



BLUE BARS



JULY/AUG.

1975



TWIN TIME TRIALS AT ROCKFORD

by Northern Rays, Ltd.

Northern Rays Ltd. (Chicago, Illinois) held two events at Rockford Speedway last year — one in June and one in October. Rockford Speedway is a beautiful $\frac{1}{4}$ mile banked oval, which also features a figure 8.

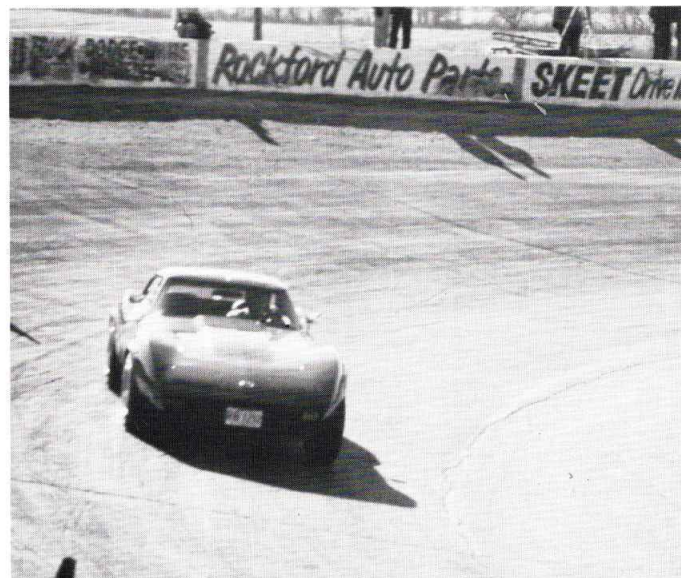
The name of the first event was "A Day at the Races", stolen from the Marx Brothers movie, while the second one was called, "You Bet Your Life", stolen from Groucho's TV show. Unfortunately, Groucho didn't show up to run either event. Both events were NCCC sanctioned, and cars other than Corvettes were invited to run.

The track was set up identically for both events — very fast (there were pylon penalties on only three timed runs). For each timed run, the first two laps were in the shape of a butterfly or hour glass using the figure 8, and the last two laps were around the outside. Each timed run was over 1 mile in length.

The track owner, Hugh Derry, provided us with all of the track safety equipment: ambulance, fire extinguishers, oil dry, brooms, etc. We also used the track's electronic timer and PA system. None of the contestants came in contact with the wall, or even scratched a fender. Unfortunately, two contestants blew their engines (both small blocks).

Several drivers (including the event chairman) got lost on their first timed run because they didn't study the course diagram closely enough.

FTD at both events was captured by a Blakely, a small sports car built in Rockford, Illinois, and powered by a Pinto engine. Even though we got beat by the Blakelys, we did beat all of the Porsches (unlike Jim Hildebrand and Central Buckeye Corvette Association). This year we will be counting on member Rick Dittman's race-prepared Corvette to put the Blakelys in paradise.



Our sponsor, Rich Hoskins, provided a \$25 cash award to the Northern Rays member showing the greatest improvement in times between the June and October events. The winner was Mark Munesue, driving a 1962 Classic.

The first blown engine award was won by Randy Block. This trophy was awarded to the first Northern Rays member to blow an engine at one of our events.

We appreciated the support of the five other Midwest Region Corvette clubs that attended our twin events, as tracks like Rockford Speedway are expensive to rent. This year's plans call for six speed events including two at Rockford Speedway. See you there.

Jim Wendte
Randy Block (photos)

