



Tell Tale

REPEAT AFTER ME GRASSHOPPAH: When the checkered flag falls on the party season, the new racing season begins. I am going to Newport and be in the front row for the start.

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

January 2014



Happy New Year!

Team Continental Awards Banquet 2014

Team Continental Awards Banquet 2014

When: January 18, 2014

Where: Hallmark Resort

744 S.W ELIZABETH

NEWPORT, OR 97365

* RESERVATIONS 1-541-265-2600 *

Room specials available:

Hallmark Traditional Guestroom (1 Queen bed).....\$91

Hallmark Deluxe Double Queen Stateroom.....\$114

Hallmark Deluxe King Spa Rooms.....\$119

Admiral Suite Rm. #'s 548 & 549.....\$149

Prime Rib Buffet

Garden Salad, Traditional Caesar Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad

Carved Prime Rib (Au Jus & Horseradish Cream Sauce)

Chicken Breast (Sun-dried Tomato Cream Sauce)

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Garden Vegetables with Herb Butter

Cost: \$40.00ea

Register at www.motorsportsreg.com

or contact Mark Hanken 541-447-4260

markh@eccportland.com

"BACK TO THE FUTURE"



2014 TEAM CONTINENTAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Duane Starr president@teamcontinental.com 503-318-6722	Vice President Ben Weaver vicepresident@teamcontinental.com 425-299-0602	Past President Terry Amundson 503-539-4300
Secretary Bob Smethers secretary@teamcontinental.com 971-207-5147	Treasurer Valorie Starr treasurer@teamcontinental.com 503-693-7394	Driving Master Jim Larfield drivingmaster@teamcontinental.com 503-234-3721
Membership Director Dennis Roberts membership@teamcontinental.com 503-318-7624	Race Chairman Pete Belfanti racechair@teamcontinental.com 503-803-6627	E-Board Rep Kevin Smith ebboard@teamcontinental.com 503-693-7394
Contest Board Rep Peter Linssen cboard@teamcontinental.com 503-706-4135	Communication Director Jeremy Plance communications@teamcontinental.com 503-956-3175	Team Continental Registrar Valorie Starr RaceRegistrar@TeamContinental.com 503-668-6998

Tell Tale Submissions: editor@teamcontinental.com

Electronic submissions are preferred.

Don't spend a lot of time on fancy formatting.

The editor rarely exercises his right to edit all submissions for length and content.

Bill Murray, Editor 503-358-2617

The Tell Tale

The Official Publication of Team Continental

The Tell Tale is published monthly by Team Continental. All contents are Copyright © 2012 by Team Continental. All material herein may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means, electronic, mechanical, or other, without the express written permission of the Editor. The authors retain copyright to their original work, as do photographers retain copyright over their photographs. All reprinted articles within the Tell Tale, in whole or in part, are by permission or the author has been given appropriate recognition. Opinions expressed herein are those of the credited writer(s) and not necessarily those of Team Continental, its officers, members or the Tell Tale staff.

Publication of ads, articles, photos, etc. are subject to available space. All items for print should be forwarded to the Tell Tale Editor. When possible, articles should be submitted electronically by email. Ads should be submitted as scanned images or submitted photo ready. Photographs should be submitted as scanned images, but B/W or color prints are acceptable. The Tell Tale Editor cannot guarantee return of unsolicited articles, manuscripts, photos, graphics, or other submissions.

Material in the Tell Tale may have been plagiarized, stolen, misused, etc. without the express written permission of the National Football League.

