

VKA FIRSTTURN

The Official Vintage Karting Association Magazine

Aug/Sep 2020

Rolf Hill, Editor

The oldest and largest vintage karting association in America



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Vectors Lite

**VKA FIRSTTURN® IS GOING
ELECTRONIC (p.22)**

In this issue:

- 20th Anniversary **PROMOTERS & TRACKS**
- IKF Glory Days Part 2
- New Castle SUMMARY
- LaFayette SUMMARY
- Brodhead SUMMARY
- Avon SUMMARY
- ... and more

**NOTE NEW DATE
FOR WHITELAND!**

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2020 SCHEDULE BY K. GINTER , D. CHAREST, J. COPELAND

VKA 20TH ANNIVERSARY 2020 EVENT SCHEDULE-REVISED	
<i>12/28-30/19 Daytona</i> 1/30-2/1 Riverside, CA 2/13-15 Bushnell, FL <i>3/6-8 Roebling Rd.</i> 5/7-9 Fremont, OH <i>5/8-10 Gateway MP</i> <i>5/29-31 Summit Point</i> 6/18-20 New Castle, IN <i>6/19-21 Mid-Ohio</i> 5/28-30 LaFayette, NY <i>7/3 – 5 Charlotte</i> 7/9-11 Brodhead, WI <i>7/10-12 Grattan</i> 7/23-25 Avon, NY	7/30-8/1 Quincy, IL <i>8/14-16HeartlandPark, KS</i> 8/13-15 Springfield, IL 8/21 & 22 Chestertown,MD 8/27-29 Camden, OH 9/3-5 Saltillo, MS 9/11 & 12 Oreville, PA 9/17-19 Delmar, IA <i>9/25-27 Pittsburgh Intrnl.</i> 10/1-3 Whiteland, IN 🌸 10/8-10 Bakersfield, CA* 10/10-11 Street, MD 11/5-7 Barnesville, GA <i>Oct 17&18 Roebling Road</i> <i>11/TBD MCMMP*</i>
VKA Sprint in BOLD * Indicates tentative Enduro in <i>italics</i>	

Where it's starting ... all over again!

VKA has won a few battles but not the war ... yet. Fremont and New Castle (p. 6) came off on schedule. LaFayette came off on May 28 (p.9) and Brodhead (p. 14), Avon (p.18) and Quincy were held as scheduled. We are keeping our fingers crossed 🙏 that Springfield and the rest of the 2020 schedule will come-off without a hitch.

“Social distancing” and masks 🧐 (off the track) are still a good idea. No contact and certified helmets are still REQUIRED (on the track).

20th ANNIVERSARY – PROMOTERS & TRACKS

Everyone remembers getting chased off parking lots or back streets. If not, just ask one of the “old-timers.” (I remember a time my Mom took me to the top floor of a local department store parking garage. It was Sunday. In those days, stores were closed on Sundays. The local *gendarme* was nice, but firm. We left.)

Today, we run on many of the tracks that were built to address this problem and the growing interest in go karting. Some tracks may have been dirt. Others more “sophisticated” with asphalt and lights. Whatever they were, they were much safer ... and legal.

Bill McCornack is highlighting many of the tracks we use with an IKF history going back to the ‘60s (p. 23). But in VKA’s 20th year, let’s also remember the history of the tracks we use **today** and the promoters and track owners who get us on those tracks. (Input provided by promoters.)

Avon, NY – OPEN: 1959; OWNER: Al Gutberlet; EVENTS: Can-Am, IKF, VKA; PROMOTERS: Scott Kneisel & Sam Polito

Bakersfield, CA – PROMOTERS: Joe Swantek

Barnesville, GA – OPEN: 1959 by Richard Wilson, GSKA formed in 2005; OWNER: Mr. Kim; PROMOTERS: Bob Barthelmy & GSKA; EVENTS: 29 IKF & WKA Nationals events held between 1966 and 2017, Host of the Winter Nationals & Winter Olympics.

