.

JH

What's your best memory or an event that you've been involved with?

RJ

In the club? Oh, boy. That's a tough one.

JH

Or the most fun you've had.

RJ

Well, I remember one Autocross that we did over near Omaha. Actually, it was a Nebraska region event and I think



it was when we were doing the DMVR - Nebraska challenge. And I had won my class by 13 thousandths of a second.

JH

Awesome! What were you driving.

RJ

My 1971 MGB that I campaigned for 25 or 30 years.

JH

Very cool. So what's your favorite car that you've

Autocrossed?

RJ

The Opel Manta. Then the MGB, but my current Mini is a lot of fun too.

JH

How do you think the club has changed from back when you joined to the way it is now? What are the differences, if any?

RJ

I guess one of the things that disappoints me is how casual the annual meeting has gotten. I mean, it used to be a suit and tie affair and you know, I kind of miss those days. It was one of the few days of the year to get dressed up for an SCCA event. But it's good to see the young guys getting involved. I haven't gotten into rallycross or time trials. You know, it looks like fun, but I don't have anything really

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suitable for either. And I'm just getting too old and too slow. (LOL)

JH

Yeah, you can't do it all. Rallycross looks fun. But I'd have to have something different or a multi-purpose car. And when you have a multi-purpose car, they're just never that fast, you know what I mean?

RJ

It's kind of the same thing with having an enduro bike. You can ride it on the street. And you can ride in the dirt. But it's not optimal for either one because of the compromises it makes to the other.

JH

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No doubt. So, besides "On Any Sunday", what other movies did you like around racing?

RJ

Grand Prix. I talked my folks into going to Omaha to see it in the real Cinerama. The original Multi Projectors Cinerama, which was just astounding. And then got to see it on our Cinerama here on the single projector several years later when they finally brought it to the theaters down there by Vets.

JH

At the time, it was quite a deal. And how they would get racing footage. They'd strap those big cameras on those little cars or on helmets.

RJ

They also had a modified GT40 to go out with the Grand Prix cars.

JH

Anything in the current crop of movies?

RJ

Ford versus Ferrari was okay. Enjoyed Rush. I've always been a fan of Hunt's.

JH

Yes, me too. But I don't know what it is about Rush. It was okay. I liked both Lauda and Hunt and I was a huge F1 fan at the time. And so I remember when all that was happening, but the movie just left something to be desired. I don't know what it was, but it just did. But I've watched it like five times now, so I must enjoy it! (LOL)

RJ

I have a Hesketh Bear on the back window of my Mini.

JH

Very cool. I was recently looking at some of the t-shirts that Hunt used to wear, you know, the Breakfast of Champions

one.

RJ

Oh yeah. (LOL)

JH

He was something else. It's too bad he died so young.

RJ

Yes.

JH

Is there anything you would like to do in DMVR that you haven't done?

RJ

Not really. I mean, I've been RE, I've been Solo Events director and Solo rules director. I've been Secretary and then Rally Events director. I would like to see us get a Rally program going.

JH

Or even one rally. You know, I brought that up recently. Remember back in the seventies we'd have Sportscar weekend. On Saturday you'd have an Autocross, Saturday night would be a Rally, then Sunday another autocross and then you'd have to tally the points of all three for Weekend Champ.

RJ

Yes I do, I wrote several of those rallies.

JH

Oh?

RJ

Actually rallying was my first real involvement with DMVR and other clubs because when I got my license at 16 in 1967, the next weekend, I went out on a time speed distance rally with a friend, driving Mom's 1965 Pontiac Tempest! It wouldn't Autocross, but it was a good rally car. Four doors!

JH

A four door! (LOL) You know, Ron Sharp was a big rally guy.

RJ

Yes! that's where I met him!

JH

Son of a gun. I've known Ronnie since I was 16 and never knew that he did rally until I interviewed him for Drifting.

RJ

Ron and Lyle Kreps would come over and help with my first Mini. For \$250, it was not in perfect shape, (LOL).

JH

Yeah. Uh huh.

RJ

And I got hooked up with Dave Walker. He was still working at Ostrem's at the time and we had to kind of pretend that the Mini I was building was a race car because Dave was not allowed to work on street cars outside of Ostrem's. But he could work on race cars!

JH

Oh, funny!

RJ

So Dave really took me under his wing, you know, and I was like 17.

And we'd go out and work on it in his garage. And if it was something major like pulling the engine or something, then Ron or Lyle would come over to help. So that's when I really got to know them.

JH

I saw Lyle last year at the fair and then of course we see Ronnie here and there. But I haven't seen Dave in a long time. I can't even remember the last time I saw him.

RJ

I still get together with him fairly regularly.

JH

Very cool. So, anything we missed? Or something you'd like to mention?

RJ

Well, It's good to see the club still thriving. I still keep thinking of myself as being one of the young guys, but you know, I definitely am not anymore.



JH

Yeah, I know what you mean.

RJ

I've been kind of considering what my future is with Autocrossing. You know, this year it's been lack of sites. And do I really want to go out and drop \$300 or \$400 for a new helmet? Mine turned into a pumpkin this year. So do I really want to make that investment, how much more do I have in me.