MEETINGS

The Board Meeting on
January 8th

at Columbia River Brewing
 1728 NE 40th Ave @ 7pm

General Meeting
January 19th
 at the TC Banquet

The T.C. Christmas Party

December 14th 2013

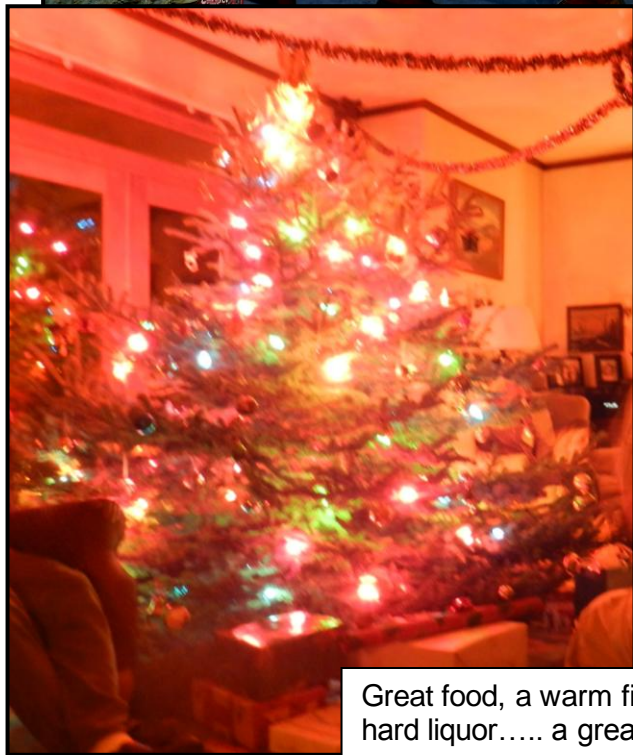
Murray Manor –

Page 1



ABOVE: Darin Dilley, Cynthia Wilson, Dillon Olson & girlfriend Liz, Darcy and Scott Olson.

Below: Gail Kovacks, Pete Belfanti & girlfriend Kathy.



Great food, a warm fire, good friends, soft lights and hard liquor..... a great recipe for a good party.

The T.C. Christmas Party

December 14th 2013

Murray Manor –

Page 2



A time honored tradition since the first T.C. Christmas Party at Don Smethers home in 1975 the Gift Exchange.

The perennial gifts, the “Boobs and Buns” have not returned for several years, but the dreaded “Grass Skirt and Coconut Bra” made a reappearance.



The careful selection.



The anticipation.



Sometimes it just goes all wrong!



We are not sure, but It could be George Todd about to impress Ginger Naramore with his amazing pull my finger trick.”



Our Hostess, Lynn Coupland: “Sometimes it so bad I can’t bear to look.”

TEAM CONTINENTAL – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 20, 2013

Location: Mars Meadows, Delta Park

Meeting was called to order by TC President, Terry Amundson;

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS:

- Melissa was introduced as Jim (Jimbo) Collins guest;

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

SECRETARY (Bob Smethers):

- Meeting minutes are available for review at each BOD and General Membership meeting;
- Will coordinate with TC Communications Director Ben W and TC Webmaster Jeremy P regarding recommendation to post TC Meeting Minutes electronically to a TC Web page for historical reference.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR (Kevin Smith):

- TC has a total of 127 members for 2013.
- Thanks to Jeremy Plance, TC Membership Renewal is open on Motorsportreg.com here: <http://www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/event.advert/uidEvent/504531C6-FEEA-D0E8-0DDEF276B5BAF92A>
- TC has had 11 members renew for 2014 already, and their new membership cards have gone out.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REP (Kevin Smith):

- 1 - TC has 45 licensed ICSCC drivers, 3rd most in Conference, after IRDC and CSCC;
- 2 - TC events on ICSCC calendar for 2014, Driver training Saturday Mar 29th @ORP, Driver training July 11, Race July 12 & 13, possibly 14th, definitely a double, possibly a triple, Driver training Saturday Nov 1st. On the driver training, we have to commit to the insurance at the spring meeting in early January, so we will have to decide before that time which ones we want to commit to paying conference for insurance. One item of note, CSCC is holding a driver training Mar 29 at PIR, so that is in direct conflict. (E-board representative idea - it might be interesting to change to have ours on Sunday Mar 30th, and see if we can get people to sign up for both as long as they are in the area. This might be a draw for Canadian, or other folks to travel??) No other conflicts on schedule, and at this time, all ICSCC races seem to be at least 2 weekends apart.
- 3 - Rules changes from contest board. Nothing terribly interesting here, results are up on conference forum web-site, and Jon can discuss further. E-board mostly voted to accept C-board results. But, one interesting thing is that E-board could not pass, was Item 20, a change to Honda Challenge rules. That is an e-board only item, and apparently there is some legal agreement between NASA and Conference on that. Conference to get this agreement to E-board, as none of E-board knew anything about this, and were surprised. This was tabled to Spring Meeting, and all E-board reps asked for a copy of this agreement.
- 4- TC formally asked for approval to run ORP in CCW direction, and also for approval to run the course using the by-pass in each direction. Steward visit scheduled for Dec 9th @ ORP to look over configurations, and report to ICSCC president on recommendations. Approval for various courses to be taken up at Spring Meeting.
- 5- IRDC proposed nice change to make mandatory tech group for multi-race weekend clearer. Only last group of first day rotation is mandatory tech. This makes tech for multi-day weekend much easier. Motion made and passed.
- 6 - TC also put conference on notice that our July race intent is to have a special race group comprised of Legends, and other "light" closed wheel cars. Several conference officials maintain



we need permission for special races. Rules appear not to require this. But we are going to be clear on intent.

