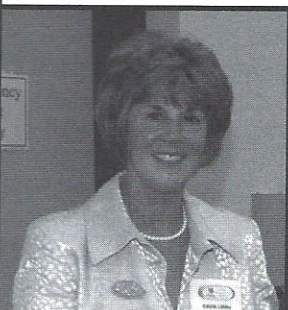


The Maine Motorsports Mobile Museum

by: Gayle Libby

One of the most important missions of our association was to establish a museum to help celebrate Maine's racing history.

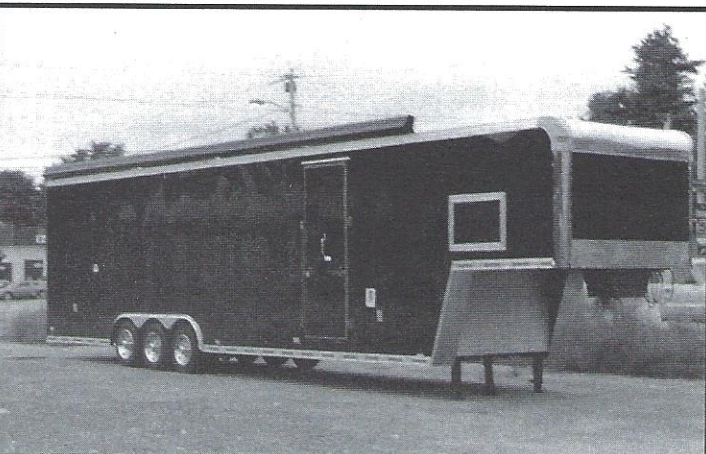


Gayle Libby

A mobile museum was suggested by an exploratory committee and within a few short months of this proposal, the club unanimously voted to purchase a 45 foot enclosed trailer to begin this project. This was made possible by a man well known for his passion for racing in the State of Maine - Bob Bahre. Every time this mobile unit hits the road, we have Bob, and his wife, Sandra to thank for this opportunity.

The first meeting of the Mobile Museum Steering Committee took place in February of 2009, with a goal in mind to have a presentation ready for Summerfest scheduled for August 2009. The team members included: Steve Pellerin, Buster Downing, Bob Turner, Dale McConnell Temm, Andy Cusack and Gayle Libby.

Our first challenge was to decide on the external design that would be a proud introduction of our racing heroes. Then a "goo be gone" crew, Andy and Glen Cusack, along with Dale Temm, prepped and cleaned the outside surface. The images featuring Hall of Fame Inductees were selected along with our logos and graphics. The layout was designed and applied by Steve Pellerin. Body repair work was done by Bob Turner and an extensive review and repair of safety features was completed by Bob Greeley's Truck and Repair. Buster Downing took charge of the transport and maintenance and, by then, it was almost time for the first debut.



The trailer as it was purchased at the end of 2008. The sides were covered with glue from previous graphics.

We admired all the work done by the team and volunteers to the outside ...but we knew that everyone would be now expecting something to view on the inside! So, Phyllis Wolstenhulme and her daughter, Barbara Sawyer, were recruited to help choose the photos, programs, tro-

phies and other memorabilia that would be on display representing the major Maine race tracks. Posters of the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame Inductees and plaques awarded to the inductees from Maine for the New England Antique Racers Hall of Fame were a main feature. Frank Dorrie supplemented our display, by setting up tables under the canopy, with his vast collection of photographs, and has continued that tradition at every show since!



Top and bottom: The Mobile Museum made its debut at Summerfest 2009 to rave reviews.

It was a rush to open but we all knew it was worth the effort, as hundreds of those who attended Summerfest filed through for the first time to look at the displays. The feedback was overwhelmingly enthusiastic!

The next investment was to purchase a "Canvas Garage" that would provide cover and protection of our museum. Andy and Ralph Cusack generously offered space at Beech Ridge Motor Speedway for its storage. The Cusack family has been a part of Maine racing for decades and has provided strong support for the Maine Vintage Race Car Association from its inception.

