

Harry A. Miller Club News



Rutherford speaks at banquet.



JR in 1928 Miller #14



*1928 500 Winner Miller #14.
Display car courtesy of Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum.*

Indy 500 Champion Johnny Rutherford Attends 25th Running of the Harry A. Miller Vintage Indy Car Event



*Margery Uihlein serves as Grand Marshal in 1930 Stutz owned by Carl Jensen.
Steve Zautke photo*



*Johnny Rutherford and Bob McConnell discuss Belanger Kurtis-Offy.
Steve Zautke photo*

For twenty-five years, the Harry A. Miller Club has positioned itself as the premier vintage oval racing event on the calendar. With the guidance of Club founder, the late David V. Uihlein, Sr. along with co-founders, Chuck Davis and Bob Sutherland, their

innovative idea of an event honoring the genius of Miller's vast accomplishments, along with other fellow builders of superb open wheel machinery has continued on today. Countless restorers, car owners, drivers, participants and fans appreciate what the





The roadsters were once again an impressive group at the Miller event.



Bill Hoff in 1935 Miller Ford. (Rich Zimmermann photo)



Preparing for a run on the oval.

esteemed founders of the Club have built on, thus, making this event the one racing enthusiast circle on their schedule.

Celebrating their 25th anniversary on the Milwaukee Mile, the Harry Miller Club (HMC) was blessed with the presence of three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Johnny Rutherford. The pleasant Texan, also known as Lone Star J.R., sincerely enjoyed himself at the event, driving several cars, including a Miller – which was one of his long-time goals. With his easy going style, this knowledgeable racing historian spoke with fans at the track on Friday and Saturday. He also spoke at the Club's banquet, sharing entertaining stories of his racing career. J.R. also donated a helmet for the Silent Auction, which greatly benefited the Club.

The event held every year at the historic Milwaukee Mile racetrack is more than just some "old cars motoring around a track." It's the friendships and reunions that are revered every year by Club members and newcomers who share their love for open wheel history. It's not only the cars being on track, but the unofficial paddock car show, unique memorabilia on sale and on display, interesting anecdotes and camaraderie that makes this event so special.

This event is exceptional because of the car owners and their willingness to bring their treasured cars to the HMC Meet. Special thanks to car owners such as Dana Mecum, who once again brought a fine collection of notable vintage race cars including the 1923 'Tommy Milton' Miller, the gorgeous V-16 Miller and the popular Gilmore Sparks-Weirick made famous by legendary Rex Mays who himself also holds a special place in the annals of history at the 'Mile. Also Mecum's Sparks-Thorne 'Big Six' along



Roadsters take a run on the Mile.



Herb Lederer in 1957 Dayton Steel Wheel Spec. (Rich Zimmermann photo)

with the Indianapolis winning Blue Crown Spl. of Bill Holland and the Springfield Welding Spl. Kurtis that Chuck Stevenson drove to a National Championship were crowd pleasers. Mecum considers the Miller Meet, “his Christmas” and many including this author agree with him.

Several other owners of Harry Miller cars were present at the Meet including, Tom Barbour (1926 Perfect Circle Miller 91), Brent Castle (Tommy Milton 1921 Durant-Miller), Bill Hoff (1935 Miller-Ford), and first timer, Bobby Green whose 1931 DePalma Spl. Miller was a delightful addition. Green's entry and enthusiasm for the history of the sport and the HMC Meet was a welcome inclusion to the event.



Tom Malloy, Miller Board Member, in his Miller-Winfield racecar.



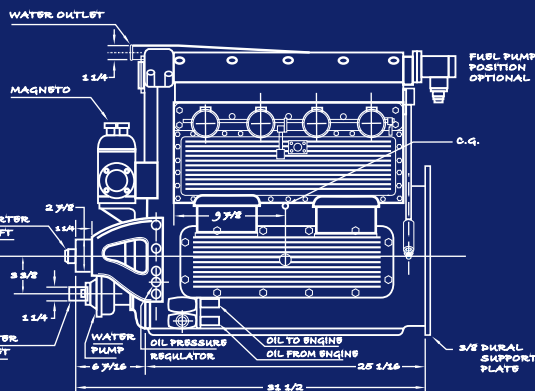
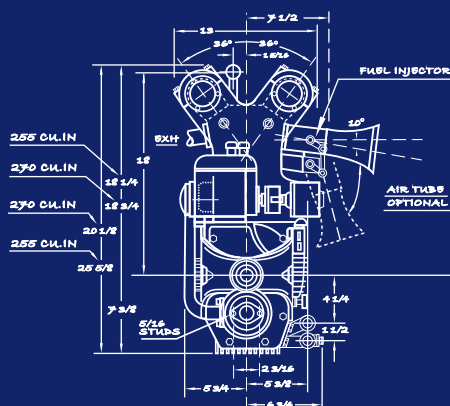
Elliott Reitz runs oval in Ford racing car.

