

# 35+ YEARS OF NASCAR AT EVERGREEN, AND THE FRED BUTLER - JOHN GAY *MEMORIAL* HALL OF FAME

By Benson Chandler

Evergreen Speedway celebrated 35 years of Saturday night racing under the NASCAR banner this past season. But the “modern era” actually started in 1965, when local auto racers were officially organized into two distinctly different racing “clubs”, called F.E.A.R. for the figure-8 racers, and F.S.C.R.A. for the foreign-stock racers. The dirt track and rodeo arena was paved over, lights were put up and the covered grandstands finally built. Soon the 3/8<sup>th</sup> was added, and in 1985 NASCAR came aboard, and this Evergreen Speedway Hall of Fame was created.

## “For outstanding dedication and contributions to auto racing”

...was sometimes printed on the annual award, and always on the header in the program each season. The “Hall of Fame” was created by (then) Promoter Mickey Beadle in 1985, and with that goal in mind, the “Hall” has consistently inducted special people, most of them exceptional racers, or long time employees. Several exceptional supporters of our track have also been inducted over the years. In fact, this Hall of Fame was re-dedicated in 1988, after the tragic double loss of super supporter Fred Butler, and top Super-stock racer, John Gay. Both were inducted into the Hall that year posthumously, and their names added to the top of the Hall of Fame “Memorial” header here and in the Program, so both might remain in our hearts, forever.

Our latest Hall of Fame inductee is Mr. **Tom Glithero**. Scroll down to learn about the life of this one-time Evergreen GM, “Super-spotter” and radio/TV personality under the year **2020**. As we continue through our third quarter-century of racing at Evergreen Speedway, still guided by Doug & Traci Hobbs, along with Derek Hobbs and the other fine folks at Highroad Promotions.

**1985** was when it all started. I asked Mickey Beadle at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary NASCAR Awards Banquet about the creation of this “Hall” - and about his choice for the first inductee, “Crazy” **Carl Zaretzke**, back then. “Carl was a ‘no-brainer’ choice, a real legend - and the track’s first SUPERSTAR,” said Mickey. Already a 4-time Champion in the Figure-8 Superstock division between 1971 and 1975, Carl was among the first to embrace this new NASCAR connection. In fact, Carl went on to win the NASCAR Superstock Oval Championship three out of the first four seasons! A Charter member of FEAR, meaning he helped create the Figure-8 Club back in 1965, Carl is also a FEAR Hall of Fame member, of course, and his famous #2 was retired by the Figure-8 club in 1992. A Lake Stevens resident and the father of popular (former) Superstock Champ John Zaretzke, BOTH were inducted into the Evergreen Speedway “Top 50 Drivers” club (now: “top 65 drivers”) back in 2004. And finally, “Crazy Carl” Zaretzke was also inducted into the prestigious Snohomish County SPORTS Hall of Fame, back in 2019. His third “Hall of Fame” induction - and the very first Evergreen Speedway driver to so be honored!

In **1986**, Mickey inducted the first of several couples, **Dale** and **Gail Youmans**, into his new Evergreen Speedway "Hall of Fame". Both had already been involved with racing for over 20 years by then! Dale, like Carl, helped start FEAR as a charter member, and was its initial Club treasurer. After several years of Figure-8 racing, Dale went on to be the Figure-8 pit boss, then flagman, and Chief Steward of the track, before joining his wife Gail as an official lap counter for the next two decades. Recently retired from the Cascade Push Truck Assn. after 10+ years of service, Dale had also been inducted into the FEAR "Hall of Fame" several years back, as he and Gail celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> season of outstanding dedication to both the Figure-8 Club, and to Evergreen Speedway. Sadly we lost Dale November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. May he rest in peace.

**1987** saw the fourth induction into the new Hall of Fame, Mr. **Lyle Merrifield**. Another early member of FEAR, Lyle started out racing Mopars in the late 60's, winning the 1970 "Super" Class championship with co-driver John Beeson, in a '62 Plymouth. For well over 25 years Lyle was a huge supporter of both the track and the racing community through his business, Northwest Auto Wrecking, in south Seattle. After being either a sponsor or car owner of Championship winning drivers like Beeson, Vern Dietz, Joe Constance and Don Nolan, Lyle went on to work with the Cascade Push Truck Assn. for many more years, driving his hot-rod El Camino. Lyle retired with wife Misty to Boring, Oregon, where he passed away in Dec, 2019.