Brodhead, WI – OPEN: 1960; OWNER: Marshall Fairman; PROMOTER: Bill McCornack; EVENTS: Grand Nationals: 1965 IKF, 1972 WKA, 1981 WKA.

Bushnell, FL – VKA since 2016; OWNER/PROMOTER: Bret Spaude
Camden, OH – OPEN: ~1960 OWNER: Gary Gregg; PROMOTER: Jeff Brown since 2011.

Chestertown, MD (Nicholson) – OPEN: 1960; OWNER: Lawrence Nicholson; NOTABLE ATTENDEES: Michael Andretti, Danica Patrick and Ryan Hunter-Reay; MANAGER/PROMOTER: Joe Weisner Family.

Circleville, OH – OWNER: Steve Tatman; PROMOTER: Scott Klingler/Jeff Brown (2008 flooded Quincy replacement);

Cuddeback, NY – OWNER: Tim Hannan; PROMOTER: Dave Luciani

Delmar, IA – 45' elevation change ... the Watkins Glen of the mid-west; OWNER: Nelson/Hughes Family; PROMOTER: Scott Klingler

East Lansing, MI – VKA 2011; PROMOTER: Dean Kossaras;

Fremont, OH – PROMOTER: Scott Benton/Gary Wlodarsky

LaFayette, NY – OPEN: 1960; OWNER/PROMOTER: Goddard Family; EVENTS: VKA Northeast Spring Nationals, Rotax Stars & Stripes Trophy Series, Spartan Mid-Atlantic Kart Series, LMP Championship Series; repaved with all new curbs in 2018.

New Castle, IN – OPEN: 2004; OWNER: Mark Dismore; PROMOTER: Jeff Brown; EVENTS: 2007 C Open Exhibition; 200 lap race for modern duals; VKA since 2009;

Oreville, PA – OWNERS/PROMOTER: Barry & Alex Greenzweig;

Riverside, CA – OWNER: Adams Family; PROMOTER: Louie Figone

Salttillo, MS – OWNER: Brian Cairt; PROMOTER: Bob Barthelemy

Springfield, IL – OPEN: 1963; OWNER: Mid-State Kart Club; PROMOTERS: Paul Booth for 10 years; currently Ken Wooldridge.

Street, MD (Sandy Hook, originally known as Kart-Um-Downs); – OPEN: 1960; OWNER: Charles Mace Jr.; 1997 Dave & Sue Koehler (the operators of the track at that time) repaved track, adding 25° Monza; PROMOTER: Sal Palatucci

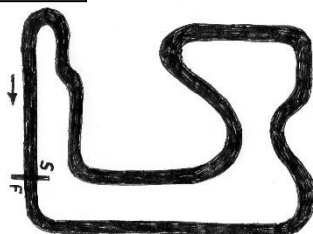
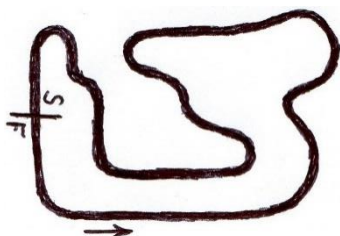
Whiteland, IN – OPEN: 1958; OWNER: Andy O’Gara & Sarah Fisher O’Gara; PROMOTER: John Copeland

Quincy, IL (MO) – OWNER: Terry Traeder; PROMOTER: Jeff Miles
EVENTS: VKA since 2001; televised ABC Wide World of Sports.

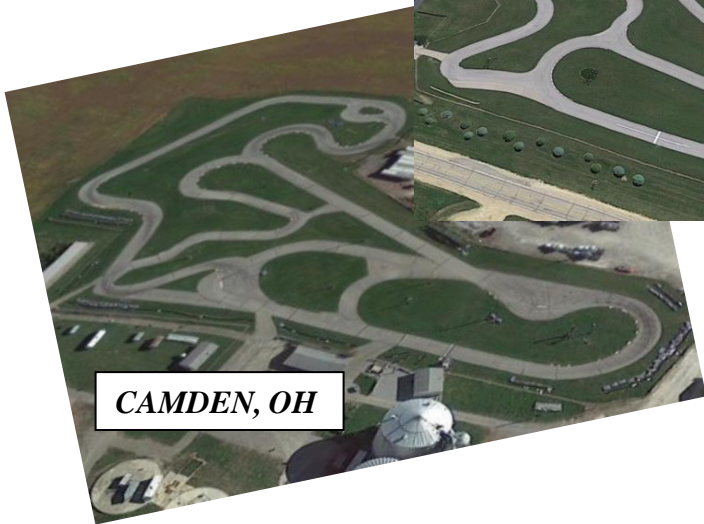




SEE THE SIMILARITIES?