PHIL REILLY & CO., INC.

HOME OF
Offy Dave

Vintage Automobile Restoration and Preparation

philreillyco.com



415-924-9022



OFFY



Geugeot

MEYER-DRAKE

SPARKS-THORNE





Entrants gather for the annual Drivers' Meeting.

"A Passion for Performance"

Tom Malloy – Owner, Ed Pink Racing Engines

Great engines are designed with one purpose, ultimate performance. Ed Pink Racing Engines has the talent and capabilities to provide the most innovative designs for top performance and endurance.

- Ed Pink Racing Engines builds on a strong tradition of experience and racing success: 55 years of dedication to motorsport racing
- Staff of skilled technicians & race engine designers has over 200 combined years of experience – unique to the industry!
- Your one stop source for
 - Race engine design
 - Customized parts for any engine – we will reverse engineer & reproduce out-of-stock components!
 - State of the art service & testing



ed.pink
RACING ENGINES
TOM MALLOY COMPANY

818.785.6740
14612 Raymer St.
Van Nuys, CA 91405
EdPinkRacingEngines.com

Owners with multiple entries included Malloy whose Bowes Seal Fast Spl Miller- Winfield known as the "first Novi" was greeted with lots of oohs and aahs from the railbirds especially when the powerful V-8 originally built by Fred Offenhauser, Leo Goosen and the brothers, Bud and Ed Winfield was fired up. Malloy also brought recently restored 1909 Locomobile "Cobe Cup" racer which turned quite a few heads. The car's magnificent sound echoed throughout the historic speedway for the enjoyment of the many fans in attendance. Joe Freeman's multiple car entry is always popular with many as is Bob McConnell's notable pair of entries. Mecum and Green's unique original Gilmore Cup Fords were interesting entries and turned out to make great historic 'camera cars' to the delight of many of those who saw their video footage of the HMC Meet on YouTube. Longtime supporter Herb Lederer and his son, Robert also presented a nifty trio of cars too.

Many thanks to presenting car owners, Eric Andersen, Mick Anderson, Lou Burmeister, Tom Clifford, Ted Davis, Jeff Decker, Dr. Robert Dicks, Eldon Eby, Rob Heyden, Carl Jensen, Chuck Jones, Scott Larson, Bruce Linsmeyer, Mike Lynn, Glenn Miller, Harold Peters, Larry Pfitzenmaier, Elliott Reitz, Bob Receveur, Bob Ryan, David Schreiner, Carl Schulz, Bob Sirna, Bud Taylor, and HMC Club President Tedd Zamjahn for their support for their support to making this event possible.

51-cars took laps on the historic Milwaukee Mile track. However, additionally several priceless "static display" race cars were also in attendance. Special thanks to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum and Executive Director, Betsy Smith for displaying the 1928 Indianapolis 500 winning rear-drive Miller driven by Louie Meyer. Built in 1926, the car finished third in the 1927 "500" with the talented Tony Gulotta behind the wheel.



Just a few of the vintage race cars on display, waiting for the track to open.



Miller entrants have the unique experience of unlimited track time on the mile.

A year later, former automobile manufacturer, Alden Sampson who hired the talented rookie Meyer, purchased it just a week prior to qualifications. Meyer drove a steady race as some more exotic front-wheel drive Millers dropped out with mechanical issues. Gulotta led late before a clogged fuel line thwarted his chances as the 24-year old Meyer led the final 18-laps to victory. The win cemented Harry A. Miller's name in the record books, and equally impressive was that 24 of the 29 cars that started the "500" that year, were powered by Miller-built engines.

