

NASTE Season 2014 – Race #16

May 3, 2014

Rapid Raceway, Portland, Oregon



The Plan - For the sixteenth race of the 2014 NASTE season, the NASTE '55 Chevy's were scheduled as one of the IROC car classes. At their last Rapid Raceway appearance the '55s exhibited outstanding performance due in part to the incredible traction or grip they seemed to have on the track surface. With that in mind, a plan was formulated to prep the track for this race in the same manner as the last race. So, Rapid Raceway underwent a thorough cleaning to remove any and all traction compounds or stick-'em (a technical racing term) from the track surface. In theory this would give Rapid Raceway the same race setup as the previous race where the '55s exhibited such outstanding performance (based on typical NASTE '55 Chevy performance standards – the bar being set somewhat low to start with). In addition to the NASTE '55 Chevys, a full complement of 1/24 BRM Porsche 962s were added to the racing schedule. This was going to be one spectacular night of IROC racing!

The Execution - So everything was set. The race format was set for two rounds of racing. The first round of two minute heats with the '55 Chevys, and the second round with the BRM Porsche 962s. The track was clean as a whistle and ready for racing. A timed rotation system was used for a practice session before the actual racing began. The '55 Chevys were up first. There did not seem to be a lot of available grip, but from the last race experience it was felt that it would improve, confidence was high. After the '55 Chevy practice session the BRMs hit the track. Again, not great traction, but not too bad overall.

A pot luck dinner was held through the practice session. There was LOTS of great tasting food and deserts! After everyone was done eating the '55 Chevys were put on the start line. When the green flag dropped, so did the traction. There was none! The '55 Chevys were back to their old form of slipping and sliding their way around the track. Lap times were a full two seconds down from the previous race at Rapid Raceway! I will say this makes for some very challenging and close racing! It appeared Terry Abbott and Dave Smith seemed to be doing the best job of getting the cars around the track with the best lap times. After all the racers had battled with the '55 Chevys the BRM Porsche 962s were put on the starting grid. The general feeling was "phew, man am I glad that's over, these cars should be a piece of cake"! Well, not so! The traction had not only gone away for the '55s, but the BRM Porsches would hook up no better. So now we had cars with about three times the power, but absolutely no more traction! The racing was absolutely crazy! Only those with the best throttle finger control were able to put together decent lap times.

Even with the less than optimal traction situation the racing at Rapid Raceway was a huge success. As I surveyed the crowd of twenty racers it was obvious everyone was having a great time! The car's performance remained pretty equal throughout the racing, with no one racing a car that performed better or worse than the previous racer. Everybody dealt with and raced with the same set of issues. And just to repeat for the sake of clarity, the racing was CHALLENGING and CLOSELY CONTESTED!

A BIG thank you to Howie for hosting this race at Rapid Raceway, and to all the racers that participated in the pot luck meal!

Race No. 16 - Rapid Raceway - Halloween	Laps	Season Points
Dave Smith	107.5	20
Bill Bostic	104.7	19
Terry Abbott	103.2	18
Tracy Flood	102.8	17
Howie Howard	102.1	16
Monte Saager	101.6	15
Rico Locati	98.7	14
Chris Kouba	97.8	13
Dorothy Abbott *	97.8	13
Thomas Flood *	95.1	11
Glenn Heath *	93.5	10
Perry Petrequin *	92.4	9
Tyler Petrequin *	91.3	8
June Petrequin *	90.8	7
Amanda Abbott *	89.1	6
Victoria Saager *	88.9	5
Mitch Brooks *	88.7	4
Nick Snowhill *	86.7	3
Bob Pearson *	84.3	2
Todd Flood *	78.8	1

* NASTE Challenge