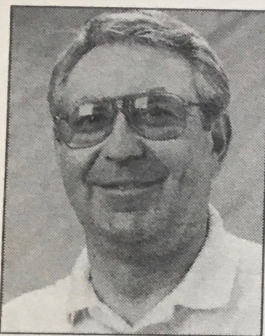


Lee Celebrates 10 Years



ACRL Action

American City Racing League by Roger Diez

Looking back over the first 10 years of ACRL competition, we note that **Rick Lee** and **Peter Zarcades**, two of the drivers in the very first ACRL race (held April 17, 1988 at Firebird Raceway in Phoenix) also ran the season opener at Portland in the series 10th season. To celebrate the anniversary, Lee, of Team Reno, scored the win at PIR!

Zarcades is now with Team Las Vegas, but 10 years ago he was part of the winning Team San Diego in that first ACRL race, partnered with teammates **Dick Gamble** and **Margie Smith-Haas**. **Rod Granberry** (San Francisco) was the first ACRL race winner, in a very competitive season that produced a different winner in each of the first three events. **Bob Lesnett** took the Riverside round on May 15, and **Bob Schader**, then running for Team Reno, captured the Sears Point outing on May 28. San Diego repeated as Team victor at Riverside, with **Paul Haas** driving for wife Margie. San Francisco was the Team winner in the second Sears Point round.

Historically, the ACRL series has had more female drivers than any other major road racing series (and Margie Smith-Haas as champion in 1994); and though none were in evidence at this year's season opener in Portland, more are expected to appear as the season unfolds. Long-time series regular Smith-Haas turned her car over to new teammate **Bob Young**, whose car was not yet ready, and will only run a limited schedule in 1997. She is the only woman to have ever won a U.S. professional road-racing championship title. Other women who have shown well in ACRL include **Arli Goldberg** (Most Improved Driver, 1991 and sixth in the points), **Sue Clegg** (Most Improved Driver, 1992 and fifth in the points), **Leslie Clark** (fourth in S2000 points, 1995) and **Barbie Kuhn**.

Though there were no female pilots on the

track at Portland, they are very much involved in running the show. Smith-Haas continues as the series administrator, and now **Marge Binks**, past chair of the SCCA BoD, has joined ACRL as Series Registrar. Marge will be a great asset, bringing with her almost 40 years of experience in racing. **Marilyn Hayslett** and her daughter, **Amber**, are also new to the staff, assisting **Larry Hardy**, the new technical administrator. Larry has a wealth of experience, including tech for Trans-Am, Indy Cars, and F1, as well as at Club Racing events. Other staff members include Chief Steward **Dick Templeton**, in his 10th season with ACRL, **Bob Stegall**, timing and scoring, and yours truly, series announcer and publicist.

There is a strong field of candidates for Rookie of the Year in 1997. Team Vancouver's **Mike Wright** got off to a great start at the season opener, charging from 12th on the grid to a second-place finish and the initial lead in the rookie standings, but he will not be able to run a full season due to his commitments in the PPG/CART World Series. **Dennis Pavlina** of Team Wilsonville surprised everyone with a second-place qualifying and strong run in the race until slowed by contact. **Steve Romak** of Team Fresno ran at Reno last year, and this year plans a full season in a Cosworth-powered car. Romak is hot on Wright's heels, qualifying in the top five and finishing fourth at Portland. Other rookie contenders are **Bill Bachofner** (Team Wilsonville), **John Ostlund** (Team Fresno), 1996 S2000 Driving Champion **Joe Gioski** (Team Woodland), **Gary Hewett** (Team Reno), **Mark Neuhaus** (Team Beverly Hills) and **Edd Ozard** (Team Reno). All these drivers scored points at PIR and I wouldn't be surprised if a few more rookies showed up in subsequent events.

Early indications are that the series will be more exciting than ever. Twenty-two cars entered the season opener, and a number of California cars that didn't want to risk Portland's iffy early May weather will increase the fields in subsequent races. The new Carbir chassis in the hands of **Jeff Glenn** has been impressive, and he led the race at PIR until a broken CV joint put him out of action on lap nine. Five more Carbir chassis are under construction, and a \$48,500 roller will accept either the Cosworth DOHC run in the ACRL's Supersports class or the SOHC motor used in the Sports 2000 class. Look for more Carbirs as the season develops.

This year Hoosier is providing a slightly

taller rear spec tire, and both the Carbir and Lola chassis seemed to take to the new tire very well at PIR, while some of the Swift teams were having problems. Las Vegas' **Chris Ronson** embarked on a serious testing program immediately after Portland to get his team's Swifts set

up properly for the new tire. Daeco Racing Gas will again be the official fuel of ACRL in 1997, and has instituted the Daeco "Pole Perfection" trophy for the polesitter at each race.

With one oval race (Mesa Marin), two street races (Vancouver, Reno), one oval/road course (Pikes Peak) and four natural road course races on the schedule, the series' 10th season will be varied, competitive and exciting. ■

American City Racing League Round 1: Portland International Raceway May 4, 1997

FINAL RESULTS: 25 laps, 47.95 miles.

