Ross L. Bremer: SVRA 2017 Hall Of Fame

Ross has been an ambassador for vintage racing ever since he returned to competition in 1991. He has long embodied the spirit of vintage racing and honored its mantra: Safe, Fair & Fun (with perhaps a little “Fast” thrown in).

His love of the sport and the automobile dates back to the early 1950’s when he scrounged his first old car (a Ford Model T), hot rodded it, and drove it hard on the Jacksonville, Florida beaches well before he had a driver’s license. He immersed himself in rebuilding, remodeling, and perfecting the speed of all the cars he gathered through the years, especially the vintage English Fords he happily campaigned for over 25 years with SVRA.

But besides the cars and competitive nature, Ross also brought with him the heart of a cheerleader and a sharing spirit. Upon joining SVRA, he immediately volunteered to mentor many other amateur mechanics to prepare their cars and shared his knowledge (and often, car parts) for the Anglias, Cortinas, and Escorts that he so loved, with many of the other enthusiasts of the brand in the USA and abroad. Being a former FIA Endurance and SCCA racer, he also served as an SVRA “Big Brother” or mentor to many rookie racers, continuing to do so long after the formal SVRA program ceased. He also acted as an SVRA Race Group I and Group 8 representative for most of the years that program flourished. These Race Group Reps. acted as a liaison between the organization and the official race groups. The program encouraged “getting to know the drivers you are racing with” and served to foster comradery and the group’s interest in driver safety and car preparation in the heat of healthy competition.

In those leadership capacities and beyond, Ross also relished his role as a SVRA self-appointed social director. He joyed in hosting many Race Group parties and theme parties for all, such as the N/S Challenge Mint Julip gatherings, Halloween pumpkin Carving Contests, April Fools’ Crash Test Dummy pranks, N/S Cook-off challenges (which was always no contest with Roper cooking his Southern specialties). Whether playing the part of General Robert E. Lee, Abe Lincoln, or a Southern Bell Spy at the SVRA North/ South Challenge, or a Beauty Pageant Contestant (wearing only Anglia Hub caps over the sensitive areas) at Palm Beach, he embodied “all-in” enthusiasm for fun and frolic at SVRA events.

His enthusiastic participation was not just reserved for the off track activities though. Besides his role as unofficial SVRA Cheerleader, Ross has been bountifully honored for his participation on the track as well. He has received practically every award given by SVRA over the years such as The Spirit of SVRA Award, The Bob Fergus ‘Big Fun’ Award, the Amateur Mechanic of the Year, Group 1 and 8 Championships, the VIR Gold Cup, and Driver of the Year in 2002. Since becoming a member of the DOTY “Club”, he has been active in continuing the Group’s purpose and helping to administer its activities (after long - serving Pat Ryan turned the job over to him).