As mentioned before, **1988** was a tragic year for the track as we lost two very dedicated and popular gentlemen, **Fred Butler** and **John Gay**. Fred succumbed to a heart attack (at just 58 years old) that June, and two months later John was involved in Evergreen's most horrific racing incident, piling into the rear of another Superstock car which had stalled on the backstretch of the 3/8. Both men were heavily involved at Evergreen, as were their kids and their wives, Althea and Marti, who was actually the videographer filming John's tragic final race. The Butlers lived near Kirkland and owned Aldercrest Auto Rebuild for some 20 years. Staunch supporters of son Tobey and his glowing racing career, they are the only family inducted separately into this Hall (1996 and 2006). **John Gay** was a contractor specializing in building laundromats around the Northwest. The father of 6 was a Snohomish resident who started his racing hobby in the Figure-8 club, was voted onto the first FEAR Super (oval) board, then helped create and support the early NASCAR Superstock division. 1988 was when the Hall was renamed the Evergreen Speedway Fred Butler-John Gay *Memorial* Hall of Fame.

**1989** saw the only induction of a "club" into the Evergreen Speedway Hall of Fame, as the **Cascade Push Truck Association** became, as a group, the seventh inductee. Mickey Beadle still says "we could not race at Evergreen without the help of these dedicated volunteers!" **CPTA** was first created in 1971, making 2021 their 50th anniversary! Membership ranges between 12 and 15 skilled, neatly dressed members each season, all with cool looking, well-equipped trucks. Always seeking new members, they ask that if you want to join Cascade and help out at Evergreen Speedway, to contact any driver for Club requirements and information.

**1990** Hall of Fame member **Gene Brookover** was, like so many in this Hall, a skilled Figure-8 driver *and* a former FEAR President (1983), before joining the staff at Evergreen Speedway. Known as "*Kaptin Blackflag*" from his hard driving style on the track, "Geno" had spent his last 25 years as a NASCAR "tech" official, not only here, but earlier with Mickey Beadle at South Sound Speedway, and later with the NASCAR NW Tour series. A Vietnam veteran and mechanic by trade, it was exactly 20 years after *this* induction that he was also posthumously inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame, after losing a tough battle with cancer in the summer of 2010. Gene is loved and missed by all, including wife Kathy, and kids Gene Jr., Diane, and Lee.

**1991** saw the induction of two very popular racers, **Mike Estabrook** and **Ralph Lewis**. Both were early FEAR members. Ralph, who raced for nearly 25 years, starting in the late 60's, was often on the FEAR Board, as was his wife, Leslie. The father of two, and grandfather of 5 now, Lewis finally retired from Safeway beverages. **Estabrook**, who joined FEAR in the 70's, was famous for often having the "best appearing" car, with the SHINIEST tires in track history! Both were instrumental in the early creation of the NASCAR Superstock division, and both drivers were very successful at it before retiring from racing. Mike still lives in Burien, and is a master mechanic, while Snohomish residents Ralph and Leslie Lewis were involved with son Gary's racing career (see 2006), with Ralph helping the younger Lewis out, working as his crew chief.

**1992** saw the induction of **The Pearce Family** into this Hall of Fame. The first of two "family" inductions, Frank "Pops" Pearce and his son Gary each spent three decades actually taking care of Evergreen Speedway, both during the week and on Saturday nights. "Pops" worked first for Snohomish County as the official groundskeeper, then a couple of years with Mickey Beadle at South Sound Speedway, where he also controlled the sweep and safety crews. We lost "Pops" in 2005. Gary worked for the State during the week and helped his brother Neil, who raced Mini-Stocks. Mrs. Pearce even helped with running practices and play dates before passing away in 1980. "Grandparents of 14 and great-grandparents of six more!" said Gary, with pride. After a couple more seasons working here, Gary, who lives in Everett with wife Dawn, retired for good in 2014 but still enjoys fishing and day-tripping. Sadly, Neil passed 1/21.

**1993** saw the induction of **Mick** and **Randi Tomlin**, both longtime employees of Evergreen Speedway with deep roots in the Figure-8 club. Mick was the FEAR President four times between 1978 and 1982, when membership was over 600 strong! He raced on the Figure-8 track for 10+ years, in both divisions, always with the #72 that was retired by FEAR in 1991, when Mick was inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame. After a couple of seasons as our Figure-8 pit boss, Mick assumed the role of Track Steward from 1984 thru 1991. **Randi Tomlin** spent 11 years at the back gate and was involved with the FEAR women's auxiliary (where she had met Mick), and was then elected Club treasurer for two years. Retired from both racing and

from Boeing, Mick and Randi lived for years quietly by the Skagit River in Concrete, WA. Mick succumbed to pneumonia Nov. 1, 2014, after a successful five month long battle with cancer.