- 7- I brought up specific rule in P&Ps that I thought generally prohibited novice races on Sunday of a two day weekend, in direct conflict with what TC was forced to do this year. That caused a lot of discussion, and it will be discussed more at the Spring Meeting. License Director presented some entry results for the novice races, and those definitely showed a pretty substantial drop-off in novice entries for the 2nd or 3rd novice race of a weekend.
- 8 - Scott Adare has stepped down as insurance advisor. New insurance advisor is Denny Sutich.
- 9 - Dave Bennitt will be conference President for one more year. He badly wants the clubs to find volunteers for this position that are willing to work with Dave starting in December or January, so that they will be capable of taking over the President's position for 2015.
- 10 - 2014 Conference Steward will be Mike Tripp, who was Assistant Steward this year.
- 11 - Rats Meeting Saturday March 1, 2014 at SeaTac Marriott, finalized at spring meeting;
- 12 - New web administrator, Alberto Fonseca, a Pro44 driver, takes over from Steve Adams.

DRIVING MASTER (Jim Larfield):

- Racers make half of entries for DT, historically 45-48 total includes all groups with Test & Tune;
- DT on non-race weekend – need to partner with possibly autocross group to be viable;
- Pete B sent communication with this group, Jim L received response showing interest, meeting will be scheduled; Pete B – does this group need to be ICSCC Affiliate Member?
- Kevin – TC does have to use ICSCC insurance;
- Advertising could be produced in the Bend Metro area to generate interest more locally;
- Jim L – this would be a TC DT, need TC racer instructors – much different experience for our partner than autocross events;
- Duane S – could set up vertical tri-oval for autocross sessions, extended lunch session could enrich customer experience;

RACE CHAIRMAN (Pete Belfanti):

- Work Party Project (Brake Markers) – 1 cast at Duane's, still need to confirm a willing concrete supplier with reasonable rates;
- ORP Counterclockwise inspection by ICSCC – proposed schedule was submitted to ICSCC Stewards, meeting schedule will be finalized soon;
- Future event promotions includes 3 levels, success of 2013 warrants promoting the sport;
- Work Party Project (Bleachers) – scheduled for Sunday Dec 8th to transport bleacher boards 50' 2"x10"x16';
- Terry A has created a digital form of paddock space intended for pre-event registration;

BANQUET CHAIR (Mark Hanken, reported by Terry A):

- Team Continental Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for Jan 18, 2014 at Newport Hallmark;

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (Ben Weaver): (no report);

TREASURER (Val Starr): (no report);

CONTEST BOARD REP (Jon Wilson): (no report);

PAST PRESIDENT (Mitch Lea): (no report);

VICE PRESIDENT (Duane Starr): (no report);

PRESIDENT (Terry Amundson):

- TC December BOD meeting scheduled for Wednesday Dec 11th at Laurelwood Brewery;
- TC Cmas party scheduled for Saturday 14th, no ties! See handout & announcements;

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TC Cmas Party scheduled for 7pm Saturday Dec 14th, Bill and Lynn home 5670 SW Menefee Dr, Portland OR 97239 – TC General meeting will include election result announcements;

OLD BUSINESS: (nominations from October General Membership Meeting)

- TC Vice President – Ben Weaver accepted the nomination from Skip Y/Bill M;
- TC Secretary – Bob Smethers accepted the nomination from Mitch L/Kevin S;
- TC Race Chairman – Pete Belfanti accepted the nomination from Kevin S/Al K;
- TC Driving Master – Jim Larfield accepted the nomination from Kevin S/Mitch L;
- TC Executive Board Rep – Kevin Smith accepted the nomination from Mitch L/Jon W;
- TC Membership – Dennis Roberts accepted the nomination from Jon W/Jim L;

NEW BUSINESS: (items not previously submitted for the agenda)

- On-Line election will be handled by TC WebMaster Jeremy P;
- Pete B – assistant Race Chair Al Kolkemo may not be available to serve as Assistant Race Chair;
- TC Contest Board – Peter Linssen accepted the nomination from Jon W/Jim L;
- TC President – Duane Starr accepted the nomination from Lynn/Kevin S;
- TC Past President – Terry Amundson accepted the nomination from Kevin S/Jon W;
- TC Treasurer – Val Starr accepted the nomination from Bill M/Ben W;
- TC President – Terry Amundson accepted the nomination from Peter L/Jim L;
- Communications Director position is open;
- ACTION ITEM: Bob & Jeremy will produce ballots for distribution;
- Darren Dilley recognized ICSCC championship award winning TC Members;

STAR PROJECTS (Bill Murray):

- ORP report – 3 septic tanks, drain field, pumps, electrical load centers for pumps and sewage side of the system is close to completion; Water source is still in process with completion forecast for January 2014; Option for at track camping is looking viable with showers and flush toilets;

M/S – Motion to Adjourn, **Motion passed**, meeting adjourned at 8:02PM;