DEMAR, IA
45' ELEVATION CHANGE
WATKINS GLEN OF MID-WEST



Clear and sunny skies dominated a beautiful weekend at New Castle. There were 146 entries who enjoyed the great weather, track, comradery, food, **FUN**, and friends.

Thursday practice was followed by hors d'oeuvres and bench racing at its finest. Friday's great weather was filled with practice, driver's meeting, lots of close competition in Heat 1, a fine collection of vintage equipment in the kart show and another wonderful banquet provided by the Dismores.

There were several vintage karters recognized for their contributions to vintage karting. Jim Donovan (Mr. Max-Torque) was recognized for all his hard work and dedication as the unofficial track cook and for all of his work to feed "the troops" at events. Hall of Fame inductees included Mike Birdsell, Neil Keller, and Rick Chapman.

Saturday was another sunny warm day for Heat 2 and 3 with more great demonstrations. Awards were presented and a good time was had by all. Congratulations to all and **THANKS** to the entire Dismore Team. See you at Camden 8/27 - 29.

Jeff and Sherri Brown

**CONTRAILS OVER
NEW CASTLE**

**"X" MARKS
THE SPOT**



NEW CASTLE DEMONSTRATION EVENT RESULTS			
Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1. Historic	D.Scarbrough,R.Fenwick,Jimmy Gay, M.Fenwick		
2. Junior Rear	Ben Nagel	Cale Boarman	Kamran Jobe
3. Sportsman Rear	R. DeFrancisco	Morgan Healey	Max Porter
5. Rear 6.1	Melanie Giessen	Don Renton	Scott Klingler
6. Rear 8.2	Autumn Nagel	Marc Nagel	Mike Grigsby
7B Dual Engine	Autumn Nagel	* * * * *	* * * * *
7C Dual Rear	Jerry Nagel	Vincent Rotole	Kirt Bennett
8. 6.1/8.2 SW	Max Porter	Pete Vetter	Mike Dobie
9. 8.2 SW	Max Porter	Rocky Buff	Lake Speed. Jr
10.Over-60 Rear	Jerry Nagel	Bill Stocksdales	Brian Giessen
11. Dual SW	Lake Speed, Sr.	Jerry Nagel	Scott Nagel
12. Sportsman S/W	Amy Scoggins	Morgan Healey	Jeff Clounch
13.Yam PistonPort	Mike Giessen	Alan Davidson	Kirk Jobe
14. Yam Ltd.	Tom Crosby	Mike Dobie	Amy Scoggins
15. SASW	Melanie Giessen	* * * * *	* * * * *
16. Over-60 SW	Denny Scott	Marty Westen	David Drewes
17. Dual Yam.	R. DeFrancisco	Mike Giessen	Stuart Keller
19. Classic 100cc	Barry Medaris	Bob Stocksdales	Mike Campbell



Where it's starting ... all over again!

NEW CASTLE SHOW RESULTS BY GARY WLODARSKY

JUDGES: Romero Llamas, Jack Murray, Vico Prelogar

HISTORIC

Unrestored	'61 GoKart 1200; Rodrigo DeFrancisco
Modified	SAE Twin; McCulloch; Bill Arrendale
Past Champion	'61 Evans; McCulloch; Terry Riggins

REAR

Unrestored	'61 Percival; MC-7; Gordon Juhasz
Restored	Rupp A-Bone; MC-91; Diego DeFrancisco
Modified	'62 Chaparral; MC-91; Sebastian DeFrancisco
Past Champion	'62 Blitz F2000; MC-45D; JoAnn Hertzig