**1994** HoF member **Joe Nye** was another former Figure-8 racer who moved up, and into the Track Steward seat, between 1991 and 1995, after working the Figure-8 pits for a couple of years. Joe and his brother Ted raced Fords together for over four earlier seasons, always with the distinctive (and probably unlicensed) Seahawks paint scheme! Ted went on to be a flagger at Evergreen for several years when his brother hung up his racing helmet. Very popular with the drivers and fans at Evergreen Speedway, both the brothers were married with kids, lived in the Clearview area, and both worked at Boeing. Sadly, Joe took his own life the following year.

**1995** HoF members **Dick Avalo** and **Cole Porter** were both longtime supporters of the track - Avalo as an employee and Porter through his photography and press expertise. "*Official*" Dick Avalo actually got his start at ES in the early 70's by joining the new Cascade Push Truck Assn. and pushing the guys around with his Jeep! After a couple of seasons racing on the Figure-8 track, Dick went on to be a pit boss, flagman and Chief Steward. A widower since 2008 after losing his wife Bobbie, and retired from Coca-Cola and Evergreen Speedway, Dick lives in South Everett, and is a great-grandfather of five! **Cole Porter** was a quiet "behind the scenes" guy who worked for the Seattle Times 28 years as the photo editor before moving on to Getty Images in 2005. A grandfather of 13 and living in Kirkland, Cole owned race cars, helped with both Evergreen press releases and photos over the years, and was a renowned photographer whose auto racing and WTO riot photos had been published all across America.

**1996** Hall inductees were another great couple, **Phyllis** and **Gordy Stewart**. Gordy was a top "modified" racer in the late 60's and 70's before switching over to the pavement of Evergreen Speedway. As a FEAR member, Gordy was one of the last to race a '57 Chevy on the 8 track, then among the earliest NASCAR Superstock (oval) drivers. An Evergreen "Top 50" driver in 2004, Stewart also helped his son Gaylon win two NASCAR "Bomber" Championships. Gordy lost Phyllis in 2009, after 44 years of marriage. Mrs. Stewart had been involved with the operations of Evergreen Speedway since the earliest days of IPI, working as a lap counter, an office manager/bookkeeper, and as John Beadle's "right hand." Gordy passed away Jan. 6, 2015, but remained a big fan of auto racing and Evergreen Speedway, right up to the very end.

**1997** saw the induction of **Althea Butler** into the Evergreen Speedway Hall of Fame. Althea was a popular and loyal employee for close to three decades, starting out first in advertising sales and at the back gate, before spending several years as Mickey Beadle's administrative assistant in the front office. The daughter of a Seattle area racer, Althea was widowed when she lost longtime husband Fred, in 1988. Althea stayed with IPI at Evergreen until Mickey's retirement in 2007. Now living in the Snohomish area and herself actually retired, Althea is the mother of three, Kayla, Jana and Tobey (see 2006), and is also a proud grandmother of seven.

**1998** HoF member **Lee Daily** made history a few years back, as *that* seaplane pilot who created a “national emergency” by landing in Kenmore - while POTUS was in town! Jets were scrambled, the Secret Service involved, and one of the top racecar drivers in Evergreen history was *really* famous now! A three-time Champion on the Figure-8 track (in *both* divisions) and FEAR President in 1980, Lee went on to win the FEAR “Oval” Championship in 1981, before moving up to the Winston West division. Lee was inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame in 1990, and his #20 officially retired. The owner of 1998 Superstock Champion John Zaretzke’s “Miller Lite” Ford, Lee was named a “Top 50” driver in 2004, as Evergreen celebrated 50 years of racing. Retired now from his trucking company, Lee Daily is still hunting, fishing...and flying!

**1999** saw the induction of **Steve Dunn**, another dedicated 30-year employee at Evergreen Speedway, into the Hall of Fame. Steve spent five years racing on the Figure-8 track before moving into the role of Figure-8 pit boss. Meanwhile he also helped with time-ins, drove the tow trucks and later was Asst. Steward for a few years, then Track Steward for six more years. Dunn grew up in the Kenmore area but has been a Snohomish area resident for 16+ years. Married to Joann over 25 years now, they have two children, Tasha and Sara. Steve has worked in Everett at Boeing “building airplanes” for over 30 years now, but on weekends, he is still a big fan of auto racing, and is back at Evergreen Speedway working as the Race Director!

