



VANTAGE

Summer 2007

President's Message



President Evan Williams

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to take a moment to enjoy the new, revitalized VANTAGE MAGAZINE. Many thanks to Tom for shouldering the responsibility for its re-birth.

Historic racing in BC is alive and well and living in Mission. This year we have five events at The River's Edge Raceway. Two have been held already and were extremely well supported with several new drivers and cars. The REVS series is, therefore, well underway and is presently being led by the guys who drive their cars to the track. Congratulations to Jim Latham, Ivan Lessner and Mike Owen. The REVS points system, which favours cars that are maintained to their original design and are not brought to the track on a trailer, is obviously working very well. Thanks to Gunter Pichler, not only for thinking up the REVS idea, but also for bringing his wonderful E-

Type Jaguar to do battle with the heavy metal segment of the grid. Roger Flescher in his Tiger won one heat at the last REVS race and Gunter won the other. The next REVS race will be the main event of the season for the Club, the HMR on August 4th and 5th. If you haven't entered yet, think about doing so soon and avoid late entry fees, (July 4th. cut-off for the cheaper entry). If you have any entry questions, please contact our Registrar, Alan Donaldson at awdonald@shaw.ca

The HMR is also for show cars, so please dress up our paddock with your non-race Historic car. If you need details of the "Car Corral", contact Wes Stinson at stinson5886@shaw.ca

2007 is working up to being memorable. If you want to be a part of it, be sure to attend the monthly meetings. The next one is at 968-240th. St., Langley on the 19th. of June. As a bonus, Nigel Mathews (ICBC collector car boss) will attend the meeting and present his slide show of the Jay Leno collection. Let Rachel (arperformane@shaw.ca) know if you plan on being there so that the food and drinks can be organized efficiently.

Evan

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VRCBC Grill Badge available from www.vrcbc.ca

Graham Hill, Player's 200, 1963



Historic Motor Races to August This Year

Since the late 1970s, the Vintage Racing Club of British Columbia has hosted its Historic Motor Races event as the premier historic motor sport event in Western Canada. Originally run at the Westwood Racing Circuit, it now runs at the River's Edge facility at Mission.

For the last number of years, the traditional date for the event was the last weekend in May which had the advantage of linking with the US Memorial Day holiday week end. Unfortunately, the May date often also linked to Vancouver spring weather, namely RAIN!

For 2007 VRCBC are proud to announce a new date has been negotiated, that of August 4th and 5th.

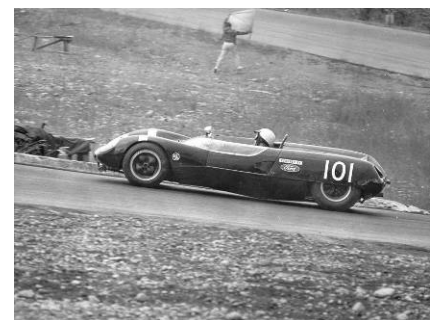
Of course good weather can never be guaranteed but if any time in Vancouver is a good bet, it is August.

Following the successful 2006 format of all things Italian, this year the format is:

The Best of British

British Columbia and Canada have had a long time connection with the British automobile industry. Who can forget the fleets of MGs, Triumphs, Austin Healeys, Jaguars and Morgans that dripped oil on our highways for all those years.

Race Chairman Ian Wood tells of "a surprise in the skies" and an Andy Capp race.



Westwood Racing Circuit 1959 - 1990



Westwood Racing Circuit or Westwood Motorsport Park as it later was called was Canada's first purpose-built road racing track.

After racing for a number of years on the former World War II British Commonwealth Air Training Plan airport at Abbotsford, the Sports Car Club of British Columbia launched a search for a site to build a proper road racing circuit. After expending considerable effort, the club obtained a lease on a parcel of crown land on Eagle Mountain in Coquitlam. The SCCBC was aided in their search by Earle C. Westwood the provincial minister of recreation and conservation. It is a little known fact that the grateful club named the circuit after Mr. Westwood.

Debentures were sold to finance the track's construction. A New Westminster doctor and sports car enthusiast, Dr. Claire Wilson was the SCCBC president at the time and is credited for being the driving force behind the track development.

Much of the construction work at the track was done by club members and other volunteers in order to conserve money for the heavy construction work such as earth moving and paving.

On July 26, 1959 the circuit opened. What a day it was! A huge crowd turned out and may well have been the biggest ever at the track.

The track was spectacular, 1.8 miles swooping through the forest, with corners fast and slow.

Westwood went on to host races for 32 seasons until the growing metropolis of Vancouver finally overwhelmed it. The site is now the Westwood Golf and Country Club and housing.

During its 32 seasons, Westwood hosted motorsport of all types. Beside it being the home of the Sports Car Club of BC, the Westwood Karting Club and the Westwood Motorcycle Racing Club each hosted countless races. Stock cars raced there too, the early-lates from Haney in 1963 to NASCAR Winston West in the 1970s. Trans-Am, Atlantic and other formulas were very popular. Major events such as The Player's Pacific and the Pepsi Pro drew big crowds.