JH

Oh, yeah, no doubt. I have the same thing. We were thinking

about getting a new trailer and they are so expensive. And I told my wife, you know, I have no idea how much longer I'll be doing this, so there's no way I'm going to spend 12 or 14 thousand dollars on a new trailer because we might find out tomorrow that we're done. But that's the problem, getting old in this sport. Plus it gets harder and harder to go racing, just having the energy to do all that stuff you have to do. Get everything loaded, drive to the track unpacking when you get home. Not to mention the racing! (LOL)

RJ

It's the same thing with Autocross. I've got a set of competition rims and sticky tires in my basement, but I just don't feel like going out to an event and changing all four tires and then changing them back when I get home again.

JH

Yeah, I know. It's crazy, but that's right.

RJ

I've got three complete sets of wheels and tires for the Mini. The summer tires, the race tires and the winter tires.

JH

I love a good winter tire. I just love tires! I would have tires for everything. But being on a tight budget I have to make do with one set on the Cayenne. But I heard about a new tire that's out. It's an all season tire, but it's winter rated. And it's supposed to be decent dry and great in the wet. Good ride too. Vredestein. I've never had those tires. I'm not even sure I'm pronouncing the name right.

RJ

Vredestein

JH

Yeah.

RJ

And actually , Vredestein was one of the first upgrades I made up my Opel in 1973. They were a really highly rated

tire in Car & Driver and Road & Track. They made a big difference over the tires that came on the car. Those weren't even radials!

JH

That's the way my spitfire was! Bias Ply tires! And I bought tires for that car based on a Road and Track article, so that's pretty funny.

RJ

I was knocking around using Mom's Tempest more than she was and I talked the family into buying radials for it. Again, from reading Road & Track and hearing about how superior radials were, we bought a set of Dunlop CB57s, a kind of interlocking dog bone pattern radial and they were 70 series which was pretty wide for the time. And boy it just transformed that Tempest.

JH

It's amazing what a good tire can do, even today.

RJ

I loved nights when it was raining. We'd go down to the loop and drag race people and I would be beating 390 Fairlanes because I had radials and they didn't! (LOL)

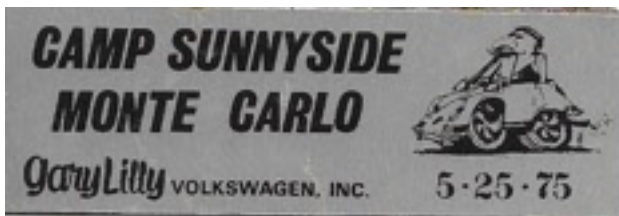
JH

Well, this has been awesome! Thank you so much Ric!

RJ

I enjoyed it!

Blast From the Past



June Competition Report

by John Haluska and Harlan Donaldson

Lots of Racetrack Action by DMVR Members already this year in WRL, SCCA and MCSSC

2022 Golf Tour- Round 1 at BIR by Harlan Donaldson

Yes, "Golf" Tour. Found out the 2010 IS a Golf tho I thought it was the short liver reincarnation of the Rabbit.

Enuf of that, Sat skipped practice because track was still wet from the rain and the rains that came w/the car were badly wx checked.

Sat: 2nd place

Sun: 3rd

Didn't break nuttin! Next time I'll include pics of the car, didn't think about it this wkend.

P.S. Looking for a TT/Race/Ralleycross car and trailer? Call me. #5's for sale.

Harlan 02STL/T4

Boonie, Josh Jones and Robbie Vierhout had the new Mazda Sebeco NP01 out for a WRL Endurance weekend at NOLA where unfortunately, they suffered growing pains in their maiden voyage.

Fuel vent issues took them out of Saturday's race after 2 hours but Sunday's race had them finishing 4th in class. May found them at Road America where Boonie reports the NP01 ran like a bat in practice until they experienced a power unit failure and were unable to start the



The Fab Boys found time to enjoy some New Orleans repast



The definition of Swift!

race. Not to be deterred and armed with a fresh 2.5 liter motor, our intrepid endurance team is heading to High Plains Aug 5th and we wish them "bon chance"!

Myles Goertz's focus this year is driver development in his Spec Miata with a new car and a new team for 2022. With five races in the books so far, two at Road America and three at Blackhawk Farms and a Grattan CenDiv Super Tour coming up in August. Myles' hard work has paid off and he qualified only 1.6 of a sec. off the pace at the June June Sprints. Starting an impressive 16th he was doing great but a missed a shift (catastrophe!) dropped him back to finish 19th out of 60-some cars! Myles continues to impress and we look forward to reporting on his progress!



Myles sending it up the hill at Road America

John Haluska has been to five Midwestern Council races so far this year at BFR, competing with his noble steed in the SM2 class for NA Miata's. Finishing with a 2nd place to go along with two 3rd and two 4th places. Unfortunately, he experienced some contact in three of the five races that put him on the back foot, but John is pleased with his progress, improving both in lap times and consistency!



Our final DMVR Racer is Tim Reinhardt, who attended a Level Up school last May in Spec Miata prepped cars from Advanced Autosports held at Road America. With lots of seat time and graduating Summa-Cum-Loudly, Tim is armed with SCCA and MCSSC Novice Permits and is looking at some end of season races at either Road America or Blackhawk Farms.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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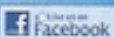
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