BS & BONER DISCUSSIONS:

Scott Hanken has the boner jacket;

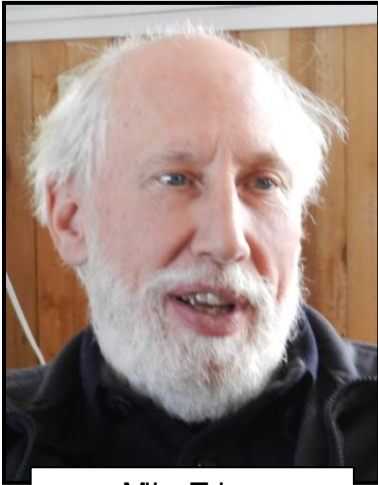
Bob Skinner – Bill Harris was OR SCCA Crew Chief of the Year, Bob's SRF customer finished 1st and 4th.



Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Smethers, TC Secretary

OREGON RACEWAY PARK

Update Mid-December, 2013



Mike Tripp
2014 Chief Steward



Terry Overdiek
2013 Chief Steward



Dan Heinrich
Former Steward
and I.C.S.C.C.
Treasurer

Tuesday, December 10th.

Officials of the International Conference of Sports Car Clubs and Portland Sports Car Club Team Continental were on hand to inspect the track as part of the approval process for counter clockwise Conference Championship Racing.

One of the major tasks of the original track design team was to build a course that could run safely in both directions. Since the inaugural track event in 2008 over 40% of the events held have opted to run counter course.

"It's a whole new track the other way and most Conference racers are eager to give it a try" says Pete Belfanti, T.C. Race Chairman.

O.R.P. Operations Manager Bill Murray said "When it comes to safety, we especially welcome the input. The list of corrections developed by the Conference team is considered to be minor and very doable".

Team Continental volunteers will be continuing their efforts to help get the track in top shape in time for their double race event scheduled for July 25-26-27th.



Tom Miller
O.R.P. / C.E.O.



Pete Belfanti
Team Continental
Race Chairman



ABOVE: In the Track Office, Kevin Smith and Terry Overdiek look over plans for future build out of the facility. Already the longest road course in the state, O.R.P. currently owns more than twice the land mass of Portland International Raceway and features 419 feet more elevation change every lap.



Kevin Smith
T.C. Executive Board
Representative

TEAM CONTINENTAL – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 11, 2013

Location: Columbia River Brewing, moved from Laurelwood Brewery –
Portland, OR



BOD MEMBERS: Bob Smethers, Terry Amundson, Jon Wilson, Mitch Lea, Jim Larfield,
Pete Belfanti, Val Starr, Duane Starr,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Bill Murray, Jeremy Plance

GUESTS: Dennis Roberts, Betty Lea, Peter Linssen

Meeting called to order by TC President, Terry Amundson

OFFICER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT (Terry Amundson):

- Ballot nomination status – printed TC ballots will be available at TC Cmas party, instructions for submitting ballots electronically through MS Reg were included in distribution, TC Secretary will tabulate votes submitted by phone or email; per Mitch – print MS Reg for previously submitted ballots, compare list to hard copy ballots requested to ensure election integrity;
- Ballot committee – Mitch L, Dennis R, Jeremy P;
- Driver of the Year – Terry working with Mark H and Kevin S to establish criteria;

RACE CHAIRMAN (Pete Belfanti):

- T&S equipment purchases for computers have been completed, will be loaded with software; Bill M delivered ORP equipment for updates;
- Paddock Drawing – Jeremy will identify how to incorporate paddock requests electronically through MS Reg; event is in process for race, not setup for DT day only; Pete B will edit sup regs to clarify policy for ingress process;
- Race Dates have been set for July 25-26-27 to eliminate conflict with Historics at PIR;
- CCW inspection was held Tuesday 12/10 – only 3 minor requests for modification: 1) 16X no requirement to build station but need to remove 2 barriers, 2) T4 drivers right has a wash swale drainage ditch may need to be enhanced, 3) hot pit entrance – curbing with tires could be problematic;
- Reconfiguration work party will be determined, Bill M will examine options for meeting these requests;
- Pete is encouraged about the requests and all 3 stipulations are expected to be approved via electronic approvals; Terry advised Pete to establish a deadline for final commitment to course configuration; Pete will begin marketing and promotions following Jan ICSCC Spring Meeting;
- Gp8 special race options are still being considered – NW endurance series or ? with mandatory practice session prior to on track race event; Jon W – Vintage was a viable option, as long as car passes tech;

DRIVING MASTER (Jim Larfield):

