

Demonos Monthly Rag February 2009

Well the New Year started out under the weather, but that didn't stop the yearly New Years Day Run sponsored by the Model T Club. The run itself lasted one and half hours and ended at Godfathers Pizza for the buffet lunch. There were approximately fifty (50) cars and 100 + people in attendance. It was really a blast and everyone had fun.



*Member's Ride
"Rick Nelson"*



Contributing Member
"John Mansfield"

August, 1965. I had just returned home from a five year stint in the U.S. Navy. It was a hot Saturday afternoon and I was cruising in my '51 Chevy coupe up the hill in Puyallup toward Thun Field, home of Saturday night drag racing. The 283 cubic inch engine was purring along quietly.

I turned down the road toward the ticket booths, windows rolled down, and the roar of engines could be heard in the distance. It sort of builds up the adrenalin in a person; anticipation, the thoughts of walking through the 'pits,' seeing big name drivers, the smell of nitro, burning rubber and hot oil.

There was quite a line of cars waiting to get in, then finding a place to park was a challenge. Vaaarrrrrrroooooom ! A deafening roar was heard, the ground shook, as I reached the fence near the starting area. All I could see was a cloud of smoke, slowly drifting toward me in the gentle breeze.

Two rows of spectator stands lined the track, filled with boisterous fans, all on their feet, shouting for their favorite drivers as new E.T. times and speeds were showing at the finish line.

A voice on the loudspeakers was heard saying, "Here's the man you've been waiting for, race fans. Up next in the left lane is The King, Jerry Ruth, in his AA / F (double A fuel) dragster; making a solo run. This was the first time I'd seen Jerry. In his 20-foot long needle nose dragster, in gleaming red, white and blue stripes. His big block blown '57 Chrysler Hemi roared to life as he did a burn out to warm the monster racing slicks. You could see them grow in height and narrow in width as they were put under tremendous revolutions per minute.

The timing lights came on, yellow, yellow, green. The noise of the engine was deafening; as I had to cover my ears, when The King roared down the strip, leaving a cloud of dense rubber smoke, wafting over the stands.

"You're not going to believe this," said the announcer. "Jerry Ruth just set a new speed record of 218.6 miles an hour."



Next up to the line were the home built hotrods, Daddy's work cars, altered, an Anglia with a blown 427. This was really fun! You felt sorry for the drivers who stalled on the starting line, the eager beavers that left the line too early and "red lighted," the agony on faces of pit crews as they watched engines blow oil all over the track.

Push trucks hurried down the side roads of the track to get down to the end of the quarter mile strip and retrieve their racecars and drivers.



Watching the races became a regular Saturday event for me. I took home movies and photographs of the action on the strip, the hustle and bustle in the pits, as each weekend produced a new set of drivers, cars, higher speeds and times. Names such as Don "The Snake" Prudhomme, Tom "The Mongoose" McEwen, "TV Tommy Ivo" in his 4-engine Buick dragster; Dick Landy in his hemi-powered wheel standing Dodge Dart, "The Green Elephant" from Jim Green Chevrolet in Seattle, Chris Karamasenes, and the list goes on.

Once in a while, you'd see some of the guys in the Demonos Car Club of Tacoma, out there pushing their 389 Pontiac powered A/Altered '32 Ford deuce coupe. It always seemed that they pushed it farther than they ever drove it, but it was fun to watch.

Terry McDonald had his Devon bodied racer out there too, and we always rooted for him to beat the competition.

One thing for sure; after a day of breaking in new motors, tweaking carburetion systems, and long hours of working on the cars to get them ready, it all boiled down to the final races of the evening. When final pairings were matched up for trophies and a little purse money, everyone enjoyed watching their favorites under the lights.

Although today's racers break records in the 4-second 335 m.p.h. range, it doesn't quite seem the same, or as much fun, as the good ol' days at Thun Field.

Article and photos by John Mansfield Demonos Car Club since 1958.

Upcoming Events:

Next Club Meeting
February 5th , 2009 - 6:00 pm
Walden Brothers Speed Shop
119th Street South & Pacific Avenue
Call 474-8889 if lost

The club has been meeting for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday at Cowgirl Up. During the winter months it was agreed to change the time from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Come and have fun, drink coffee, eat breakfast if you wish and when you can.

Below are list of tentative 1st Thursday's of the month for our club meetings. Review those to see if there are any conflicts with events the club is participating in so we can finalize and vote on those dates in January. (Dates in **red** indicate a change from the 1st Thursday)

Jan 8	Feb 5	Mar 5
Apr 2	May 7	Jun 4
Jul 2 (9)	Aug 6	Sep 3
Oct 1	Nov 5	Dec 3

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Upcoming Shows/Swap Meets:



Sacramento Autorama February 6 – 8, 2009



San Francisco Rod, Custom & Motorcycle Show Cow Palace
February 20 – 22, 2009



Blackie Gejeian's Fresno Autorama March 13 – 15, 2009
50th Anniversary

Puyallup Fairgrounds:

Corvette Swap Meet February 7 - 8, 2009

Early Bird Swap Meet February 14 – 15, 2009

Northwest Drag Racing Swap Meet February 15, 2009
Vancouver, WA

Almost Spring Swap Meet March 14 – 15, 2009

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Demonos Car Club Merchandise:

Old Style T-Shirts in Black or White M/L/XL/XXXL	\$15.00
New Style Shirts in Black/White or Gray M-XXXL	\$20.00
Black Hooded Sweatshirts XXL/XXXL	\$25.00
Car Plaques 50 th Reunion (Aluminum)	\$20.00
Car Plaques 50 th Reunion (Brass)	\$30.00
Three Piece Jacket Patches	\$50.00

Call Joe for specific size and color availability on 253-468-0772

The Demonos Monthly Rag will be a free monthly publication. Articles, stories, technical tips, pictures and related materials solicited for inclusion should be mailed to the editor and received by the third Friday of each month.

The club meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise notified. The meetings begin at 6:00 pm but we encourage everyone to come early for hot dogs, chips and bull. It is the responsibility of the sponsors of new member applicants to notify those individuals of the meetings and any changes that may occur.

Remember the next club meeting is February 5th , 2009 at 6:00 pm.

Your 2008-2009 officers are:

President	Jim Walden
Vice-President	Paul Kuchenmeister
Club Historian	Joe Shanks
Treasurer	Bill Hondle

Newsletter Editor

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Leads and Needs

Items for Sale

~~302 Ford Engine rebuilt several years ago, never been run
\$500.00 Contact Joe on 468-0772~~ **SOLD**

2 – 6.50 X 16 Tires on steel wheels 1930/31 Ford
\$30.00 Contact Joe on 468-0772

Items Wanted



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