Speedway Motors Museum of Lincoln, NE proudly displayed the lightweight Cornelian that Eddie Rickenbacker drove in the 1915 "500." Thanks to John MacKichan, along with Clay Smith of Speedway Motors for their unwavering support of the event.

The Club also thanks the event sponsors, which include, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance/Bill Warner; Gaslight Auto Parts/Bob McConnell; Ed Pink Engines/Tom Malloy; Racemaker Press/Joe Freeman; Phil Reilly & Co./Brian Madden and State Farm Insurance for their steadfast support. The Club also thanks Dana and Patti Mecum for their continued unwavering support.

Friends of the Miller Club is a great way for members to financially support the organization. Friends include, Tom Barbour, Mark Heathman, Mike Heffrom, Jim Himmelsbach, Bill Hoff, Carl and Carrol Jensen, Larry Pfitzenmaier, Scott Romanski, Carl Schulz, Edward Soens, Margery Uihlein and Tedd Zamjahn.

Because of the Democratic National Convention being held in Milwaukee next year early July, the 26th Miller Meet will be presented on Friday and Saturday, June 26-27th, 2020.

– Steve Zautke



Margery Uihlein and son Gregg Kuehn visited with entrants after she served as Grand Marshal of the Millers at Milwaukee Meet. The Miller Club greatly appreciates Margery's continued support of the club.



Tom Barbour takes the wheel in his 1926 Miller Perfect Circle. (Rich Zimmermann photo)

the McConnell Collection

preserving the past

shown by appointment
937.631.0313

Can we help you locate a race car, or part?
Bob McConnell
Gaslight Auto Parts, 1445 S. U.S. Hwy 68
P.O. Box 291, Urbana, Ohio 43078

Message from President Tedd Zamjahn —

The 25th Was An Event to Remember

Reflecting on our 25th anniversary of the Millers at Milwaukee Vintage Car Event, I hope all of you had as wonderful time as I did. The weather was perfect, and there was very few breakdowns. Having Johnny Rutherford as our guest speaker at the Friday night dinner was a special treat for all of us. What a gentleman! The format in which Johnny was interviewed really worked well. I especially enjoyed the story of the time his fellow racers pranked him - having the public address system announce, "Johnny, your wife and kids are at the back gate", just as his girlfriend, and later wife of many years, was introducing Johnny to her parents. Good to have friends!

An especially memorable moment for me during the weekend was the appearance of Margery Uihlein. She arrived at the track early, traveling with her daughter and son-in law, to take part in our yearly group photo. We all appreciate her

continued support of the Harry Miller Club. I would also like to convey a special thank you to Carl Jensen, for his careful ride on the Mile with Mrs. Uihlein.

I would personally like to thank both Phil Reilly and Tom Barbour for accepting positions on the Miller Club Board of Directors. Phil's voice of reason and many, many years in our hobby will be invaluable to our club. Tom's passion for Millers goes without saying, and he too will be a great asset to our group. This issue of the Miller News we are featuring Phil Reilly, and in our winter issue we will feature Tom Barbour.

Looking ahead to our twenty sixth annual event in June of 2020, it is my belief that we can reach the magic number of 60 entrants. Some of our regular participants with great cars have already verbally committed that they will attend our 2020 event. Please consider it and submit your entry forms in early. I look forward to seeing all of you at our 2020 event!

A Warm Welcome To New Miller Club Board Member

Phil Reilly's Passion for Vintage Restoration Became Lifelong Career



My poor mother never had a chance; all her dreams of a "professional" war baby son were blown up when her brother took me to a car race in 1954. What sealed the deal was when Jud Larson put me in the seat of his winning car at the Sacramento 100-miler in 1956.

Born in San Francisco in 1943, the allure of auto racing drew me in early. After high school, a couple of promising college prospects were scuttled by cars. I eventually graduated from San Francisco State College, but it all seemed to bend around the racing schedule.

The best thing in my life happened in the midst of that time when Katherine Roberts said yes and we were married in 1968.

I got my SCCA racing license in 1964 and raced a bit, mostly in a Triumph TR-4. After getting out of the service, I lucked into a job with Joe Huffaker. Joe was at a downstroke in his career so it was just him and me. It was an incredible opportunity with this brilliant guy and I soaked up every minute.