**2000** saw **The Ruddell Family** inducted into the Hall. Carole was first to work at the track, starting in 1980, initially at the front gate, then in the office as administrative assistant and bookkeeper, as her husband Bill raced each week on the 8-track. Carole retired after 30 years of working at Evergreen. Next was daughter Amanda who started selling programs at age 6, helped out at the front gate for years before also moving into the front office, for a total of 28 years here! Carole’s parents Clayton and Eleanor both spent over ten years each working at Evergreen until they passed away, within weeks of each other, and just one year after sharing this honor with their daughter, granddaughter and grandsons, Charlie and David, who were both racers and employees as well. Carole and Bill still live in Monroe, and remain racing fans.

**2001** Hall member **Gib Repass** was a good friend of ES as a longtime NASCAR executive. The Director of the NW Tour for over 20 years, Gib was also the Winston West director for several years. A long time friend of the Beadle family, Mickey said “he was known by all as an extremely fair man, because Gib was himself a fine racer from way back.” Gilbert Raymond Repass, Jr. was also a retired Navy Chief who spent his final days at his home in Bremerton, before passing away on Dec. 18, 2010, at the young age of 76. “Gib”, who grew up in Virginia, and loving wife of 56 years, Jean, were proud parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

**2002** saw **Dennis Keeler** and **Gary Breakfield** honored for their dedication to the Speedway as exceptional and longtime employees. Dennis spent over 25 years as Chief Steward and

assistant manager under his brother-in-law Mickey, while his wife Chris worked nearly as long at the back gate, and in the front office. A resident of North Bend, Dennis is now retired from the State highway department. **Gary Breakfield** started out as a mechanic on Jerry Smith's Figure-8 car back in the 60's before assuming the role of head flagger in the 70's. Gary, from Ballard, then went on to be the pit boss for a total of 28 years of service, before finally joining the Cascade Push Truck Assn. back in 1999, where he remains today. Married to Schotzi, and grandfather of 7, Gary retired from Seattle Parks and delivers cars for Lee Johnson Chevrolet.

**2003** HoF members **Gary Cressey** and **Tom Moriarity** were both honored by ES for their many years dedicated to our track. Gary "*Hollywood*" Cressey started out his announcing career at Evergreen back in the 80's, calling the big NASCAR West series events each season. The one-time track promoter at Shasta Speedway, Gary was an ordained minister *and* a former beer distributor who had announced at thousands of events, at 51 different tracks, over a 50+ year career! Although born and raised in Seattle, "*Hollywood*" actually commuted each weekend for 12 years from his home in Redding, California to announce at Evergreen. Gary passed away Feb.15<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the age of 80, and will be missed forever by family, friends and fans. **Tom Moriarity** was crowned the 2010 Super Late Model Champion *again* after he returned to the weekly battle at Evergreen, a year after winning the South Sound Superstock Championship. An Evergreen Speedway "Top 50" driver, a three-time Mini-Stock Champion and (now) six-time champion in the Superstock division, Tom also won the NASCAR Great West regional Championship in 2001. The Monroe resident is married to Terri, and the father of four, TJ, Tianna, Trisha, and Trenton. A "rookie" racer in 2014, young Trenton went on to be a 2-time Mini-Stock Champ, moved up to Dad's car, and was the 2017 Late model Champion!

**2004** Hall member **Bob Beadle** was "the Man" behind the IPI curtain. Wife Dorothy was the woman behind the man, and they were the proud parents of two sons, Mickey and Terry. Bob started out as a drag racer back in the late 50's, successfully raced "modifieds" in the 60's, and later created the International Drivers Challenge series. Bob owned a stock car team, and co-created the "Dirt Cup" in the 70's, before forming International Productions Inc. (IPI) and taking over promoting Evergreen in 1978, with his brother John, and two other partners. Bob was owner of Aircraft Standards in Ballard and grew up in Seattle, but loved his ranch and fishing boat in Hawaii, as well. Sadly we lost Mr. B in 2008, nine years after Dorothy passed away. I was proud to be invited to his memorial/wake that was MC'd by the late Reverend Cressey, along with several hundred of Bob's trusty and closest friends and family, who will all miss him.

