

"RACING AT THE GROVE"

1st ANNUAL WEST COAST VINTAGE RACERS NATIONALS

AUGUST 4TH 5TH 6TH 2005

COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON

For all you speedster drivers, you missed a great weekend of driving your car on a dirt track at Cottage Grove, Oregon. The weather was hot, just like the many cars that showed up for this event. The drivers from the Northwest Vintage Speedsters were Phil Horine car #133, Jamie Woolf and Chris Woolf car #56, Tom Elliott car #48 and Ross Bradshaw with a beautiful car that Harold Langdon built about 1962. Other notables were Andy Voytilla, Jack Snyder, Don Shreve, Lloyd Elliott, and Roger Woolf.

The first day of practice was a real kick. Phil Horine and myself had the track all to our selves. The track had just been watered down and made the track a little slick for the first few laps. I have had a secret wish to do some racing in my earlier days, so I jumped at the chance to do a little circle track driving. I couldn't have said it better, and I quote Phil Horine in saying, "this was the most fun I've had with my cloths on". I felt like what our fore fathers must have felt like after running a dirt track or even a banked board track back in the twenty's and thirty's. As I said earlier, the track was a little slick after watering, especially down the back side where it was shaded. After a few laps I got the feel of the car and track and could put #48 into a four wheel slide down the back straight away with control of the throttle. I'm not sure what the time would be for this quarter mile track, but I'm sure no one could beat me. This track looked a bit shorter than a quarter mile, and this was confirmed by a locate person that came out the see the close to 100 cars that made this event. We had a good showing of track roadsters, Midgets, Sprint & Silver crown cars and Super Modified, all from the early days of racing. Some of the drivers were in their eighties and could handle their cars like a much younger driver.

Saturday night was the grand finality with each group of cars racing with their group. The Speedster club had Jamie and Chris show up Friday night along with Ross Bradshaw and the car built by Harold Langdon. Ross had to leave early Saturday so wasn't able to put the car on the track Saturday night. The Speedster's were the first to run on Saturday night, and we had three cars for our final race. We were asked if we would feel comfortable with two other cars that didn't have a group to run with running in our main event. Both of these cars were very close to the speedster era and could have raced with the Model T's. One car was a Cragger over head single man car race car with Model B engine, # 777 and the second was a Model B engine car with a four port Rily. This car broke a rocker arm Friday afternoon and everybody thought he would not run Saturday. He took out the push rods for the cylinder with the broken rocker arm and ran with us Saturday night. The car was still very fast. I'm sorry that I don't have the car number. The plan for the Speedster group was to have the two single man cars start a couple of car lengths behind the three speedsters. We had eight laps for our main event and put on a good show for the locale crowd. The Speedsters lead for about five or six laps, till the two man race cars caught the speedsters and passed.

I would like to say that I for one had a great time and felt that the Speedster club was very welcomed for this first event. The plans are to have an annual event for this race. I hope that this will come about. I would like to see as many cars as possible make this event next year from the Northwest Vintage Speedster Club. This event had cars from Arizona, Utah, California, Washington, and Oregon.

Submitted By:
Tom Elliott Car # 48