- Just the usual DM report + the Skype meeting with Jack Gassaway and Morgan Smith from the Autocross Club of Central Oregon – agreement to incorporate promotions (ACCO)
- Friday March 29th event budget is approximately \$6400, would share 50/50 expenses and profit;
- TC handles registration & finances, provides instructors, ACCO will provide tech inspectors and workers provided through event participant entry may receive stipend discount from entry fee;
- Clarification from previously published meeting minutes – this is not an autocross !
- Jeremy mentioned the autocross entrants are used to observing and assisting between their sessions;
- Jim observed the ACCO has lost all viable event locations in the Bend;

- (M/S – Pete/Mitch) – **Motion** that TC financially sponsor ACCO as a ICSCC Affiliate club for 2014; **motion passed**;
- Jim mentioned an optional work project for future consideration – shade structure for communal gathering area,

TREASURER (Val Starr):

- Report of TC General Funds with income/expenses and savings account balance, dated Dec 11, 2013;
- Terry A – Finance Committee will be reinstated shortly after the new year;

STAR PROJECTS, Rat Race Report (Bill M):

- Final inspections for water and sewage have been completed;
- RAT Race February Thunderhill event has been cancelled in favor of a potential co-hosted event March;

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR (Kevin Smith): (excused absent);

- The December Tell-Tale is now available at: <http://www.teamcontinental.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/December-TELL-TALE-2013.pdf>
- Be sure to read it for information on how to vote on your TC Officers for 2014, and to see the announcements for the TC Christmas Party on Dec 14th, and the TC Banquet at the Beach, Jan 18, 2014. It's been a great year for TC, come help celebrate it.

SECRETARY (Bob Smethers): 2013 BOD and General Meeting Minutes are available for review;

CONTEST BOARD REP (Jon Wilson):

EXECUTIVE BOARD REP (Kevin Smith):

PAST PRESIDENT (Mitch Lea): no report;

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Mitch Lea): no report;

VICE PRESIDENT (Duane Starr): no report;

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (Ben Weaver): not present;

OLD BUSINESS: (none)

NEW BUSINESS: (none)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TC Christmas Party will be this weekend, Saturday 12/14 at the Murray Residence

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (none)

(M/S by consensus): **Motion** to adjourn, **Motion passed** (unanimous), meeting adjourned approx. 8:42PM;

BS REPORT: (none)

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Smethers, TC Secretary

Dan Dickson – Past Member of TC

We've lost another TC friend, a member of Team Continental and past President. Although he traded in his race helmet for halyards and spinnakers some time back, we still remember Dan as an important part of TC history, prepping cars and racing with Doris. One of their first racers was a VW Rabbit, during the time that TC had a big hutch of them. Dan & Doris were also members of Porsche Club, and for years drove a Sepia Brown 911, selling that only recently. Dan was a Navy man, always proud to say that he was a submariner.

During the 70's and 80's, Dan was in the auto detailing business. RSR Detailing was located in Lake Oswego for some time. Dan gave us a place in the shop to prep our 911 for racing. While we were away at work, he labored tirelessly, scraping on interior undercoating – more fun than doing Customer cars. And, Dan got to drive the finished product a couple of times. Dan and Doris raced the Rabbit – shhhh, Doris was always faster. One day going down the back straight at Portland, Doris blew up a flywheel and put the pieces right through the front of my sports racer, a Brabham BT21. Dan bought that car some time later, just to keep all the parts in the family, and raced it with co-owner Jack Todaro.

The draw of the open sea eventually got Dan and Doris into sailboating, moving up a few years ago to Ecstasy, a 43-foot Columbia MKIII, which they kept moored at Portland Yacht Club where they have been members since '99. There are a bunch of racers and ex-racers in the club, so we did a lot of bench racing. In the past couple of years, Dan went out to the club nearly every day, and had a lot of friends there. A couple of sailors have moved the boat to various destinations when sailing was becoming too difficult. Plans were being made to head up North again next spring. Dan was at the club last Friday evening, and admitted to the hospital Saturday. Dan fought an amazing battle with cancer, outlasting all the doctor's expectations, but Dan passed away Tuesday evening.

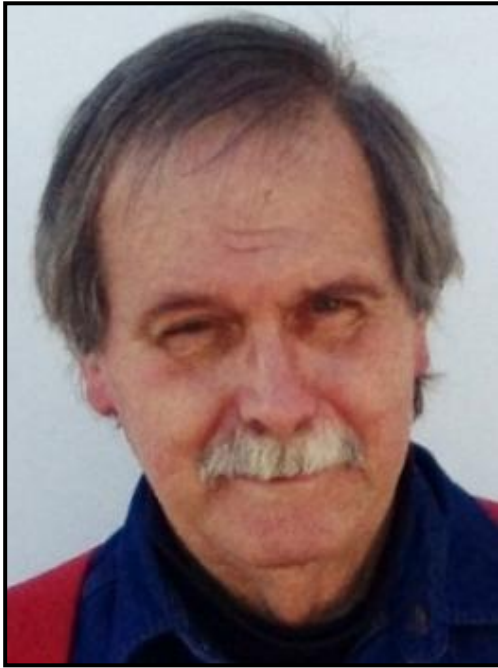
TC red



Please spread the word to TC'ers and friends.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Dan Dixon,
January 4, 3:00 to 6:00, Portland Yacht Club, 1241 NE Marine Dr.

