

THE BIG ONE

Rear engines only

A record turnout of 92 drivers representing sixteen American states and Canada attended the fourth annual running of an event known as 'The Big One' at the Hasselbach Kart Track in Fremont, northern Ohio.

The event caters for karters with an interest in rear engined American vintage karts from the period 1959 to 1972 and was held on the home circuit of the REAR (Rear Engine American Racers) organisation (www.rearenginekarts.com). Close to 150 rear engined American manufactured karts entered the meeting with the weekend



SAE/McCulloch with weight saving holes from a time before minimum weight limits



Jeff Troy's immaculate Homelite Spitfire powered by dual Homelite KL100s

catering for 100cc, 135cc, Dual and Classic classes. All machines were required to have American manufactured fan cooled engines, hard tyres and either dry shoe clutch and pipe or oil shoe clutch and can muffler. The

slogan for the weekend was "Run 'em the way they ran 'em".

Most karts were using a variety of McCulloch engines for power. West Bend, Power Products, Clinton and Homelite units were also in evidence. Examples of chassis from the manufacturers of that era namely Alley Kat, Blackhawk, Bug, Caretta, Dart, Evans, Fox, Go Kart, Homelite, Hornet, King, Lee, Margay, McCulloch, Neal, Percival, Pressweld, SAE and Swoopster were on display. Only Bug, Margay and SAE continue in present day kart production, however Dart karts are reproduced by a company called Robron and a



Bob Kurkowski in period race dress with his early '60s Lancer

gentleman from California recently remanufactured a batch of Go Kart 1200 frames and Go Power wheels.

Stalls selling engine parts, reproduction period stickers, remanufactured upholstery, chassis parts such as engine mounts and complete frames for restoration projects provided interesting viewing.

Although many quick laps were run around the picturesque circuit, no actual racing took place. Nevertheless, awards were presented. Congratulations go to Devin Troy, Tom Lutenbach, Jeff Troy, and Paul Booth for being chosen by their fellow vintage karters as the recipients of the Fantastic Four awards. They received a 'Biggie', actually a small gold plated trophy representing a kart in recognition of their outstanding efforts in restoring their machinery.

'Biggie' presentations were also made to Glen Davis, Gil Burg and Randy Sordelet for their unselfish efforts to help make the hobby of rear engined karting so enjoyable.

Thanks are due to the organisers who provided free lunch and cool drinks for all who attended each day and the following sponsors who made the event possible: American Power Sports, Azusa Engineering, Gil Berge, Burris Corporation, Jeff Campbell, John Copeland of Fox Valley Kart Shop, Ron Cubel, Randy and Hanson Duncan, Al Eshman, FMC, Sonny Gerber, GD Engineering (Tank), Henry Motor Sports, Klotz Lubricants, Bob Kurkowski, L&H Industrial, Virg Love, National Kart News, Power Pads, Don Renton, Robron, Ed Sahagian, S&M Karting, S&N Engineering, Randy Sordelet, Target Distributing, Don Thompson, Rob Voska and Pierre Wang.

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