

British Columbia Historic Motor Races

Vintage Racing Club of British Columbia

Mission Raceway Park, BC; July 16-18, 2010

The theme for this year's British Columbia Historic Motor Races was "The Canadian Motorsport Experience". Special guests included four members of the Canadian Motorsports Hall of Fame: George Chapman, the 1966 Canadian Racing Champion; Frank Allers, winner of several championships in sedans and Formula Atlantic; Taisto Heinonen, the five-time Canadian Rally Champion, and Tom Johnston, the well-known former driver, constructor and entrant.

During World War II, thousands of Allied pilots and air crew were trained at purpose-built airfields across Canada. Most of these airfields were mothballed after the war but, with the creative use of hay bales, almost a third became race tracks, playing a huge role in the early growth of Canadian road racing. This direct connection with old aircraft was a sufficient reason to feature an "energetic" fly past during the grand opening ceremonies by a restored North American Harvard (aka T-6 Texan), the most common fighter pilot trainer.

The on-track activity included the usual four race groups, plus the Westwood 50 lapping group and a special Victory Lane Festival series Formula Vee race.

Tim Pickstone's beautiful Porsche 356C ran away with the first race in Group 1 for Vintage Cars, with Peter Valkenburg's Volvo PV544 taking second. Leigh Anderson's BMW 1600 beat Jim Latham's Volvo 122S for third by less than a second. Ivan Lessner, Peter Jeffrey and Dave Phillips finished very close together for the next three spots. After Tim moved to Group 2, Valkenburg won the second race by only three seconds over Anderson. This time Jeffrey's TR3B finished ahead of the two Healeys of Lessner and Phillips. Vandenburg again won the third race but this time by only one second over Anderson. Jeffrey improved to third, less than a second ahead of Latham.

The first race for Group 2 – Small Bore Historic cars saw great scraps throughout the field. Geoff Tupholme's very rapid Mini just beat Mark Brown's Lotus Seven for the win, with the second bunch of Jim Robinson (Lotus Seven), Glen Gibbons (Alfa GTV), Mike Owen (Mini) and Al Harvey (MGB) covered by only two seconds. In a Datsun battle, Joe Deagle's 2000 finished right on the rear bumper of Paul Haym's 510. Tim Pickstone arrived from Group 1 for the second race and pushed Mark Brown all the way, after Geoff's Mini had snapped its crankshaft on the second lap. Glen's Alfa took third with Al Harvey less than a second back. The third race was another great battle, with the top four finishing within three seconds. Mark's Lotus just beat Tim's Porsche again but this time Al was able to hold onto third place under very heavy pressure from Glen's Alfa.

Doug Yip pulled away in his Sunbeam Tiger to win the first Group 3 – Large Bore Historic race but there were great battles throughout the rest of the field. Paul Kuckein's Camaro just edged Ernie Yackomich's 911T for second. Alan McColl's Lotus Cortina finished fourth, less than a second ahead of Dennis Repel's Camaro, and Gerry Loeffler's Tiger took sixth ahead of Gary Tisdale's Porsche 911 by a similar margin. In

the second race, Paul turned the tables on Doug for the win, with Tom Cantrell's Boss Mustang appearing for the first time to finish third. Ernie took fourth with Alan right behind. Tom's thundering Mustang easily won the final race. The big battle was for fifth, with Roger Flescher's Tiger leading home Laurie Lyford's BMW 2002, Gary Tisdale's Porsche 911S and Ron Dempsey's BMW 2002. This group was covered by only two seconds at the end.

Ian Wood won all three of the Group 4 races in his Rawlson CR11. Alan McColl's Tiga dropped out of the first race but finished second in the other two. Marty Knoll took third in all three races in his Van Dieman RF81. Charlie Lyford in his Caldwell D-9, took second in the first race and fourth place in the other two. John Ballantyne's Titan Mk 4, Andrew Morrison's Lotus 51B, Jim Johnson's March 729 and Bob Morrison's Titan Mk 5 fought over the next places in all three races.

The special Formula Vee race had a disappointing turnout. It was won by west coast legend, Al Ores in his Caldwell, with Mary Lyford in her RCA taking second over Jim Johnson's Zink by only 0.002 seconds!

Although the number of entrants was less than expected, the weather was perfect all three days and the spectator attendance was excellent. Good food and having fun has always been a big part of the BC Historic Motor Races. The tradition continued this year with the Westwood Reunion barbecue on Friday night and the usual hi-jinks during Saturday night's annual VRCBC barbecue. Everybody enjoyed the weekend as probably best summed up by VRCBC President Jim Latham: "I enjoyed every race. It is rare that you get to drive nose to tail with folks in every race, switch positions often, and during the three days not have to do anything to the car except gas it up. That is almost as good as it gets. I did not win any of those races, not that I am keeping score!"