Well known international drivers made appearances at the track, such as Gilles Villeneuve, Keke Rosberg, Michael Andretti and many others.

The traditional season closer was an endurance race, usually 7 hours but as long as 10 hours on one occasion, the longest automobile race in Canada at the time.

Many in the road racing motorsport community mourn the fact that Westwood like most race tracks was lost to city growth, but there were 32 seasons, grand accomplishment.

SCCBC and others continue at a road racing circuit built at the British Columbia Custom Car Association's facility, Mission Raceway drag strip. Somehow it is not the same.

Memories



Jim Clark sends wishes



Atlantics at the Hairpin



Deer's Leap



Small bore race, opening day 1959



Stovebolt Special

Historic Davidson Races Remembered



Cars form up on the grid for the 1967 running of the Davidson round of the Player's Challenge Series for the National Driving Championship of Canada

Davidson Airport was for many years the centre point of sport car racing on the Canadian Prairies.

Located near the town of Davidson, a typical prairie town about half way between the cities of Regina and Saskatoon, the airport where the races were run was originally constructed as a British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) facility during WW II. When the war ended in 1945, ownership of the airport was transferred to local interests and most of the facility returned to grain farming.

The Sports Car Club of Saskatchewan (SCCS) of Regina was formed in the 1950s and was soon looking for a place to run their race events. In 1957, a deal was made with the local land owner resulting in the first running of the Davidson Races. Until the old airport runways had deteriorated to an unusable state, SCCS and other clubs ran their race meets at Davidson until 1969. Davidson was a central point and as such drew entrants from all three prairie provinces and from

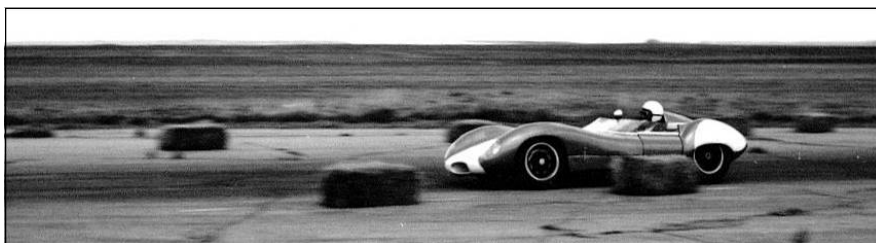
across Canada for major races.

In 1962, the CASC, Canada's ASN began a national series for the driving championship of Canada. The very first event was not run in Ontario as one might suspect but at Davidson. The first race was won by Ludwig Heimrath of Toronto driving a Porsche RS60.

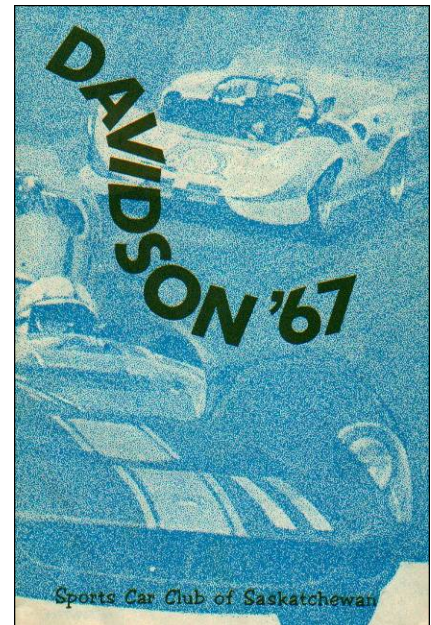
Racer and motorsport historian Mike Adams of Regina recently hosted an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first race at Davidson. Because your editor (YE) began his racing career at the circuit (a long time ago, but not 50 years), a trip to Regina was planned to take in the event.

There is not much left of the old circuit so the event was held in Adam's Regina garage and back yard. May in Regina is a weather transition between winter snow and mosquitoes, we had a little of each.

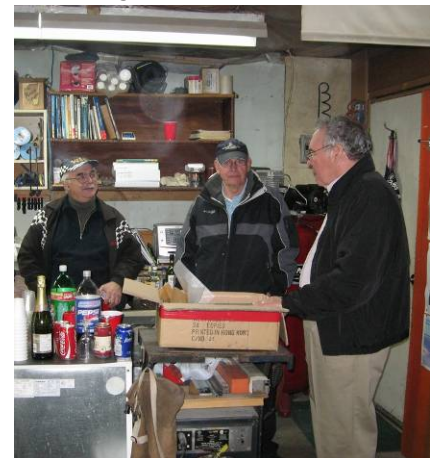
A jolly time was had by all despite the fact that the majority of attendees were barely born at the time that last Davidson races were run.



Your editor at speed, Davidson 1966. Yes, it is that flat in Saskatchewan.