SIDEWINDER

Unrestored	'73 Bug Stinger; MC91b1; Dan Bucher
Restored	'77 Panther X Jr.; KT-100; Cale Boarman
Modified	'71 Margay Cheetah; MC-91; Gene Lang
Past Champion	'73 Bug Stinger; MC-49; Landon Boarman

ENDURO

Best in Show	'66 Chaparral; MC-91A; Rick Gilmore
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MINI BIKE

Best in Show	Mini Tanker; MC-7; Jack Murray
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PEOPLES' CHOICE

Best in Show	'63 King; MC-101; Rick Parsons
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LAFAYETTE SUMMARY BY KURT BOGERMAN

2020 has guaranteed no one anything but uncertainty. The Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to taking its toll on the bodies of those it sickens, has disrupted EVERYTHING from the availability of toilet paper to the celebration of the VKA's **20th Anniversary**. Every intersection of human interaction has been impacted, from church congregations to prison popula-

tions, and our own gatherings are no exception. Months ago, when the event planning for 2020 was just getting underway, there were aspirations for a blockbuster, **20th Anniversary** season opening event, with an all-star cast. On June 25- 27, after postponements and much juggling of the calendar, the Vintage Karting Association's Northeastern Region finally opened its 2020 season at LaFayette Motorsports Park in

LaFayette, New York, under the continuing specter of a viral pandemic.

As is typical for most of the VKA Northeastern Region's events this year, move-in and practice took place on Thursday. Personally, I love VKA Thursdays. I am not a superstar of karting, so there is an appeal to taking the time to test and tune and practice without the formality of organized Heats. (In fact, starting my third year of organized karting, vintage or otherwise, I still find that gridding up for the green flag is the most stressful part of my weekends. (Maybe I'm weird.) So, anyway... Thursday is a day when engines are broken in, gear ratios are selected, and tire pressures are adjusted. Some of the less performance-oriented participants, and several of our spouses, will often take advantage of these Thursdays for a spin at the more leisurely pace that is allowed by the loosely structured open track time. By all of these standards, Thursday was a success.

The staff at LaFayette is very good at keeping on schedule, so we were able to run two demonstration Heats on Friday, with ample time left to segue smoothly into the triple-header

of the Kart Show, the Wine and Cheese Tasting, and the live band, "The Vectors Lite". This was a festive evening. The track owners, Tony and Tina Goddard, treated us to a selection of New York wines and cheeses while our ears were tickled by The Vectors Lite's skillful covers of dozens of our favorite rock and folk songs from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. As the band played and the wines and cheeses were tasted (consumed?), Mark "Lumpy" Kaufman, Skip Owen, my wife Natalie, and I, were putting on the Kart Show. I made a point to walk the pits and encourage the members to bring their karts to the grid for display and judging. Once we had all the karts arranged in their classifications (or so we thought!), Natalie took charge of handling the Peoples' Choice Ballots while Lumpy, Skip, and I engaged in the harrowing process of deciding which beautiful karts were going to earn awards. It is not getting any easier, folks. The pride of vintage kart ownership is so evident and prevalent! Often there is a standout, and at this event there were two that really captured the attention of all involved. One was John Phippen's Cates kart and the other was Doug Jorgensen's minibike.

In addition to winning the award in the Historic category for his rare and beautiful Cates machine, John Phippen took home the 50/50. He wasn't finished winning



The classically creative John “Johnny Rocket” Wolkiewicz, in order to commemorate this **20th Anniversary** of VKA vintage karting, crafted a custom Nassau panel trophy which he awarded to the Cates as he felt that it represented a stylish and innovative moment in karting’s history.

Doug Jorgensen really impressed us with his entry in the Mini-Bike category, earning a trifecta of awards. He took the award for best Mini-Bike, the People’s Choice award, AND the Promoter’s Choice award from track owner Tony Goddard. This is a notable accomplishment for a mini-bike to sweep the Kart Show awards! (See Peoples’ Choice picture on p. 12)

The Friday night kart show highlighted history and nostalgia, the mechanical and artistic skills, the attention to detail, and the thrill that we all get from our vintage racing machines.

