



**Meadowdale International Raceways  
Preservation Association Newsletter**

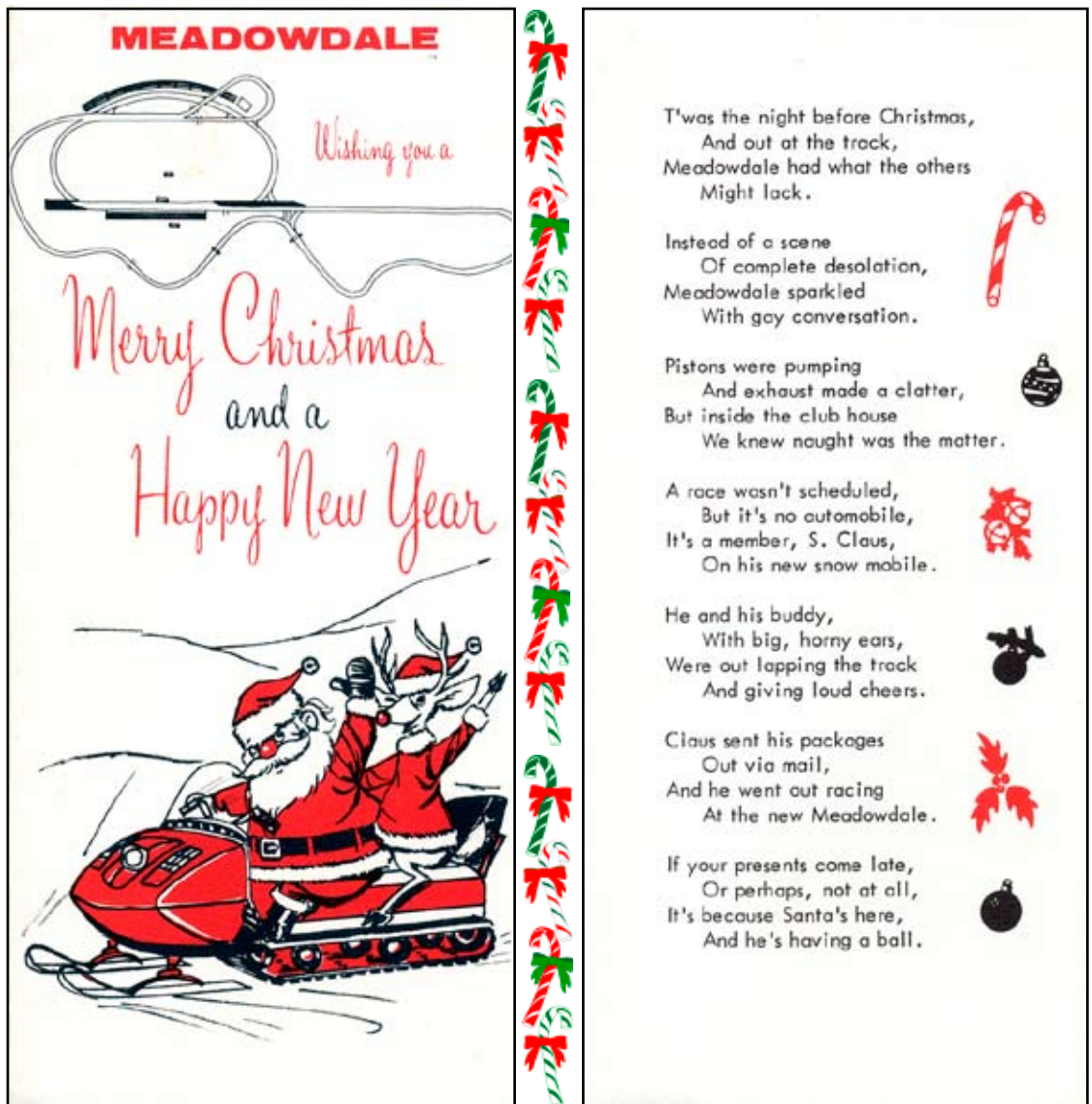
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**December 2010 Volume 1, Issue 3**

**MIRPA Winter Banquet And More**

As we close out the year, I want to thank all of our members, sponsors, and staff members that have made the 2nd year of MIRPA memorable. We had a wet "Motorsports & Memories" event in September, and unfortunately did not have the participation we had hoped for. We are not deterred and are already making plans for the 2011 event on September 17th. A more immediate event on our calendar is the 2nd Annual Winter Banquet on February 5th that will feature racing legend and 1986 Indy 500 winner, **Bobby Rahal!** Bobby's Dad, Mike Rahal raced at Meadowdale. Event details will be coming in your mail shortly and we'll be updating the website and our Facebook page with more details. For the moment, enjoy the Holiday season and this vintage 1968 Christmas Card that captured the spirit of the era.