Doris has asked for anyone who has photos of Dan to please bring them.
And, plan on telling a story if you have one. ~Thanks, Don



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Bill Hanel, a true gentleman of racing.

Bill joined Team Continental in the mid 70's and raced through out the NW in an ever changing variety of Porsches.

The Hanel Family was in the lumber business, but also branched into other endeavors like portable instrument landing systems for aircraft.

His nephews, John and Ronnie Swyers, were always big fans of their Uncle Bill and followed his footsteps into racing.

John Swyers was TC's Race Chairman early in the Port Orford years. Ronnie Swyers has had a long motorsports career and is currently an instructor at Miller Motorsports in Utah.

Bill was a member of the Oregon Raceway Park Club and a regular track day participant. He once told me ORP was his favorite track anywhere. I believe the sincerity of his remarks. He could have always just stayed home in Hood River where a few years ago he had built his own private road course, paving a circuit to connect the ends of his 1800 foot runway.



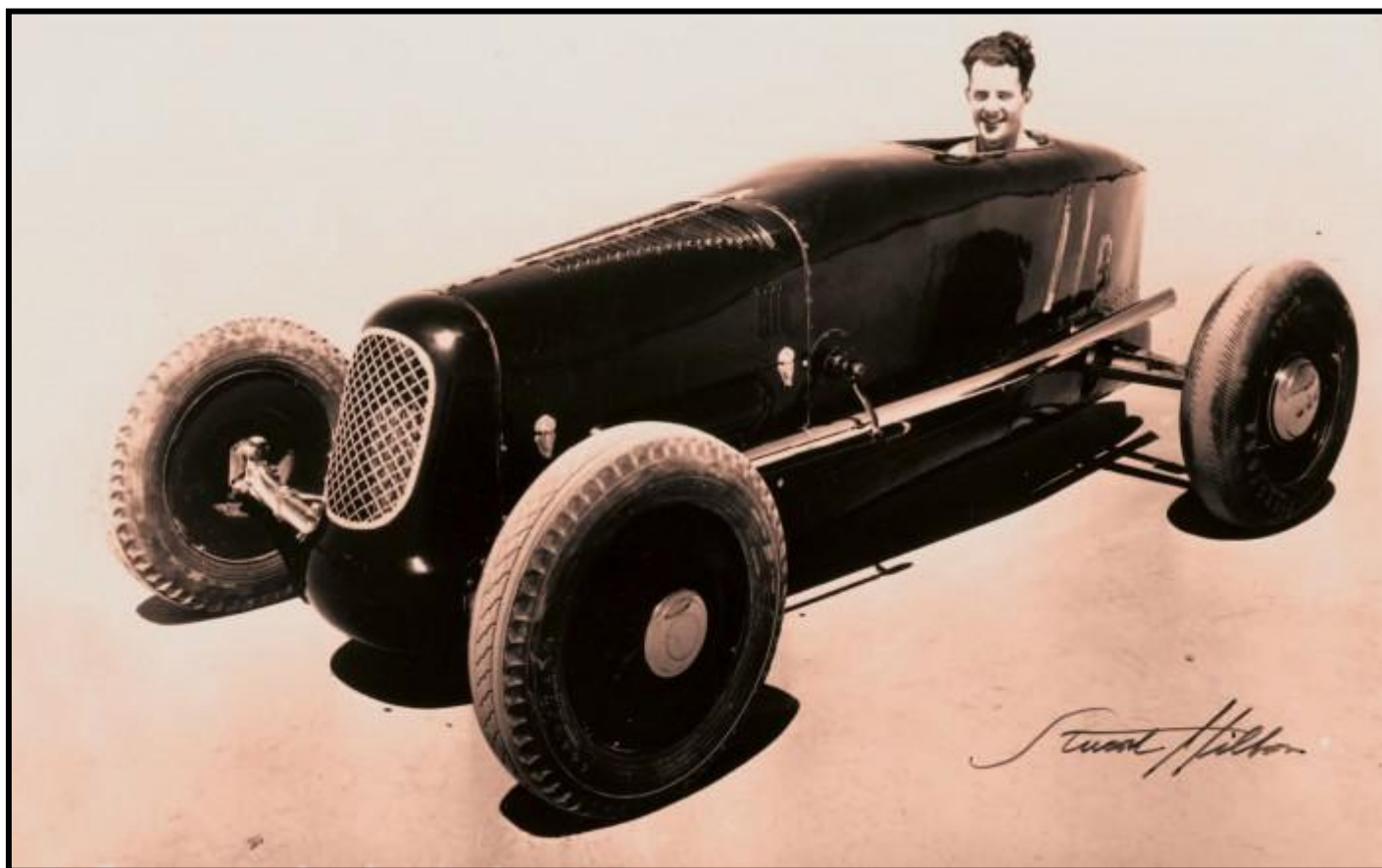
O.R.P. 2013

His easy-going "shucks, I'm just a logger" countrified style of delivery masked a very keen mind. Always understated about his abilities, he would often remark "I am just trying to stay ahead of the car". That could be a daunting proposition for most drivers, as his cars developed they would usually end up with bigger engines, then bigger brakes, then bigger engines, then bigger brakes, until they reached the limit that could be stuffed in the chassis.

Bill was never afraid to stand on the gas. He played hard until the end.

~Bill Murray

Fuel injection pioneer Stu Hilborn dies at 96



Not that we are short on obits for this issue, but for decades the name of Stu Hilborn was as synonymous with fuel injection as the name Crescent is for an adjustable wrench. ~Ed.

TC Networking

Send your business card to the TT editor. We will publish it so other club members know what it is you do to support your habit and they can refer you additional business.