The evening was capped-off with a superb catered dinner. We are all grateful for the assistance provided by the many volunteers who help make events like this possible.

Saturday morning, the sunny skies were replaced by pouring rain, so - who can blame us? - we all packed our gear and headed home. Despite the abrupt and anticlimactic end to an event that almost didn’t happen, I can honestly say that I enjoyed every moment we got to spend together, breathing in the fresh air of LaFayette, New York. I think we owe a round of applause to VKA NE Region Coordinator Sal Palatucci, track owners Tony and Tina Goddard, their family, staff and volunteers, and any and all of the folks who not only facilitated a *fun* event, but also ran themselves ragged just trying to figure out how to put on *any* event in 2020 in the first place! **THANK YOU.**

Kurt Bogerman

LAFAYETTE SHOW RESULTS BY KURT BOGERMAN	
JUDGES: Kurt Bogerman, Skip “Lumpy” Kauffman, Skip Owen	
HISTORIC	
Unrestored	'64 Fox Box Mount; MC-75; Doug Jorgensen
Restored	'63 Cates Go Chassis; MC-9; John Phippen, Jr.
Modified	'60 GoKart 800; MC-45; Robert LeFevre
REAR	
Unrestored	'65 Rupp Grand A; MC-93; Sal Palatucci
Restored	'74 Blackhawk Poison Arrow, MC-101; J. Flach
Modified	Sebastian DeFrancisco
SIDEWINDER	
Unrestored	'83 Yamaha RC-100; KT-100; Kurt Bogerman
Restored	'90 Bug 2000; PCR; Mark Petraccoro
MINI BIKE	
Best in Show	'69 Lil Indian; Briggs 5hp; Doug Jorgensen
PEOPLES' CHOICE	
Best in Show	'69 Lil Indian; Briggs 5hp; Doug Jorgensen



LAFAYETTE DEMONSTRATION EVENT RESULTS			
Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Historic	Sam Polito, Doug Jorgensen, Bob LeFevre		
Junior Rear	S. DeFrancisco	D. DeFrancisco	
Sportsman Rear	R. DeFrancisco	Scott Kneisel	Rolf Hill
Rear 6.1	John Flach	* * * * *	* * * * *
Rear 8.2	Jon Fair Oaks	Bruce Ristow	* * * * *
S/W 6.1/8.2 Amer	Karl Ginter	Mark Petraccoro	* * * * *
Yamaha Piston Port	Skip Owen	R.DeFrancisco	Jim Kauffman
Yamaha Limited	J. Guastavino	K. Bogerman	Jim Kauffman



Beautiful Sugar River Raceway, with five ancient oak trees within the track circuit, is surely the most scenic setting for vintage karting events. The main straight-a-way is seven karts wide. Seventy-seven karts competed this year in Wisconsin's "pride of the Midwest" event – "The Brodhead Historics."

The weather on Thursday was clear with temperatures in the 90s. Friday cooled very little to about 85 degrees, partly cloudy but delightful when you were in the shade. Friday was also the busiest day with two Heats, the kart show, raffle, special awards and finally, a catered dinner. Saturday morning rains soaked the track, and since many karters were leaving, we decided to call it and give out the awards.

Our kart show, one of the best attended of VKA events, had about fifty entries. Our kart show is always well attended because it is always accompanied by a wine, beer and cheese tasting which is complimented by great music.

The 50/50 raffle generated \$425.00 for the VKA. The prizes included a McCulloch 49 engine, drill press, three cash payouts and other prizes. The biggest classes were the Sportsman Rear, Sportsman Sidewinder, Yamaha Piston Port and Yamaha Ltd. Sugar River Raceway typically has a big turn-out of McCulloch and West Bend engines but also had a good number of Yamaha and foreign engines.

Our hard-working staff consisted of Mike and Joann Morrall, Mike Morrall Jr. and Haley Morrall, Marshall Fairman, George Sellon and Sugar River Raceway's great staff.