Linda Daro



T'was the night before Christmas,  
And out at the track,  
Meadowdale had what the others  
Might lack.

Instead of a scene  
Of complete desolation,  
Meadowdale sparkled  
With gay conversation.

Pistons were pumping  
And exhaust made a clatter,  
But inside the club house  
We knew nought was the matter.

A race wasn't scheduled,  
But it's no automobile,  
It's a member, S. Claus,  
On his new snow mobile.

He and his buddy,  
With big, horny ears,  
Were out lapping the track  
And giving loud cheers.

Claus sent his packages  
Out via mail,  
And he went out racing  
At the new Meadowdale.

If your presents come late,  
Or perhaps, not at all,  
It's because Santa's here,  
And he's having a ball.

# Just A Few Of Ronnie's Meadowdale Memories

By Ronnie Kaplan



On MIR's opening I was doing the Nickey Corvette with Jim Jeffords driving. As I remember, the Stephani's joined in with Besinger and the Polk Brothers in the promotion and advertising for the opening, so we were treated as celebs, like the Reventlow group and Dick Doane and who ever else was there. It was an SCCA event and we ran in B Production. We had fast time in all the practices and won the race. Our victory was celebrated with radio interviews by famous Chicago broadcaster Fayhe Flinn. It turned out to be a bad opening event because the grounds were not prepared and the week end was windy and hot so it was very dusty, there were not enough toilets, and the concessions were out of food and drink by early afternoon. Here is where the Nickey group fell in love with the Scarab (they won the main event and were by far faster than anything we had seen to date) and the campaign to purchase one was executed.

Another memory of MIR was in '59 for the USAC Formula Libre race. Earlier in the year Nickey sold the Scarab to Bob Wilke of Leader Card Fame and I went with the car. Leader Cards entered the Scarab with Jim as driver and a Midget with Roger Ward as driver. I was responsible for both cars. (The midget was the one I revamped to do the Formula One race at Sebring in December that year). Both cars were very fast in all the practice sessions and qualified first and second, with the Midget on the pole. When the green flag dropped they took off and ran away from the field with Ward leading and Jim chasing him. An attempt was made to slow them down by pit signals because it was obvious that the Monza Wall was punishing the cars at the speed they were running. They were racing each other and ignored the pit signals. Somewhere around ten laps the right rear spring shock bracket on the Scarab broke and retired the Scarab. A lap or two Later the right rear shock on the midget broke so both cars were out of the race.

I participated in several other events at MIR but none that stand out in my memory until the TransAm race in 1968. I can't for sure remember the particulars of that race other than George Folmer's engine expired and he crashed down in the Small Monza turn and Peter Revson stopped for a left front tire a few laps from the end and still finished second. Mark Donahue won, and on the parade lap had his left front go down.

I did quite a few vehicle tests at MIR. It was a very good test track because of the variation in corner radii elevations. I did flip a Chev-Elva there and was very lucky in that I was pitched out before it lit upside down.

## Meadowdale Race Course Improvements Continue



Meadowdale sat in disrepair for a number of years following closure in 1969. There was significant erosion of the North end of the main straight, which in recent history was referred to as the "Wash-Out". Overgrowth of the North end of the track at "Little Monza" and the Wash-Out made that part of the track largely inaccessible.

Recent efforts of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, working with the Dundee Township Park District has led to the completion of Phase 3 of the master plan for the Meadowdale site. A pedestrian bridge relocated from the South Elgin, Stearns Rd project was installed in November, completing a crucial link in the trail system of "Raceway Woods". Visitors can now walk, bike, or jog the path of the original 3.27 mile course.

Photo: Chris Monaco

### *The Monza Wall Newsletter - About Us*

"The Monza Wall" is the official newsletter publication of The Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association (MIRPA). The almost quarterly publication is provided to the members of the MIRPA organization. Material published herein may not be reprinted without permission from the MIRPA Organization. The opinions and information presented in this newsletter are the best-effort results of our collective minds. We welcome your input and clarity on topics that you feel may need additional background. We request the opportunity to preserve your stories of Meadowdale. Please take a few moments and send us some of your favorite memories/photos.