architecture,
interiors & planning

waterleaf

419 SW 11th Avenue
Suite 200
Portland, OR 97205
P: 503.228.7571
C: 503.539.4300
waterleaf.com

TERRY AMUNDSON
Associate
terrya@waterleaf.com

HOUND DOG'S BAR & GRILL
4463 SE Milwaukie Avenue, Portland, OR. 97202



TIM S. JORGENSEN
(503) 789-6154 Cell
(503) 232-3547 Bar
(503) 235-5013 Fax

OREGON RACEWAY PARK

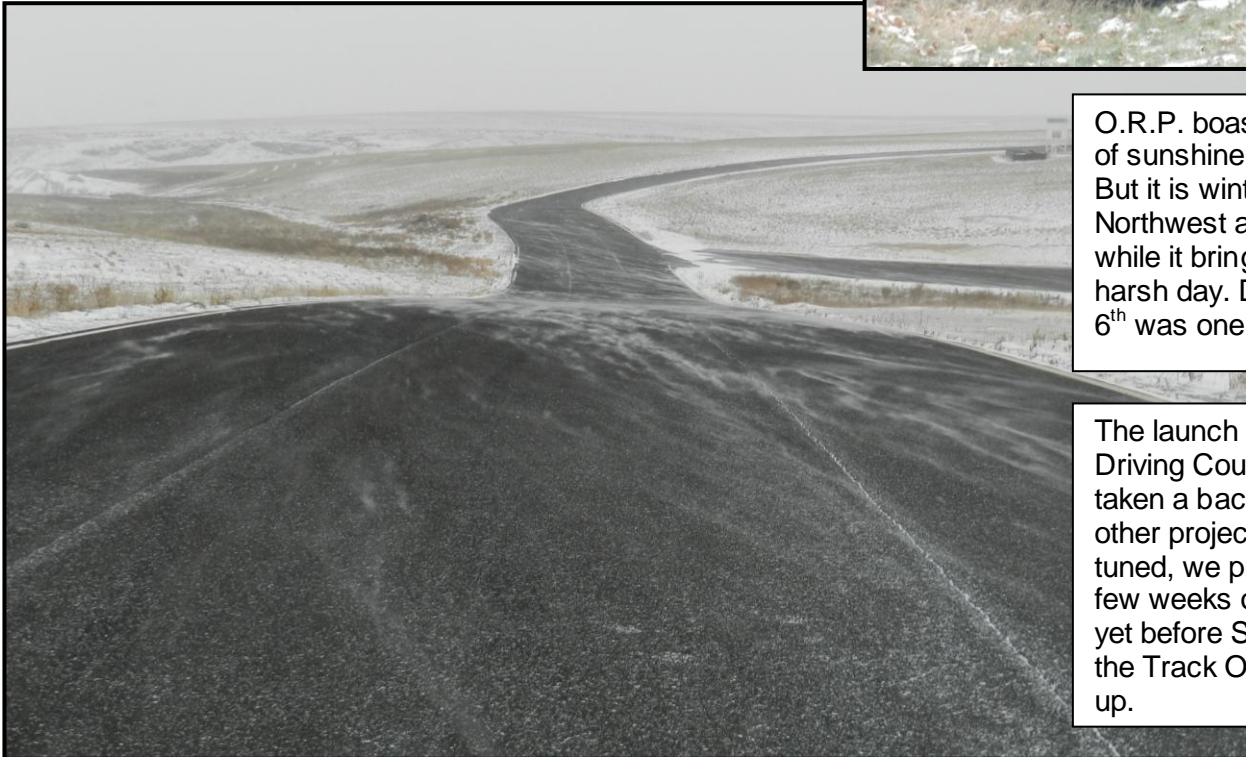
UPDATE: EARLY DECEMBER, 2013

Your STAR School Winter Driving tip of the day: When the roads are icy **don't keep it on cruise control**. This one was on I-84 just outside Cascade Locks and there were two more upside down before the turn off at Biggs



O.R.P. boasts 320 days of sunshine every year. But it is winter in the Northwest and once in a while it brings a real harsh day. December 6th was one of them.

The launch of the Winter Driving Course has taken a back seat to other projects, but stay tuned, we plan to get a few weeks of classes in yet before Spring. Call the Track Office to sign up.



LEFT: Sometimes the schedule just won't wait on the weather. Final inspection of the septic system control panel

BELOW: one of the service access ports to the huge tanks below. This completes the waste water side of the system.

NEXT: The fresh water system.



Moral of The Story: When you aren't racing, even this is exciting!



Over the Thanksgiving holiday I took some time to go to Charlotte and Austin and spend some time with Bill(y) and my daughter Vickie. As it turned out Bill was able to arrange a driving stint for me in a highly modified 200SX on the 1.5 mile Charlotte Motor Speedway. As Ops Manager for O.R.P. I send my partners an action report, so in case I drop dead, they will know what I have been up to. The following is an excerpt from that report you may find interesting. If I ever find the SD card from my camera, I will regale in a later issue with pictures of The Speedway and The Circuit of the Americas. ~Bill

THURSDAY 21ST

4:50 a.m. Return from O.R.P.

11:00 P.M. Catch the Red Eye to Charlotte.

FRIDAY 22ND

Meet w/ Richard Lang V.P. Charlotte Motor Speedway. Lang is a “good ol boy” he came complete with a well chomped unlit cigar, diamond pinky ring as big as a postage stamp and heavy southern drawl (a rare thing to be found in Charlotte). Bill and I had time to get a very abbreviated tour of the facility in his truck and discuss track operations and trends in the sport. “Damn fools are goin ta rek sum cars with them chicanes” he advised. “Trans Am did that a few years back and there wuz cars all over the place”