If you haven't been to Brodhead you're missing out on a great time with friendly people, a well-run track and a unique experience at one of the most scenic tracks in the country.

JOIN THE FUN !

BRODHEAD DEMONSTRATION EVENT RESULTS			
Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Historic	Seven entries		
Junior Rear	Ben Nagel	Jaden Morrall	* * * * *
Sportsman Rear	Shawn Moore	Boone Rule	Chuck Meyers
Rear 6.1	Jerry Nagel	Terry Kelly	Marshall Fairman
Mac 49	Shawn Welte	Boone Rule	Chuck Meyers
Rear 8.2	Marc Nagel	Scott Klingler	
C Open	Shawn Welte	Jerry Nagel	Marc Nagel
B Open	M. Fairman	* * * * *	* * * * *
8.2 SW	Tom Tretow	* * * * *	* * * * *
S/W 6.1/8.2 Amer	Troy Cozad	Brandon Dhuse	Dave Sagen
Over-60	Jerry Nagel	* * * * *	* * * * *
Sportsman S/W lite	Jackson Simler	Jim Kammueler	Cole Peterson
Sportsman S/W hvy	Marty Weston	Vern Bergman	Jesse James
Straigh Axle SW	Gene Lang	Tom Day	* * * * *
Yamaha Piston Port	Dave Drews	Dave Doogan	Rick Cramer
Yamaha Limited	Troy Cozad	Marty Weston	Steve Lovett
Over-60 SW	Vern Bergman	Marty Weston	Ray Vince
Dual Yamaha	Scott Nagel	Vern Bergman	Jim Ryder
West Bend SW	Tom Day	Aaron Martinez	Rudy Duncalf



THIS IS VINTAGE KARTING !

BRODHEAD SHOW RESULTS BY BILL MCCORNACK	
JUDGES: Romero Llamas, Jack Murray and Jim Ryder	
HISTORIC	
Unrestored	'61 Fox; MC-20; Mike Morrall, Jr.
Restored	'59 Fox Go Boy; Clinton A490; Don Johnson
Modified	'72 Blackhawk MK11; MC-9; Terry Kelly
REAR	
Unrestored	Rupp Ball n Chain; Engray Mako; Chuck Meyers
Restored	'64 King; WB-500; Doug Mayr
Modified	'63 Alley Kat II; MC-49; Shawn Welte
Past Champion	'62 Blackhawk Chief; MC-75; Mike Morrall, Sr.
SIDEWINDER	
Unrestored	'75 Invader; MC-93; James Kammuegger
Restored	'74 Lancer; Komet K-88; Dale Fisher
Modified	'85 Margay Lynx; Yamaha; Marty Westen
Past Champion	'82 Emmick Star; KT100; Bill McCornack
ENDURO	
Best in Show	'65 Hornet Marauder; FKE; Tom Kelley
PEOPLES' CHOICE	
Best in Show	'59 Fox Go Boy; Clinton A490; Don Johnson





**EDITOR'S
OBSERVATION:**
Despite threat of
rain at three of
the four events in
this issue, at least
two Heats were

run at each event on Friday, although only one Heat was scheduled. Good work by the Promoters and thank goodness for the flexibility in the **VKA Guidelines**.

Well, Avon's 11th annual Vintage Karting event is safely concluded. We are very happy that so many showed up even with the situations going on in our beautiful country. We had 32 registered drivers, 10 classes and 40 class entries this year. The largest classes were again Sportsman Rear, Yamaha Limited and Historic. We had very clean Heats with only two on-track "mix-ups" resulting in no damage or injury.



Thursday started not looking so good weather-wise with sprinkles in the morning and projected rain all day, but mother nature was good to us and it never rained. Practice went well all day followed by a free "pizza-n-pop" party served out to everyone by yours truly and Sam Polito, properly attired in masks and gloves.

Friday was a beautiful day with practice in the morning and two demonstration Heats in the afternoon. That was followed up by a killer kart show headed up by Kurt Bogerman.

Saturday was another beautiful day with more practice in the morning followed by the final demonstration Heat and award presentations.