Planning for 2011 has already begun.

British Columbia Historic Motor Races

GROUP 1 RACE 1

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Tim Pickstone / 63 Porsche 356C 1:23.027
 2. Peter Valkenburg / 61 Volvo PV544
 3. Leigh Anderson / 67 BMW 1600
 4. Jim Latham / 68 Volvo 122S
 5. Ivan Lessner / 58 Austin Healey 100-6
 6. Peter Jeffrey / 62 Triumph TR3B
 7. Dave Phillips / 57 Austin Healey 100-6
 8. Keith Wong / 68 Triumph GT-6
 9. Laurie Fraser / 60 Alfa Romeo Zagato
 10. Evan Williams / 63 Jaguar XKE
 11. Frank Anderson / 57 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
 12. Gary Madson / 65 Marcos 1800
- DNF Gil Stuart / 58 Volvo PV444

GROUP 1 RACE 2

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Peter Valkenburg / 61 Volvo PV544 1:24.369
2. Leigh Anderson / 67 BMW 1600
3. Jim Latham / 68 Volvo 122S
4. Peter Jeffrey / 62 Triumph TR3B
5. Ivan Lessner / 58 Austin Healey 100-6
6. Dave Phillips / 57 Austin Healey 100-6
7. Keith Wong / 68 Triumph GT-6
8. Laurie Fraser / 60 Alfa Romeo Zagato
9. Frank Anderson / 57 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
10. Gary Madson / 65 Marcos 1800
11. Ralph Zbarsky / 69 Volvo 142S

GROUP 1 RACE 3

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Peter Valkenburg / 61 Volvo PV544 1:24.581
2. Leigh Anderson / 67 BMW 1600
3. Peter Jeffrey / 62 Triumph TR3B
4. Jim Latham / 68 Volvo 122S
5. Ivan Lessner / 58 Austin Healey 100-6
6. Keith Wong / 68 Triumph GT-6
7. Gary Madson / 65 Marcos 1800
8. Frank Anderson / 57 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
9. Ralph Zbarsky / 69 Volvo 142S

GROUP 2 RACE 1

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Geoff Tupholme / 73 Austin Mini 1:22.005
 2. Mark Brown / 69 Lotus 7
 3. Jim Robinson / 66 Lotus 7
 4. Glen Gibbons / 69 Alfa Romeo GTV
 5. Mike Owen / 67 Austin Mini
 6. Alan Harvey / 71 MGB
 7. Mark Finness / 70 Datsun 510
 8. Paul Haym / 69 Datsun 510
 9. Joe Deagle / 68 Datsun 2000
- DNF Gary Silcox / 63 MGB

GROUP 2 RACE 2

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Mark Brown / 69 Lotus 7 1:22.265
 2. Tim Pickstone / 63 Porsche 356C
 3. Glen Gibbons / 69 Alfa Romeo GTV
 4. Alan Harvey / 71 MGB
 5. Mike Owen / 67 Austin Mini
 6. Paul Haym / 69 Datsun 510
 7. Joe Deagle / 68 Datsun 2000
 8. Mark Finness / 70 Datsun 510
- DNF Jim Robinson / 66 Lotus 7
DNF Geoff Tupholme / 73 Austin Mini
DNF Phil Roney / 69 TVR Vixen

GROUP 2 RACE 3

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Mark Brown / 69 Lotus 7 1:23.158
2. Tim Pickstone / 63 Porsche 356C
3. Alan Harvey / 71 MGB
4. Glen Gibbons / 69 Alfa Romeo GTV
5. Mike Owen / 67 Austin Mini
6. Joe Deagle / 68 Datsun 2000
7. Paul Haym / 69 Datsun 510
8. Mark Finness / 70 Datsun 510

GROUP 3 RACE 1

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Doug Yip / 67 Sunbeam Tiger 1:18.363
 2. Paul Kuckein / 69 Chevrolet Camaro
 3. Ernie Yakimovich / 69 Porsche 911S
 4. Alan McColl / 68 Lotus Cortina
 5. Dennis Repel / 74 Chevrolet Camaro
 6. Gerry Loeffler / 65 Sunbeam Tiger
 7. Gary Tisdale / 67 Porsche 911S
 8. Roger Flescher / 67 Sunbeam Tiger
 9. Ron Dempsey / 69 BMW 2002
 10. Terry Hollinger / 65 Ford Shelby GT350
 11. Walt Carrel / 65 Porsche 911
 12. Frank Chynoransky / 65 Porsche 911
 13. Don Benson / 74 Porsche 911
 14. Anthony Strelzow / 65 Chevrolet Corvette
- DNF John McCoy / 69 Ford Escort TC
DNF Laurie Lyford / 69 BMW 2002