**2005** HoF member **Ben Chandler** a.k.a. "*the Wizard*", fancies himself to be both a writer *and* a former Figure-8 racer! Proudly inducted into this Hall on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his "rookie season," the 1977 Stock class Champion was an eight-term FEAR President, between 1985 and 2003, and an Evergreen "Top 50" driver. Chandler helped create the Stinger-8 class, in which he raced for a dozen years, always with the unique "back-to-back" #99 that was retired

by FEAR when he was inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame in 1994. The first 40-year FEAR driver, Chandler has actually raced in SIX of his own decades! Managing the club, now on Fb @ **FEAR racing memories**, helps keep the retired lifelong Bellevue resident and fan of all sorts of racing busy, but he is also an avid boater, traveler, motorcyclist, poker and pool player.

**2006** saw the induction of **Tobey Butler** and **Gary Lewis**, two of the best drivers to have successfully moved up, and moved on from their home track, here in Monroe. Both are second generation members of this Hall of Fame, and both were inducted into the "Top 50 drivers" of Evergreen back in 2004. Both won several Championships here, and they even work at Longacre Racing Products together. Tobey was 1976 Mini-Stock B-Champ and "rookie of the year" at the age of 16, and the '82 Superstock Champ at just 22. Married to Sherri, and the father of Cody and Tori, Butler won the 1987 NW Tour Championship before moving up to ARCA, then joined the Craftsman Truck series in the early 90's, placing 10<sup>th</sup> in '95, before retiring. **Gary Lewis** was Evergreen's first NASCAR "Bomber" class Champion in 1986, and our Superstock Champion in 1992. Lewis went on to win the 1998 and the 2006 NW Tour Championships, 2007 ARCA West Championship, and 2009 ASA NW Tour Championship. The father of 2, Zach and Kyle, Gary just competes now in the biggest races in the Northwest. A 4-time winner of the Montana 200, 3-time Idaho 200 Champ, and 3-time winner of the NOS Road Course Challenge, he even raced in South Africa, finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> in the "Free State 500."

**2007** is the year **Doug Hobbs** was chosen for this memorial Hall of Fame, after two decades of "behind the scenes" support of Evergreen Speedway. Initially with the NW Chevy dealers and Alley Chevrolet, Doug was then GM at Speedway Chevrolet, for nearly 9 years. Doug has been a track, racecar and Superstock series sponsor since the late 80's. Working with Chevrolet, NASCAR, Goodwill Games, Seafair and 6 Olympic Games, Doug is using that world stage experience to help rebuild Evergreen Speedway, along with his wife, Traci, who leads the Sales and Marketing team. The Hobbs family took over the Speedway in 2011, and have an unprecedented 25 year agreement. Originally from Leavenworth, Doug is the proud father of 2, Derek and RaChelle. RaChelle helped launch the first season, while Derek is now the Associate Promoter. RaChelle's husband, Ben Greaby, helps announce special events at Evergreen Speedway, as well as at the annual Slam-Fest event, held in Puyallup each spring.

**2008** marked the end of an era at Evergreen as **Mickey** and **Lyn Beadle** were, for the first time in 30 years, no longer in charge of promoting the races at Evergreen Speedway. Mickey retired as the President of IPI, but had always fancied himself a Figure-8 racer in the early days. He created the Figure-8 "Nationals" and helped create the "60 Minutes of FEAR," well before he was inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame in 2006, as FEAR celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> season. Married for over 30 years now, Mickey met Lyn at Evergreen, where she was involved with the FEAR Women's Auxiliary in the 70's and 80's. Now living in the picturesque town of

Rainier, WA, Mickey and Lyn run a beautifully restored bowling alley in nearby Yelm. Proud parents of four and grandparents of twelve... the Beadles are also great-grandparents of five!

**2009** HoF member **Mike Buse** is better known to fans as super-stuntman "*Mr. Dizzy*"! Mike is a longtime entertainer at Evergreen Speedway, a top Figure-8 and "Thunder-car" racer who acquired the nickname, he said, "because of all the donuts he made" before, during and after the various racing events. Now a resident Monroe, Mike sold popcorn, programs and hotdogs as a kid at Evergreen before attending Sultan High School. The proud father of son Wylee, Mike works during the week as owner of Genesis, an HVAC service company in Monroe. He owns several "world records" for "spiral" jumping strange vehicles like Limos, buses, motor homes and trailers. Fire and loud explosions are all fodder for our flying stuntman, "Mr. Dizzy"!