This year we tried something called "Master Class" which stakes the five top finishers from the two largest classes and each class winner against each other. Their demonstration is for bragging rights. We also added a twist by running the track in reverse direction. This idea has promise but still needs some tweaking but was fun. No scoring in these runs, just for fun.

Sam and I want to thank everyone for coming and doing their best to comply with state guidelines regarding social distancing.

AVON DEMONSTRATION EVENT RESULTS			
Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Historic	J.Wolkiewicz, Sr., Doug Jorgenson; Kurt Bogerman, Mark Kaufman, Bob LeFevre, John Phippen, Bruce Ristow		
Junior Rear	Sebastian DeFrancisco		Diego DeFrancisco
Sportsman Rear	R. DeFrancisco	Kent Windham	Wolkiewicz, Jr.
Rear 8.2	Bruce Ristow	Jonathan Fair Oaks	
Sportsman S/W	Karl Ginter	Skip Owen	Kent Windham
S/W 6.1/8.2 Amer	Chris Gruber	* * * * *	* * * * *
S/W Over-60	Gordie Beidler	* * * * *	* * * * *
Yamaha SA	Michael Stahl	* * * * *	* * * * *
Yamaha Limited	R. DeFrancisco	Alan Davidson	Skip Owen
4-Cycle	Rich Gamrod	McAndrew Gamrod	Keith Lonneville



Check out drone video at:

<https://youtu.be/wRmSxrw5JnQ>

AVON SHOW RESULTS BY SCOTT KNEISEL	
JUDGES: Kurt Bogerman/Mark “Lumpy” Kaufman/Curt Gruber	
HISTORIC	
Unrestored	'62 GoKart 1200; Doug Jorgensen
Restored	'64 Rupp Dart GP; C-9; Ted Furtch
Modified	Home Built; MC-7; “Lumpy”
Past Champion	'64 Kavalla; WB-580; Bruce Ristow
REAR	
Restored	'65 Bug Scorpion ESII; MC-91; Bruce Ristow
Modified	'61 Rupp Chaparral; MC-92; S. DeFrancisco
Past Champion	'6? Fox; WB820; Rodrigo DeFrancisco
SIDEWINDER	
Unrestored	'87 Margay MXK; KT-100; Mike Stahl
Restored	'79 Emmick Arrow; MC-92; Mark Petraccoro
Past Champion	'84 Invader; dual Parrilla TT25; Ralph Alexander
MINI BIKE	
Best in Show	'68 Herters; Tecumseh; Harold Brush
PEOPLES' CHOICE	
Best in Show	'61 Rupp Chaparral; MC-92; S. DeFrancisco





*** * NOTICES * ***

*** HELMET CERTIFICATION NOTICE ***

2015 or later Snell Certified helmets will be **REQUIRED** in .

*** ACCEPTABLE TIRE NOTICE ***

Hoosier R60-series tires are acceptable until 12/31/2020.

*** MANDATORY MEMBERSHIP NOTICE ***

VKA Membership is required for any on-track activities/returning

*** WHITELAND EVENT DATE CHANGE ***

WAS: 10/8-10

IS: 10/1 - 3

*** VKA FIRSTTURN® IS GOING ELECTRONIC! ***

If you still want/require a paper copy, you **MUST** send a written request to Vintage Karting Assoc. by **10/15**:

P.O. Box 52, Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065.

The e-VKA **FIRSTTURN®** is not restricted in length, number of pictures and can include links to related articles and videos. The money we save can be used to improve VKA. We are growing. Professional help is needed in accounting, mailing and other areas.

The e-VKA **FIRSTTURN®** will be posted on VKAkarting.com and other social media for the world to see.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: 12 mo. Full Mmbr = \$35; Assoc. Mmbr* = \$10 Foreign Mmbr = \$45; Expanded/36 mo. U.S. Membership = \$95 & Assoc. Mmbr = \$30. New VKA Memberships are issued for a 12 or 36 month period. Only Full Members receive **VKA FIRSTTURN®**. Applications are on the VKA website (www.VKAkarting.com) or from BillBloodworth@gmail.com. Completed forms should be sent to:

Bill Bloodworth, 4621 Wooded Acres Dr., Arlington, TX 76016.