Pos. (Start)	Driver	Chassis	Laps								
1. (6)	Rick Lee, Reno	Lola T-88/90	25								
2. (12)	Mike Wright, Vancouver	Lola	25								
3. (5)	Larry Vollum, Portland	Swift DB-5	25								
4. (4)	Stephen Romak, Fresno	Lola	25								
5. (13)	Chris Ronson, Las Vegas	Swift DB-5	25								
6. (2)	Dennis Pavlina, Wilsonville	Swift DB-5	25								
7. (14)	Bill Bachofner, Wilsonville	Swift DB-2/5	25								
8. (9)	Leo Sismani, Las Vegas	Swift/Falcon	25								
9. (11)	Peter Zarcades, Las Vegas	Swift DB-5	25								
10. (8)	John Ostlund, Fresno	Lola 89/90	25								
11. (10)	Joe Gioski, Woodland (Tiga Wasp)	25; 12. (16) Gary Hewett, Reno (Swift)	25; 13. (17) Mark Neuhaus, Beverly Hills (Swift DB-5)	24; 14. (15) Bob Young, San Diego (Falcon H-96)	24; 15. (21) Edd Ozard, Reno (Swift DB-2)	24; 16. (18) John Bachofner, Wilsonville (Swift DB-2/5)	24; 17. (20) Ian Wood, San Diego (Swift Db-2)	23; 18. (19) Frank Arnold, Fresno (Swift DB-2)	20; 19. (3) Jeff Clegg, Vancouver (Lola)	12, NR; 20. (1) Jeff Glenn, Beverly Hills (Swift DB-5)	10, NR.

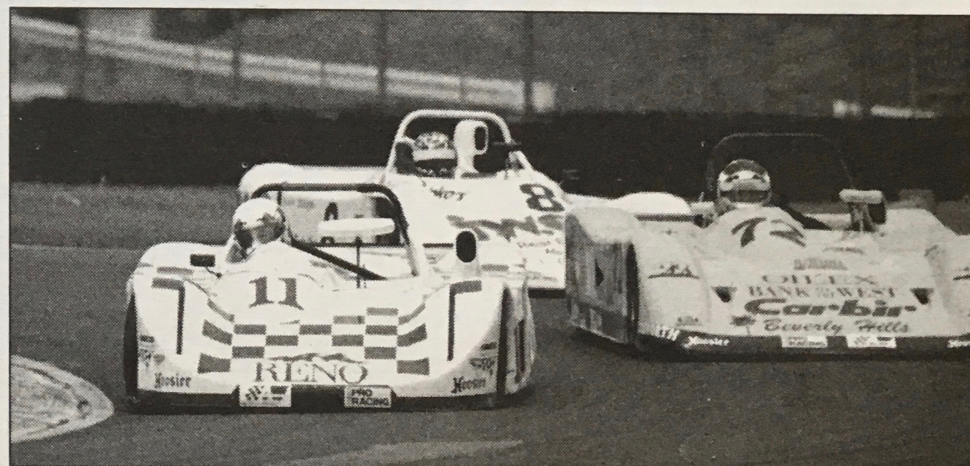
Time of Race: 29m2.036sec
Average Speed: 99.09mph; Margin of Victory: 8.322sec
Track Length: 1.916 miles
Fastest Qualifier: Glenn
Fastest Lap: Glenn, 1:08.872 (100.25mph)
Lap Leader: Glenn, 1-9; Lee, 10-25.

American City Racing League Round 2: Mesa Marin Raceway May 24, 1997

RESULTS: 75 laps, 37.5 miles.

Pos. (Start)	Driver/Team	Chassis	Laps				
1. (1)	Peter Zarcades/Las Vegas	Swift DB-5	75				
2. (4)	Jeff Glenn/Beverly Hills	Carbir	75				
3. (6)	Chris Ronson/Las Vegas	Swift DB-5	75				
4. (2)	Stephen Romack/Fresno	Lola	75				
5. (3)	John Ostlund/Fresno	Lola 89/90	75				
6. (7)	Gary Hewett/Reno	Swift	75				
7. (11)	Dennis Pavlina/Wilsonville	Swift DB-5	74				
8. (13)	Joe Gioski/Woodland	Tiga Wasp	73				
9. (12)	Rick Lee/Reno	Lola 89/90	73				
10. (8)	Frank Arnold/Fresno	Swift DB-2	73				
11. (9)	Jay Messenger/San Diego (Lola 89/90)	72; 12. (16) John Bachofner/Wilsonville (Swift DB-2/5)	71; 13. (17) Leo Gioski/Woodland (Tiga)	70; 14. (10) Edd Ozard/Reno Swift DB-2	64; 15. (5) Leo Sismani/Reno (Swift DB-5)	30; 16. (14) Bill Bachofner/Wilsonville (Swift DB-5)	9.

Time of Race: Unavailable
Average Speed: Unavailable
Margin of Victory: Unavailable
Track Length: 0.5 miles
Fastest Race Lap: Unavailable
Fastest Qualifying Lap: Zarcades, 19.008 (94.697mph)
Lap Leader: Zarcades, 1-75.



Rick Lee (11) goes under Jeff Glenn (72) to take the lead at Portland with Ian Wood behind. Lee is one of two active ACRL drivers to have run the first ACRL race 10 years ago. To celebrate his 10th anniversary, he won.