**2010** marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for NASCAR at Evergreen, and our Hall of Fame members, **Doug Delfel** and **Scott Ellsworth**, both celebrated anniversaries, as well. Doug was at the 35-year mark of his Figure-8 racing career, while Scott marked his 20<sup>th</sup> year as Announcer here. Delfel, known as "*the Grizz*," was a two-time Super-8 Champion, 2013 "Stock-8" Champion, and was the President of FEAR four different years. An Evergreen Speedway "Top 50" driver, Doug was inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame in 1999, when his #01 was "retired" by the Club. Doug has raced in five different decades, and is the *only* driver in track history to have raced the same class, and with the same number, for over 40 *consecutive* seasons! Married to Kelly and the father of two, Doug owns Harbour Pointe Towing Co. near his home in S.Everett.

**Scott Ellsworth** was inducted into this 2010 Hall of Fame, at what most thought was his final Evergreen appearance before "retiring" at 63. Newly married to Jan, after the loss of first wife Elly in '09, Scott was "re-energized" by the "Orville the Clown" entertainer of the year award he received from the Track Promoters Assn., *and* this Hall of Fame induction, and "unretired" for 5 more years. Scott and Jan, who also helped out with V.I.P.'s and special events at Evergreen Speedway, both retired in '14 and moved to Florida. They enjoy boating, fishing, and traveling.

**2011** HoF member **Doug Fisher** has been involved with both Evergreen Speedway and the Cascade Push Truck club for some 35 years now. A co-worker and friend, fellow HoF member Dick Avalo, initially turned Doug on to ES. He joined the pit crew of HoF member (and still best friend) Lee Daily in 1980, earning the "crew chief of the year" award while Lee won his final FEAR Championship in a Mustang. After several successful years of racing with Lee, Doug bought a little '55 Chevy pickup, and joined the Cascade Push Truck Assn., where he was both on the board, and elected Club President several times. Retired from both Coca-Cola and the CPTA now, Doug lives with wife Kay in Monroe. Cruising in his cool '41 Ford and fishing in Canada with Daily keeps our 2012 HoF member, and father of 3, quite happy in his retirement.

**2012** HoF member **Don Perry** first got involved in local auto racing back in 1956 at Aurora Speedway, north of Seattle, when Don convinced his boss at Westside Ford to donate the company truck for push-truck duty each week. The Navy veteran, who grew up in Bellingham, had also done some short track racing as a younger man. Don actually helped build the 3/8 track at Evergreen Speedway, trucking in tons of dirt, before becoming the track's very first flagman! In 1974 Perry was hit by an errant race car, and hospitalized for some six weeks, ending his time at Evergreen. Perry and his wife of 55 years, Virginia, spent the next 14 years working for NASCAR, flagging and doing tech work for the NW Tour, before a final 5-year stint working at Wenatchee Speedway together. Don and Virginia later moved from Everett to Arlington to be closer to their daughter, Monica, her husband Kirby and grandson Andrew. Virginia passed away in 2012. Sadly, "Dancin" Don Perry passed away in the summer of 2014.

**2013** HoF member **Daryl "D.W." Wheeler** was so proud to be the sixth Cascade Push Truck driver to be inducted into this Hall of Fame! D.W. earned the honor the old fashioned way, with his dedication to the track, and hard work here over the years. It all began when his nephew, Chuck Widdis, started racing Figure-8 cars around 1991. As a racing fan, D.W. noticed right off that the push truck guys had better and probably free seating, plus heaters! After 9+ years of push truck duties, Wheeler was asked to drive the Speedway pace car, which he enjoyed doing for some 7 years, starting in 2000. A retired electric machine repair expert, D.W. spent months rewiring the missing lights and broken sound system at the track a few years back, but remains involved with the push truck club. Married over 40 years to Judy, they are the parents of 5, with 13 grand and 7 great-grand children. Daryl grew up in Puyallup, went to high school in Renton, and lives in Kent. Once a drag racer and rodeo rider, D.W now simply loves to fish.

**2014** saw **Ron Daggett** and the late **Donnie Scriver** inducted into this Hall of Fame, both after many years of involvement with racing at Evergreen Speedway, and around the Northwest. Daggett earned the honor as a Championship driver, car builder and track official. Scriver, as a Championship winning race-car owner. It was over 40 years ago that Ron Daggett first bought an old car to race on the Figure-8 track. The Everett millwright had been drag racing for some 10 years, but needed more excitement in his life! Among the first FEAR drivers to race on "the oval" 35 years ago, Daggett was the very first NASCAR Superstock Champion, over 30 years ago. The Father of four tragically lost his son, Guy, our 1996 Evergreen Bomber Champ, in a work accident, back in 1999. Ron, who had been a trusted NASCAR tech official here at Evergreen Speedway for over 15 years, passed away just 2 months after his induction into this Hall of Fame, in March of 2015.