1967 Program Cover



Your Editor sells Westwood books to flat-landers



Good turn out for Vintage grid, June 3



17 car line up on pre-grid for first vintage heat, Mission June 3

Volunteer Appreciation Weekend Vintage Grids

by Michael Gee

This early June race recognized the valuable work of volunteers. Without them it's obvious what would happen. The Sports Car Club and Vintage Racing Club of BC also recognized the work of the late Ed Smart, a long time member, with one-minute of silence, a slow lap with open-wheel cars, and the naming of the inspection road, "Ed Smart's Way". He was a strong member with a stickler for safety in car racing.

The second race on the Sunday afternoon program was the first Vintage race of the meet, a 20 minute competition. A very healthy group of 17 cars (two families included) started early this Sunday with practice and qualifying rounds. Andy Nelson had to replace his Cooper S head gasket before lunch, and his wife Rachel had problems at the start with her Cooper S forcing her back to the paddock resulting in a DNS. Another family, Retta Winbigler (Mad Mollusc Racing), in her Beach SC and her husband Myles, in his Lotus 7 America were ready for excellent track conditions.

The international collection of vintage cars got away neatly with a running start. Gunter Pichler in his Jaguar E Type took the lead and held it throughout the race with a fast lap of 1:22.111. Roger Flesher in his RR Repair Sunbeam Tiger from Bellingham, WA, was less than four seconds slower. Flesher had trouble keeping Andy Nelson in his Austin Cooper S (Toybox Racing) from taking second place away from him. Nelson captured third.

Evan Williams in his Ferrari Dino started off close to the leaders but dropped back to the middle of the pack with a sluggish engine. Two new cars to the track were taking it easy while getting used to the car and track. Glen Gibbons of Winfield, BC, presented his bright yellow Alfa Romeo GTV up against Marc Ashbrook, from Aldergrove, BC, with his light blue Ford Anglia. Both cars were very well prepared. Gibbons commented after the race, "I need to modify the car's 'toe and heel' setup because I couldn't change gears fast enough."

Race Two was exciting. the group was reduced by three cars. Peter Valkenburg from Port Moody, BC, did not finish due his Volvo PV544 giving up after six laps. John Trevithick did not start with his Datsun 2000 along with Myles Winbigler in his Lotus 7 America. The excitement was watching the Jaguar.

Pichler's Jaguar started at the back of the pack due to a late start. Flesher, in his Tiger held on to first place while the Jag fought its way up to second place followed closely by Ed Cahill of Mt. Vernon, WA, in his Porsche 914/6. Andrew Nelson and Evan Williams stayed close right up to the chequered flag.

James Latham of Abbotsford, BC, (Volvo 122S), Ivan Lessner of White Rock, BC, (Austin Healy 100-6), and Rachel Nelson stayed on the same lap as the leaders.

The vintage group put on an excellent show and are preparing to produce an even larger event, Historic Motor Races, at Mission Raceway Park this coming August 4th and 5th weekend.

Results heat 1

1	Gunter Pichler	Jaguar E type
2	Roger Flescher	Sunbeam Tiger
3	Andrew Nelson	Austin Cooper S
4	Myles Winbigler	Lotus 7 America
5	Ed Cahill	Porsche 914/6
6	Peter Valkenburg	Volvo PV544
7	James Latham	Volvo 122S
8	Ivan D. Lessner	Austin Healy 100-6
9	Evan Williams	Ferrari Dino
10	Retta Winbigler	Beach SC
11	John Trevithick	Datsun 2000
12	Michael Zbarsky	MGA
13	Lawrence Green	Kelly Vee
14	Mike Owen	Austin Mini
15	Glen Gibbons	Alfa Romeo GTV
16	Marc Ashbrook	Ford Anglia
DNS	Rachel Nelson	Austin Cooper S

Results heat 2

1	Roger Flescher	Sunbeam Tiger
2	Gunter Pichler	Jaguar E Type
3	Ed Cahill	Porsche 914/6
4	Andrew Nelson	Austin Cooper S
5	Evan Williams	Ferrari Dino
6	James Latham	Volvo 122S
7	Ivan D. Lessner	Austin Healy 100-6
8	Rachel Nelson	Austin Cooper S
9	Retta Winbigler	Beach SC
10	Mike Owen	Austin Mini
11	Michael Zbarsky	MGA
12	Lawrence Green	Kelly Vee
13	Glen Gibbons	Alfa Romeo GTV
14	Marc Ashbrook	Ford Anglia
DNF	Peter Valkenburg	Volvo PV544
DNS	John Trevithick	Datsun 2000
DNS	Myles Winbigler	Lotus 7 America



About the Vintage Racing Club of BC

The purpose of the Club is to restore, race and exchange information concerning vintage sports and racing automobiles. The Club was established in 1976 by a group of Vancouver based friends as a means of sharing with others their enthusiasm for racing and appreciation of the incredible vintage racing machines of bygone days. The

Vintage Racing Club supports the philosophy of racing competition that encourages participation, sportsmanship and display of the vehicle in its natural state on the track. There are no prizes or trophies, merely the great enjoyment of a well prepared vintage racing machine at speed.



Bob Barg



Mike Tate



Evan's Ferrari



Ancien Pilot Al Ores



Pit Lane

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Ed Smart