In late 1974 I went to work for Stephen Griswold in Berkeley doing 'vintage restoration'. We caught the wave of restoring old race cars and the then brand new Monterey Historic Automobile Races. It was a wonderful six years working on the world's greatest cars with some remarkable people.

For a variety of reasons I left Griswold's in 1980 and started my own company in the garage at my home. My first employee was Jim Stranberg who had in his baggage a Miller 91 engine project for Bob Sutherland. Thus began a long Miller file which included Bob, Chuck Davis, Charles Nearburg, Joe Freeman, Joe McPherson and Dano Davis.

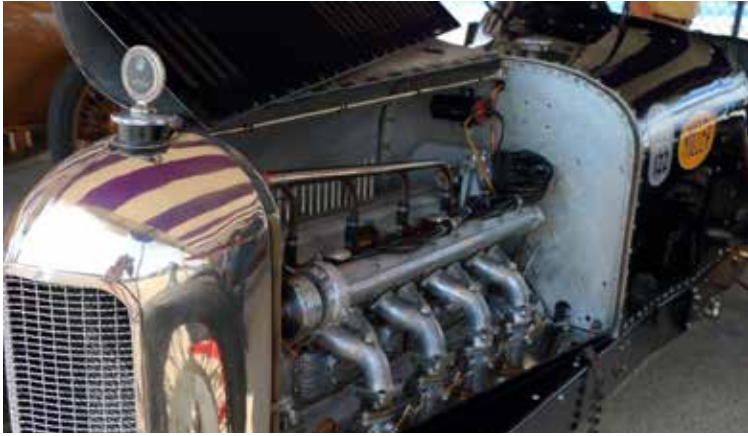
It never got any better.

My partners Ross Cummings and Ivan Zarembo and I ran Phil Reilly & Co. for more than 30 years and worked on many remarkable cars, but the Millers always rose to the top.

The Millers at Milwaukee is the culmination and celebration of this for me. It is the best thing you can do with a car and a thoroughly unique event where everyone "gets it". It is something to be cherished and nurtured because it is such a singular opportunity to experience and share these cars in the environment they were designed for.

Nothing else like it!

The roar of the engines is what makes the Miller Event so unique!



good state



better state

Real savings should fold, not jingle. Make sure you get all the discounts you deserve. Talk to a State Farm® agent about a FREE Discount Double Check®, or go to statefarm.com® today and keep your savings crisp. **Get to a better State®. Get State Farm.**

 **State Farm®**

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL 61820



COMING SOON!

Michael Argetsinger's new biography of **Bobby Marshman**

In a fine narrative of Marshman's meteoric rise to the top of American championship racing, author Argetsinger captures the amazing career of one of America's greatest talents behind the wheel, whose life was sadly cut short by a tragic testing accident at Phoenix in November of 1964.

**AN AMERICAN RACER:
BOBBY MARSHMAN
AND THE INDIANAPOLIS 500**

Racemaker Press
39 Church Street
Boston, MA 02116

RACEMAKER.com
(617) 723-6533



Mark Your Calendars for the 2020 Millers at Milwaukee Event June 26-27, 2020



2019 Miller Entrants

Thanks
to Johnny
Rutherford, for
donating his
helmet for our
silent auction.



Club Membership Fees Now Due For 2020!

Loyal Members – those who have maintained their membership prior to 2011: \$25

New and all other members who have joined since 2011: \$40

New members please print membership form
from Club website and forward with check for \$40. (harrymillerclub.com).

Please mail your check to:
Harry Miller Club
P.O. Box 740762
Boynton Beach, FL 33474

Harry A. Miller Club Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board:

Dana Mecum
Office, 262- 275-5050

President:

Tedd Zamjahn
Office, 414-403-7697

Directors:

Tom Barbour
Brian Brunkhorst
Dan Davis
Lenore Heinzelmenn
Tom Malloy
Bob McConnell
Phil Reilly
Bill Warner

This newsletter welcomes contributions, photos, and suggestions. We hope to feature stories about members' car restorations or other news pertinent to vintage auto collectors. All items submitted for the newsletter shall be considered an expressed warranty by the author that said material is in no way an infringement upon the rights of others. Editor : Lenore Heinzelmenn

The Harry Miller Club News is published three times per year, and is printed for the auto racing enthusiast interested in open wheel history. The next deadline for submission is December 10, 2020.