**Donnie Scriver** passed away January 1, 2014. He first got involved with racing in 1995, and owned the '01 and '02 NW Tour Champion car driven by Kevin Hamlin. In 2004 they missed the Championship by one point with "rookie of the year" driver, Travis Bennett behind the wheel. Scriver was the owner of Bowman Electro-painting in Snohomish, where he and Gloria raised 3 kids, Kim, Brian and Darren, aka "Buddha". The Summer Showdown annual Fast-time

award, sponsored by Joe's Racing Products, has been dedicated to the memory of our second 2014 Evergreen Speedway Hall of Fame member, Mr. Donnie Scriver. May he rest in peace.

**2015** finally saw the induction of **John Beadle** and **Vern Deitz** into the Hall of Fame, the year we celebrated 30 years of NASCAR at Evergreen. Ironically, BOTH dedicated roughly 30 years to the track! "*Uncle*" John was behind the scenes during the I.P.I. years, and Vern, aka "*the Crazy Cajun*" was a Championship winning super-star driver! It was 1978 when John and his brother Bob (2004) took over managing Evergreen Speedway, after creating International Productions Inc.(I.P.I.), along with 2 Canadian partners (thus the "International"). They bought out the Canadians by the 2nd year, and soon added nephew, Mickey (2008) as a 3<sup>rd</sup> partner. John grew up in Seattle, then spent 20 years in the U.S.A.F., retiring as a Sr. Master Sgt. He has managed or owned several bingo hall and ice skating properties in the area, once owned Olympia-Tenino Speedway, and the Kaddyshack, plus he ran Seattle Jr. Hockey Assn. for 36 years. "Uncle" John, the father of 2 is fully retired now, happily remarried to Ingrid and traveling the world, while splitting his golfing time between homes here in Mill Creek, and Palm Springs.

One of the winningest Figure-8 drivers in FEAR history, **Vernon Deitz** was a 21 year old rookie back in 1970, when he first appeared on the scene. He set his first (of many) track records in 1975, when the checkerboard rear quarter-panels and "*Crazy Cajun*" nickname first took hold. Winner of the 1982, '84 and '85 FEAR Championships, Vern won a staggering 20 Main events, and the very first Figure-8 "Nationals" in 1984 - then won it 2 more times in 1990 and in '94. An Evergreen Speedway "top-50" driver, of course, Vern was inducted into the FEAR Hall of Fame in 1995, when his famous #67 was "retired". Vern moved up to racing Superstocks on the oval for several years before retiring to the Arlington estate that he shared with his late wife Heather, where they breed Great Danes. Their sons Ricky Deitz, (2 in "Outlaw" F-8) and Jaime Corbett (1 in Hornet Division), have both won Championships at Evergreen Speedway, as well.

**2016** saw the induction of **Paula Drake** into this Hall of Fame, after an award winning 17- year career as Chief of Emergency services at Evergreen Speedway. Known as "*Momma Paula*" to so many of the drivers over the years, Paula hasn't actually "retired" to her home in Mukilteo, as she is still quite busy with her many other duties, including Second Wind, her CPR and safety training company, volunteering with Snohomish County disaster relief, and as the duty Chaplin for the Mukilteo Police Department. Paula grew up on a farm in Richland riding dirt bikes and horses, and was a champion barrel-racer! Sharing her golden years with Bill, her husband of 39 years is the plan, plus spending a lot more time with her 5 kids and 9 grandkids.

**2017** was the year **Rob Holden** and **Wayne Crum** were finally inducted into this Hall of Fame. Ironically, THIS year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holden's first of four Championships - and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final F-8 championship for Mr. Crum. Both drivers were instrumental in the start of NASCAR at Evergreen Speedway, both are members of the FEAR Hall of Fame, both were

voted "top-60" drivers in the history of our track, and both have kids that are still involved with racing, Wayne's grandson is too! Among the original 24 that created FEAR, the figure-8 club, back in 1965, Wayne was on the board several times, and voted the Club President 4 different years. The FEAR super-stock Champion in 1968, 1970 & 1978, he went on to promote Demoderbies in the Kingdome and even ran Evergreen Speedway one season, before I.P.I. took over in 1978. FEAR retired Crum's famous #100 just before he passed away in 2006, to honor Wayne Crum and wife Peggy, as the Club that he helped create celebrated its big 40<sup>th</sup> season.