Article submission is encouraged and accepted in MS Word format or as plain text format via eMail. When submitting photos or artwork, please request the material to be returned if that is desired.

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## Motorsports & Memories Car Show - September 2010



Dick Dittman's 1953 Kurtis Kraft 4000. Driver Jack McGrath started the Indy 500 on the front row and finished 5th in this car. Jack ran the Milwaukee Mile one week later won the race! This car only ran on the dirt in '54 and '55 and had many wins.



Tony Delorenzo, the winningest Corvette driver ever raced many times at Meadowdale. Tony and Linda Daro greeted many old friends at the annual Motorsports & Memories car show.



Vintage 1964 Crusader VSR, a VW powered Sports Racer.



There was a wide range of Meadowdale memorabilia for the guests.

### Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association Individual Membership Application Fee: \$35 Club or Organization Membership Application Fee: \$100

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to MIRPA, and Mail to:

**Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association**  
300 Jandus Rd. #109  
Cary, IL 60013

## 2011 Meadowdale Event Schedule

### Saturday, February 5th: MIRPA Winter Banquet - Save the Date!

The 2nd Annual Meadowdale International Raceways Preservation Association Winter Banquet will be held at Randall Oaks Golf Club, located on Binney Road, just West of Randall Road in West Dundee. This event will include guest speaker, and racing legend, **Bobby Rahal**. Registration forms and details will be available shortly.

### Saturday, September 17th: Motorsports & Memories Car Show

Plans are being made for the 3rd annual Meadowdale Motorsports & Memories Car show. The event will be held at MIR, Raceway Woods in Carpentersville, Illinois. We are currently seeking volunteers, vendors, car clubs and community groups to help ensure the success of the event. If you are interested, contact Linda Daro at [ld1enterprise@aol.com](mailto:ld1enterprise@aol.com) or at 847-421-2891.

### First Saturday of Every Month - Beginning in March:

Join MIRPA members and guests in sharing a donut and discussion at Driveable Dreams in Cary, Illinois between 8:00 and 12:00 noon. Meadowdale memorabilia, photos, and motorsports bench racing is featured. The first regular 1st Saturday meetings of 2011 will be on Saturday, March 5th. Notification of alternate meetings in January and February will be posted on the Website, Facebook, and via email.

Please check our website for up-to-date information: [www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org)

## Support Our MIRPA Sponsors



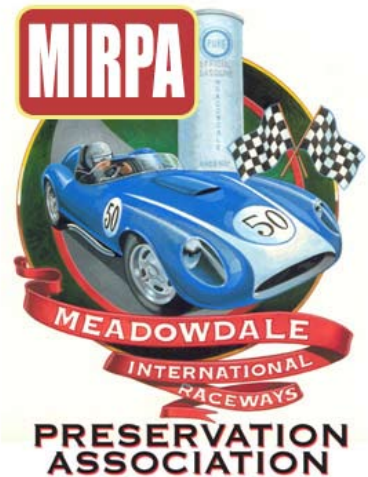
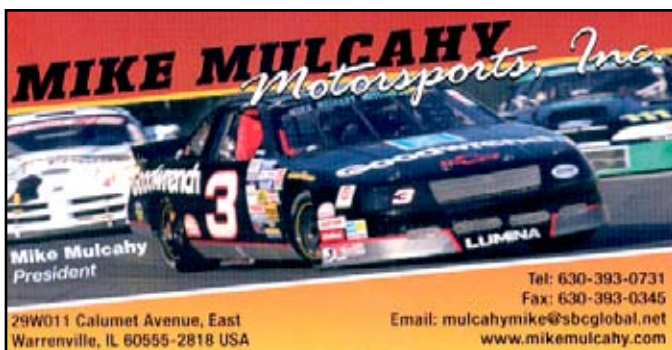
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International Raceways  
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300 Jandus Rd. #109  
Cary, Illinois 60013

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847-421-2891

### First Saturday of the Month



Coffee & Cars 8:00 am - Noon  
300 Jandus #109  
Cary, IL 60013  
Info: [www.driveabledreams.net](http://www.driveabledreams.net)