GROUP 3 RACE 2

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Paul Kuckein / 69 Chevrolet Camaro 1:17.922
 2. Doug Yip / 67 Sunbeam Tiger
 3. Tom Cantrell / 69 Mustang Boss
 4. Ernie Yakimovich / 69 Porsche 911S
 5. Alan McColl / 68 Lotus Cortina
 6. Dennis Repel / 74 Chevrolet Camaro
 7. Roger Flescher / 67 Sunbeam Tiger
 8. Laurie Lyford / 69 BMW 2002
 9. John McCoy / 69 Ford Escort TC
 10. Gerry Loeffler / 65 Sunbeam Tiger
 11. Gary Tisdale / 67 Porsche 911S
 12. Ron Dempsey / 69 BMW 2002
 13. Walt Carrel / 65 Porsche 911
 14. Anthony Strelzow / 65 Chevrolet Corvette
 15. Bob Stortz / 65 Porsche 911
- DNF Don Benson / 74 Porsche 911

GROUP 3 RACE 3

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Tom Cantrell / 69 Mustang Boss 1:17.867
 2. Paul Kuckein / 69 Chevrolet Camaro
 3. Alan McColl / 68 Lotus Cortina
 4. Ernie Yakimovich / 69 Porsche 911S
 5. Roger Flescher / 67 Sunbeam Tiger
 6. Laurie Lyford / 69 BMW 2002
 7. Gary Tisdale / 67 Porsche 911S
 8. Ron Dempsey / 69 BMW 2002
 9. Dennis Repel / 74 Chevrolet Camaro
 10. Doug Yip / 67 Sunbeam Tiger
 11. Walt Carrel / 65 Porsche 911
 12. Bob Stortz / 65 Porsche 911
 13. Anthony Strelzow / 65 Chevrolet Corvette
- DNF Don Benson / 74 Porsche 911

GROUP 4 RACE 1

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Ian Wood / 72 Rawlson CR11 1:11.599
 2. Charlie Lyford / 70 Caldwell D-9
 3. Marty Knoll / 81 Van Dieman RF81
 4. John Ballantyne / 68 Titan Mk 4
 5. Andrew Morrison / 68 Lotus 51B
 6. Jim Johnson / 72 March 729
 7. Bob Morrison / 72 Titan Mk5
 8. Lorne Andras / 71 Monarch Mk8
 9. Tony Carruthers / 86 Swift DB2
 10. Alain Kamerer / 69 Merlyn Mk11A
 11. Mary Lyford / 69 RCA FV
 12. Lawrence Green / 69 Kelly FV
 13. Ken Butler / 70 Perf Fab FV
- DNF Mitch Stone / 73 GRD 373
DNF Alan McColl / 77 Tiga FF

GROUP 4 RACE 2

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Ian Wood / 72 Rawlson CR11 1:09.492
 2. Alan McColl / 77 Tiga FF
 3. Marty Knoll / 81 Van Dieman RF81
 4. Charlie Lyford / 70 Caldwell D-9
 5. John Ballantyne / 68 Titan Mk 4
 6. Andrew Morrison / 68 Lotus 51B
 7. Bob Morrison / 72 Titan Mk5
 8. Tony Carruthers / 86 Swift DB2
 9. Jim Johnson / 72 March 729
 10. Lorne Andras / 71 Monarch Mk8
 11. Alain Kamerer / 69 Merlyn Mk11A
 12. Mary Lyford / 69 RCA FV
 13. Ken Butler / 70 Perf Fab FV
 14. Lawrence Green / 69 Kelly FV
- DNF Mitch Stone / 73 GRD 373

GROUP 4 RACE 3

PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Ian Wood / 72 Rawlson CR11 1:08.114
2. Alan McColl / 77 Tiga FF
3. Marty Knoll / 81 Van Dieman RF81
4. Charlie Lyford / 70 Caldwell D-9
5. John Ballantyne / 68 Titan Mk 4
6. Bob Morrison / 72 Titan Mk5
7. Andrew Morrison / 68 Lotus 51B
8. Jim Johnson / 72 March 729
9. Al Ores / 76 Caldwell D13
10. Mary Lyford / 69 RCA FV
11. Lawrence Green / 69 Kelly FV

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PL DRIVER/CAR

1. Al Ores / 76 Caldwell D13 1:24.887
2. Mary Lyford / 69 RCA FV
3. Jim Johnson / 68 Zink FV
4. Lawrence Green / 69 Kelly FV
5. Ken Butler / 70 Perf Fab FV