*** Assoc.Member must be family member living in same home. ***

PayPal is now accepted through VKAkarting.com.

THE GLORY YEARS OF KARTING

BY BILL MCCORNACK

Part Two of this series focuses on the years 1964 – 1966: **Adams** – Riverside, CA (Adams Family); **Sugar River** – Brodhead, WI (Marshall Fairman); **TNT** – Quincy, IL (Traeder Family)

There is an interesting coincidence regarding the three tracks discussed in this issue: All three tracks are still owned and operated by the original families, they are all on the current VKA circuit and are part of the **VKA 20th Anniversary Celebration**.

THE 1964 GRAND NATIONALS



The 1964 Grand Nationals were held at Adams Riverside Raceway in Riverside, California. 360 entries competed in ten classes. The major players this year were Butch Stewart, Bob Allman, Ken Burden and Rex Hayes.

Banked turns were now the “in thing” and Adams featured two of them. (In 1961, Mansfield, Ohio had one also.)

“A cool, gray haze hung over the track on race day unlike the normal, warm sunny California weather (as described in *Karting World Magazine*).

“Karting World” sponsored a kart industry show at the Memorial Auditorium featuring a curvaceous blonde in a *gold lame*’ outfit who opened the show and later handed out the trophies. One of the most popular features of the kart show was the McCulloch Service School that was held after the track closed each day.

THE 1965 GRAND NATIONALS



The 1965 Grand Nationals held in Brodhead, Wisconsin at Sugar River Raceway touted 350 entries in 10 classes. It was a C-open Who's Who of drivers - Pete Berlt, Ken Burden, Gary Emmick, Jim Whitehead, Don Surwall, Dick Collier, Ken Fox and Bill Wooland.

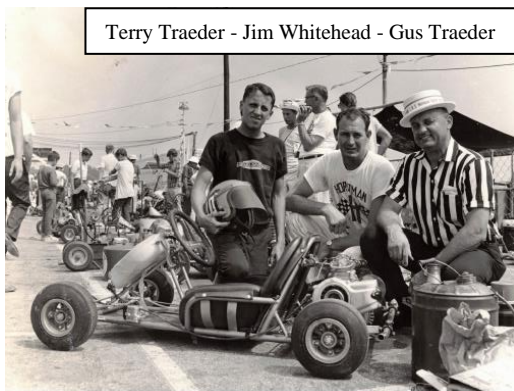
Brodhead introduced a few new things into the sport. Five huge trees grew (and still grow) within the track's circuit. Once again we quote Karting World who described the beauty of Sugar River Raceway as "set in the heart of Wisconsin's lush dairy country and located along a gently flowing river." There was also a sound-proof, air-conditioned control tower for the scoring team, an on-site kart shop and a real restaurant with great food! Blackhawk Karts were made on site and Fox Karts were manufactured only 50 minutes away in Janesville, WI. Oddly enough, less than an hour away was Rockford, IL, the site of the 1963 Grand Nationals.



THE 1966 GRAND NATIONALS

The 1966 Grand Nationals were held at TNT Kartways in Quincy, Illinois. There were 376 entries competing in 10 classes. Thirty-two states as well as Ontario, Canada were represented at this event.

Once again, ABC Wide World of Sports covered a major karting event (just as they had in Rockford in 1963). Jim McKay and a large film crew came to Quincy to see the great spectacle. In order to film the karts at ground level, the crew dug four holes around the track's circuit. But unfortunately, five championships were determined by one Heat because the event was rained out.



The owner of TNT Kartways, Gus Traeder, was one of the big reasons karting grew in the 60s, 70s and 80s and again in this century with Vintage Karting. I think it's safe to say we all miss Gus.

And who won the B Limited class in 64, 65 and 66? Butch Stewart - one of karting's special racers.

Part Three: Riverside, CA (1967), Batavia, NY (1968) and Camden, OH (1969)



Where it's starting ... all over again!

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