My takeaway was: At first glance the Speedway is a bigger version of small oval operations. it is butts on bleachers. but not because it is directly front gate revenue driven. The NASCAR difference, and the importance with filling the stands, is it is crucial to the appearance as seen on television. The participation of the “fan in the stand” is part of what they are selling to T.V. and therefore to the advertisers. It is (as you may suspect) all about the drama and spectacle of auto racing and how it is packaged for the public. “The big thing that hurt us this year was when Jimmy Johnson won six of the races and tied up the championship, we might as well changed the name back to Lowe’s Speedway” (It hurt fan interest). “We’ve had some tough years but the fans will be back.”

The point was underscored when I noticed that in most areas of the stands the plastic chairs are carefully arranged in alternating colors to present to the panning camera the appearance that they are filled by fans in multiply colored shirts.

The track rents for \$20,000. / day. (By way of rental R.O.I. O.R.P. is killing them).

SATURDAY 23RD

Drove fourth stint with “Red Neck Racing Team” in the Chumpcar 10 hour. Finished 7th out of 54 starters (the best ever for the team).



The “Red Neck Racing Team’s” 200SX.

The 50 car garage used by NASCAR at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Don’t laugh at the aero package. When you drive with a team of serious big time racing engineers, be assured this car drove like it was on rails.
~Bill Murray

99West TRAILERS



Specializing in TRAILERS

For your

Racing, Business, or Personal Needs



Full Parts Department

- ✓ E-Track / D-Rings / Tie Downs
- ✓ Security Locking Options
- ✓ Interior Storage Accessories
- ✓ Winches and much more!

Full Service Department

- ✓ Bearing and Brake Maintenance
- ✓ Bodywork Replacements
- ✓ Electrical Repairs
- ✓ Accessory Installs



High Quality Trailers by:



**99West
TRAILERS**
503-537-9103

13565 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Rd
Suite 700, Sherwood, OR 97140
www.99WestTrailers.com



Tell Tale

Editor

**5670 SW Menefee Drive
Portland, OR 97239**



Board Meeting set over and moved.
January 8th at Columbia River Brewing Co. 7pm

TC General at High Noon Sunday, January 19th at the Hallmark in Newport