



SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AUTO RACING COMMISSION  
and the  
MUSEUM of SPEED at THE BEDFORD FAIRGROUNDS  
2019 1st Quarter News Letter

The Museum of Speed Members hit the ground running for 2019 by holding their annual pre-season race party fund raiser on Saturday evening February 2nd. A capacity crowd at the Bedford American Legion enjoyed food, beverage, and fellowship. Former driver's were interviewed, and the attendees participated in a drawing for prizes and an auction for race memorabilia. Again this year artist Jeff Lindsay donated several of his outstanding race car sketches for all to enjoy and bid on. MoS Member Don Metzler received the President's award from Eric Zembower for donating his time and material in an effort to refurbish the former Gus Frear garage. Don was presented a beautiful Lindsay portrait of several cars raced by local legend Gerald Chamberlain. The Board Member's want to thank everyone for coming out to support the Museum's party, and also kudos to the American Legion's staff for their assistance and hospitality.

Through the efforts of Museum Board and Advisory Members work continues to renovate the former Gus Frear garage in order to hold meetings, and more importantly to store and organize our donated items. And speaking of donations, former super late model racer Will Rowe gifted the Museum a former Jeff Purvis raced chassis. The frame is in excellent shape and will be be totally restored in the future by Museum Members. We want to thank Willy for his generosity by supporting the Museum, and for just being a good guy.

With the addition of donations and inventory the Museum Board determined that establishing a fictitious name that will encompass all of the MoS's assets would be beneficial long term. So the Southern Pennsylvania Historical Auto Racing Commission, or SPHARC, was born and designated as our official blanket name. In other words our future fairgrounds museum, and the former Frear buildings will all fall under the heading of SPHARC. Frankly we feel fortunate and blessed to plan for the day when this umbrella term will be useful from a business standpoint as we acquire assets for the Museum.

The Museum's engineering firm continues to develop the site and structure plans for our Museum building. Chief architect, Brian Endler, has indicated he should have preliminary drawings completed for our review by early April. This is exciting news, however we realize the difficult task will then begin to modify any changes we want to incorporate into the design. Let the process begin!

Also on tap for the last weekend in March are sit down interviews with 3 of the all time great area drivers as we continue to add to our future educational video library. Woodbury's Bob Elbin Sr, Windber's Bobby Marhefka, and Johnstown's Jimmy Burns have agreed to sit down with Eric Zembower to share their racing memories and experiences. These 3 drivers were giants in their day on area speedways, winning multiple features and championships starting in the 1950's. In fact Bob Elbin continues to field a championship car and Bob Marhefka is involved with his son's car on the local racing circuit.

Look for the MoS Members at Bedford and other area speedways this summer with an assortment of nostalgic race photos from the John Pittman collection. Over 90 of your favorite drivers from the 1960's and 70's will be available and displayed on a professional style sandwich board just as John took to the speedways over 50 years ago. It will be a collectors treasure trove of the stars and cars of the past as we celebrate our racing heritage. Our 1st edition tee-shirts will also be available at the photo stand. Credit cards, checks, or cash will be accepted.

And finally, plans are in the works for the MoS to hold a special event in the Jordan Hall area of the fairgrounds during the Keystone Cup weekend on Saturday September 28th. A variety of activities may include driver interviews and autograph signings, food and beverage, raffles, games, and much more. Please follow our web site and face book page for further schedules and details throughout the summer. Circle September 28th on your calendar and be part of a fun day and enjoyable weekend.

Best Regards,

SPHARC

Southern Pennsylvania Historical Auto Racing Commission