



DRAGWAY RETROSPECT

by "Onondaga Dewey" Ketner

Old School Racers Rock and Rule

This is one of a series of columns to appear in the newspaper periodically. The author, Dewey Ketner, is a recognized expert on the subject of drag racing.

DRAG RACING RETROSPECT: Another "Need-for-Speed" Good Guy

The owner of this 1993 Ford F-150 White Lightning, Robert (Bob) Moon of Ann Arbor, had an uncle that built him a three-speed, single-cylinder engine motor bike when he was about 10 years old.

Bob was a country boy and tore up the gravel roads near Ionia where he lived on a farm with his parents and three siblings.

At age 14, he was at Onondaga Dragway, located between Jackson and Lansing. Fascinated by Art Afrons' jet dragster, his uncle's Cadillac-powered 1932 Ford 5-Window Coupe and Blown Chev Dragster, his need for speed was growing by massive leaps and lengthy bounds.

Bob mentioned it would be a real thrill to "ride" the jet on a 1/4 blast down the dragstrip. Sooo, arrangements were made to tie the body belly down on top of the jet, run ropes around the engine to secure the ride, complete with blood red jacket and helmet.

The "Voice of Drag Racing," Jon Lundberg, called Afrons to bring his jet to the starting line. As he approached, Jon hyped, loudly and very excitedly, "Some idiot is going to ride the jet, roped on top."

The spectators (and uninformed dragway employees) and racers went crazy, standing on top of their cars to witness this daredevil show.

Art positioned the jet at the starting line, revved the 45,000-pound-thrust engine, tickled the afterburner control, and ZOONOM – six seconds and 175 mph with topside rider on board. Wow! Such excitement! Wild spectators and so much noise, with 5,000 spectators screaming, horns blowing, unmuffled cars jazzing their engines, and all while Jon Lundberg was keeping the hype way up there!

A dragway official followed the jet to the far end of the dragway,

took the "rider" off and turned the pickup around to go back down the strip the wrong way.

The 14-year-old put on the red jacket and helmet, rode hanging out the passenger window waving his hat to the crowd.

Five thousand gave the "rider" a thunderous round of applause on the return trip to the start line.

Update from 1962 to 2008, Robert Moon found a 1993 F-150 Ford White Lightning pickup not being driven.

Over a three-year period, he personally has completely rebuilt this rare p/up into a picture-perfect-looking show vehicle – a restoration of every part and piece, nut and bolt. Custom painted the Ford original red color, this is one beautiful truck at every corner.

Of course, all of the mechanics have been upgraded. The E & S engine – a 408 Stroker V8 from Clawson, Mich. – proudly produced 480 horsepower through the electronic programmable transmission, sporting a custom 29-pound converter while being regulated through a Mass air fuel system, all to propel you forward at breakneck speeds, smoking those big Toyota tires.

The entire vehicle was lowered two-and-a-half inches for a road-hugging appeal to the eyes. It is a powerful, screaming fun vehicle to drive or ride in that catches the eye and heart of everyone, especially his old Uncle Dewey.

Robert Moon, you have taken your "Need for Speed" to a beautiful, very functional level.

Congratulations on a great rehab program of one of Ford's great pickups. (It's just a little bit quicker and nicer than my 1932 Ford pickup that was my Jackson hot rod shop "go for" vehicle.

Look forward to seeing your White Lightning on the Onondaga Dragway cement when they have an open house to the public before opening for the drag racing season.

BURN them hides!

Onondaga Dewey

More next week on the progress on Onondaga Dragway.

SAA Names New Board Members

The Society of Automotive Analysts (SAA) elected Michelle Krebs, Mary Michno and Prabhat "PK" Rastogi as new members to its 2013-14 board of directors.

The new members were approved at the recent Automotive Outlook Conference held in Detroit. Krebs, a senior analyst and editor-at-large for Edmunds.com, was named SAA Board vice president. Michno, senior director, OEM Account Management, Agero, and Rastogi, manager, Automotive Worldwide Marketing, ArcelorMittal USA, are now on the SAA board of directors.

"We welcome the additions of Michelle Krebs, Mary Michno and PK Rastogi to our board. These new members continue SAA's trend of attracting high-caliber automotive professionals who are committed to help SAA continue to evolve and provide additional value to our members," said SAA President Anthony Pratt in a news release.

"SAA Board of Directors now consists of industry professionals representing various disciplines, which range from suppliers to automakers to data providers.

"This makeup well represents our diversified membership that looks to the SAA to provide ongoing access to key automotive insights from a wide range of perspectives."

Other SAA officers on the board of directors are:

- President – Anthony Pratt, director of Forecasting, Americas, for Polk;
- Secretary – J Ferron, director, Automotive News PACE Awards;
- Treasurer – Paul Wheeler, regional senior manager, North American Sales and Business Development, TI Automotive – Powertrain Systems.

Other members of the SAA Board of Directors are: Adam Bernard, associate director, Competitor Intelligence, General Motors; Chris Brower, director of Operations, Stage 2 Innovations LLC; Jamie Butters, Transportation team leader, Bloomberg LP; Michael Hedge, president and CEO, Hedge & Company Inc.; John Love, president, Event Management Corp.; Michael Robinet, managing director, IHS Automotive Consulting; Mel Stephens, senior vice president, Communications, Facilities and Investor Relations, Lear Corporation; and Gary Bundshuh, account manager, DENSO International America.

Laurie Harbour, president, Harbour Results, Inc., will continue to serve as the SAA chairperson; and Marjorie Sorge, executive director, Detroit Regional News Hub, will serve as the SAA's first-ever Board Member Emeritus.

Visitors Can Look or Buy at the Novi Expo

Spring is here.

People are getting out their classic cars and anticipating an enjoyable season of car shows or maybe just hitting the road in their favorite ride.

Classic car buffs who are still looking for their next set of wheels will have the chance to inspect and even purchase one at the upcoming Detroit Spring Classic Car Auction.

The event will be held in The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28.

Bob Lichty, president of Class Motorcar Auctions, said about 200 vehicles will be on display and for sale. Prices will range from about \$5,000 to \$105,000.

Some of the vehicles that the public can see and bid on include a 1960 Nash Metropolitan, a 1939 Cadillac LaSalle, a 1960 Chevy Impala Sport Coupe, a 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster, a 1988 Ferrari Mondial, a 1971 Olds 442 convertible and a 1994 Porsche Carrera.

"What's wonderful about this event is that the cars will be on the floor for people to look at," Lichty said. "Visitors don't have to bid on the cars to enjoy them."

There will be one auction lane and vehicles up for bid will be shown on large television screens that will display all the relevant information on the car.

"It's like a standard auto auction, but it will be indoors," Lichty said.



1967 Corvette

The auctioneer is Joseph Mast, who leads auctions for Barrett-Jackson.

In addition to vehicles for sale, rare automotive memorabilia will be for sale, including neon signs, toys, models and other collectibles.

The vehicles come from various sources, Lichty said, some from estates, others from people who for whatever reason wish to sell their vehicles.

Not all are classics or collector cars. Some are on consignment from car dealers looking for new venues for selling vehicles. Most of the cars are from around Ohio and Michigan.

But that's the beauty of the Novi auction, Lichty said – there will be many vehicles being sold



1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster

in a variety of price ranges.

For more information, visit www.classicmotorcarauctions.com/novi13.

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