A young **Rob Holden** stormed onto the Evergreen Figure-8 racing scene in 1977, cracking into the "top 10" with his big Chevy Impala in his "rookie" season, after missing most of the first quarter! He went on to win the stock F-8 Championship the next 2 seasons before moving up to the Oval track, winning 2 more Championships. Holden tried his luck on the N.W. tour, has raced several times at Bonneville Salt Flats and still enjoys racing an exotic Corvette on road courses, along with son, Jeff. Older son, Michael keeps Rob and his wife Tina involved with NASCAR racing at Evergreen Speedway, and is himself a 2-time Late model Champion here.

**2018** marks the induction of **Roger Habich** into this Hall of Fame. Now a talented crew chief and car builder, Roger got his start by watching his dad, "Doc" Habich racing Mini-stocks in the late 60's and the 70's. Racing in the new "bomber" class, and crewing for Leroy Anderson got young Roger thru the 80's, when he switched to Mini-stocks, winning both the Championship AND "Rookie-of-the-year" in 1990! From the mid-nineties to the late 2000's, Roger drove late models at Evergreen for himself, Danny Kennell and Jeff Knight, and in the NASCAR NW Tour for Kelly and LeAnne Tanner, ending up in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Ron Eaton, and earning "Rookie-of-the-year" in 1995. From '06 to '08 Habich even built and raced a fast '53 Studebaker in the LaCarrera Pan Americana! As a driver, crew chief and car builder, Roger claims over 200 race wins, 5 "Rookie of-the-year" titles...and an amazing 20 Championships with 7 different drivers!

**2019** inductee **Gordy Oberg** has a very long history at Evergreen Speedway, going back to its earliest dirt days. An enthusiastic driver, owner, and mechanical genius, Gordy built and raced nearly everything. After many successful early years of dirt racing, then drag racing, he got into NASCAR at Evergreen, plus Winston west and the NW Tour, where he saw a problem in the engine durability dept. It was nearly 40 years ago that Gordy re-invented the oil filter system that now most all racing teams in America still use! Old friends like Bill Elliott and Don Garlits both swore by the new Oberg filters. Local racers like Jack Jeffries, Ron Fritzley, Steve Hurley and John Bender did too. All were customers or partners, and all very close friends, as was the Cox family. Gordy, who grew up in Lynnwood, was a loving family man. Married to Judy for 52 years, their only son Kelly and wife Tracy gave him 2 grandsons. Sadly, we lost Gordy Oberg on February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 80 years old...less than a month after his induction into this Hall of Fame.

**2020** inductee **Tom Glithero** has been involved with racing in the Northwest for over a half-century, starting out a kid-fan, then a racer and administrator for the WMRA, before joining Evergreen Speedway from 1988 thru 1996. Hired by the Beadle family as their GM, Tom was responsible for the continued success of the big Motorcraft 500 races, NASCAR truck series and Winston West events back in their heyday, and helped create the exciting “60-minutes of FEAR” event that still thrills fans every summer! After a 2 year stint co-promoting at Yakima Speedway, Tom went to work for Longacre Racing Products, where he was V.P. of Sales and Marketing, until it moved out of state a few years back. Tom was also a top “spotter” for both John Zaretzke in 2004 and Shane Harding in '05 and '06, when they each won Super-stock Championships at Evergreen Speedway. And for nearly 10 years Glithero and co-host Steve Mortland spent most every Thursday evening on KRKO radio discussing racing from around the Northwest, which then evolved into their M/C duties for WARPA and co-hosting duties on local TV-11 for Evergreen Speedway’s “Home-Track Heroes” during the “covid year” of 2020. Married to Jan since 1979, the Glithero family proudly includes 2 daughters and 2 grandsons.

**So that is my 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary roundup of the Fred Butler-John Gay *Memorial* Hall of Fame membership here at Evergreen Speedway. It’s important to remember that there was another two decade period *before* this exciting NASCAR era, when the two clubs, FEAR and FSCRA, actually ran the weekly show, working over the years with several different promoters. And 10 years before *then* when only dirt modifieds and “jalopies” actually raced around on the dirt 5/8 track, and what was known then as the “rodeo arena” at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, in Monroe. So much information from those early years has been lost, forgotten and was undocumented. However, the *next* 35 years of racing should be well documented, and all of the future Hall of Fame inductees just as deserving and remembered, with Highroad Promotions in charge of a *whole NEW era!***

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