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Remember When: Estol Harp the ERacer

Estol is a very interesting name for a very interesting man. The Butler, Pennsylvania native is a major player in local racing at Lernerville Speedway. Harp sponsors the Eracers Bonus Bucks Program at Lernerville that allows drivers to compete for extra money up to \$1,000 if they win the feature on the night that they are chosen as the Bonus Bucks driver. The total prize grows by \$100 per week and it increases until some one wins or the total reaches \$1000.

Estol and his girlfriend, Cindy Drushel, operate Eracers Go Kart Park in Butler. The park features Sprint Karts, Indy Karts, Rookie Track, Bumper Boats, Slick Track, Road Course, Two Seat Karts, Wild West Mini-Golf and a Snack Bar. The park is the location for the Annual Pittsburgh Circle Track Club Family Outings in June and August.

The PCTC Annual Old Timers Social was held at Eracer's Go Kart Park Banquet Hall in Butler, PA on Saturday, November 15, 2008. There was a capacity crowd of guests on hand to enjoy the camaraderie and the extensive collection of racing memorabilia from Dave Burt.

Many of the former competitors, track officials and media in attendance included:

Jim Balentine
Milford Barber
Ralph Batykefer
Don Brandt
Jack Coley
Don Dahle
Val Dominick
Bud Garvey
Lynn Geisler
John Haefner
Carol Halbedl
Harry Hein
Mike Kemple
Chuck Kennedy
Dave Kohler
Bill Korch
Gus Linder
Barry Lucas
Don Luffy
Dave Lundy

Andy & Mike Lutz
Ed & Jean Lynch
Russ Matchett
Larry Matter
Bill McCracken
Bob McWilliams
Mike Meerdo
Dave Meloy
Dave Mohn
Jerry O'Rock
Art Osmer
Bill Peterson
Wes Reed
Bill Ruffner Jr.
Dave Rupp
Deek Scott
Herb Scott
Jim Senkewitz
Gus Sholich
John Stasiak
Al Stivenson
Darwin Stivenson
Bill Wheeling
Walt Wimer
Miles Witchey

Estol did not start out to be a racer. His educational background at the University of Pittsburgh began with the study of mineralogy, crystallography, and chemistry. He attended Community College of Allegheny County to study Earth Science. Harp also attended flight school and earned his pilot's license. For several years he worked as an instrument flight instructor.

Estol's career as a driver and car owner only lasted for three years. He purchased a race car and a box of tools even though he had never seen the car up close prior to purchase. The toughest part of the experience was preparing the car for competition.

If you describe Harp as a die hard race fan you would be correct. When I asked him what he would do if he couldn't go racing he said, "I would probably kill myself." His hobbies are very interesting and include Lapidary (I have no idea what that is...you need to ask Estol), jewelry making, playing in a rock band, and flying airplanes.

His most memorable moments in racing include the time he passed Blackie Watt in a Modified feature at the Lernerville Speedway and also his first feature win. His most embarrassing moment in racing happened at the Sportsman's Speedway in Knox, Pennsylvania. He won the heat race and stunk up the place in the feature. When asked his reason for getting involved in

racing, he said, "I didn't know any better; it looked like fun but it turned out to be a huge challenge." The driver he would most like to be compared to is Ed Ferree. Estol said, "Ed was always a gentleman and a clean driver." Harp said, "People assume that I am a lot dumber than I look." His fantasy is to race once again.

Some of the tracks where he competed included Lernerville, Sportsman, Sharon, Erie, Motordrome, and Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway. Harp said, "All things considered, it was a memorable experience. I went from the grandstands to victory lane in short order while never having any experience."