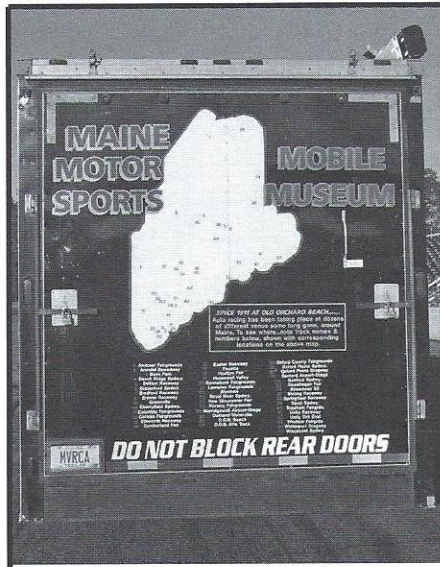
It was at this time that we received help from a new volunteer that joined our team, John Pettingill. He completed upgrades on everything from installing display cabinets, new lighting, framing pictures, and performing essential maintenance while working with "a frugal" approach AND a smile. This was a gift that we never expected. His "to do"

Continued on next page

“The Maine Motorsports Mobile Museum” continued

list is *always* a long one thanks to the requests from teammates Dale Temm and Gayle Libby. John has provided many great ideas to utilize the space we have to work with, to insure that we can represent racing history state wide.

After that first event, the requests for Mobile Museum appearances began to come in regularly. We have had the opportunity to be asked to the Northeast Motorsports Show in Augusta, the Car Show at Low’s Store at Bonny Eagle, the Reynolds Sport Center Annual Show, Unity Raceway Champions Night, Spud Week in Presque Isle for Spud Speedway, Vintage



The map of Maine on the tailgate has the location of every site to host a motorsports event in Maine.

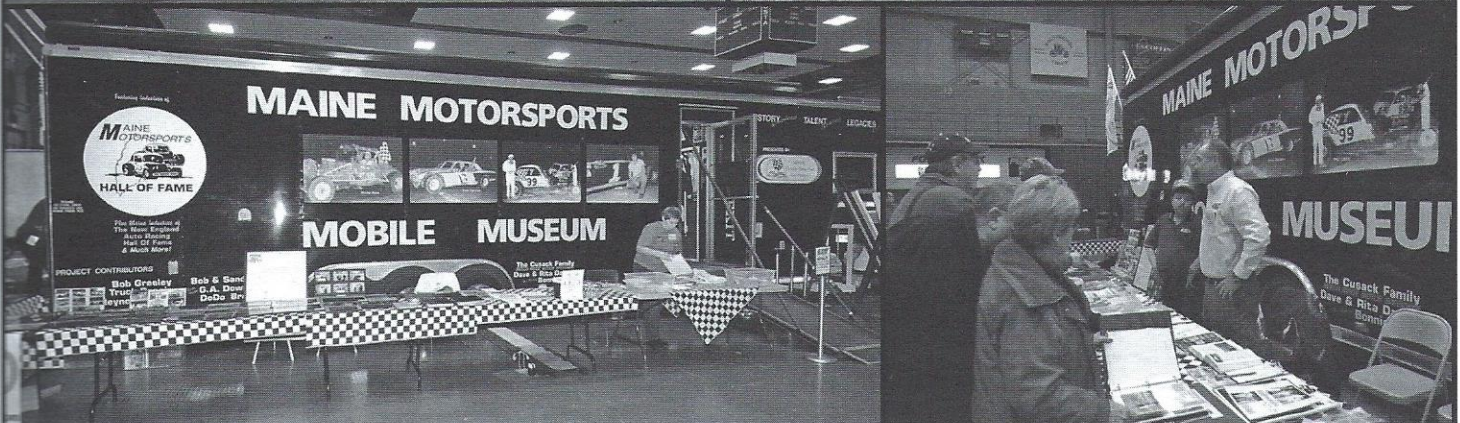
Week at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway and, of course, our own popular Summerfest at Beech Ridge.

Each event has given us a chance to upgrade and tailor our presentation to feature pictures and memorabilia that pertain to the local track near where we have appeared. Our goal to keep adding new items has been aided by many donations from Hall of Fame members, as well as, fans and club members. We have generously been offered vintage helmets, steering wheels, tires, racing suits, flags, trophies, jackets, photo albums, belt buckles, programs, pictures and the *priceless* gifts of time and skill from talented volunteers. We have been grateful for the significant donations made “In memory” and those of “In Appreciation”.

All of these things helped our team bring a piece of unique history to share with all who love racing in the State of Maine.

And, if you happen to see the Maine Motorsports Mobile Museum going down the road, you will see it transported by a semi tractor that would rival any equipment used by famous racing teams. Buster Downing comes through for MVRCA again!

A sincere “THANK YOU” to all who have worked on this project.



Top Row, left: Buster Downing and G.G. Downing, Inc. supplies the tractor to tow the Mobile Museum to various venues. Right: The tractor and the Mobile Museum is an impressive unit traveling the highways in Maine or, in the photo, “making laps” around Beech Ridge Motor Speedway with John Pettingill at the wheel. Bottom Row, left: Dale McConnell Temm puts the finishing touches on the Mobile Museum display at the Northeast Motorsports Expo. Right: Frank Dorrie and Dale Libby answer questions from races fans in the display area.