

NASTE Season 2013 – Race #9

February 2, 2013

Rapid Raceway, Portland, Oregon



Gary "Howie" Howard graciously made Rapid Raceway available for the return of the NASTE '55 Chevys in this the 2012 NASTE Point Series Championship. The racers in attendance brought pot luck dishes to start the race night out with some NASTE style face feeding. After we were all satisfied with full stomach we got down to some serious Chevy bashin'. As usual with the NASTE '55 Chevys the racing was very close. There was a lot of bumpin', nerfin', and plain ole crashin', much to the delight of all those watching as well as racing. At the end when the results were tallied Bryan Trachsel came out as the winner, but not by much. We'd all like to thank Howie for making his track available to us on short notice, and thank you to all the racers that brought food. It was another great night of NASTE racing!

A little history on the NASTE '55 Chevys - the concept for the NASTE '55 Chevys came about in 1996. The cars were developed as a low cost, easy to build class of cars for new slot car enthusiasts. The key points to the class formula were; a solid brass chassis, an inexpensive Radio Shack motor, hard rubber model airplane type rear tires, and a model car body molded in 1/25 or 1/24 scale. The original chassis was constructed of .060" steel wire and .062" brass strip. These early chassis were sold to racers for cost of parts at \$13. The cars were raced extensively in the first few years of the NASTE Point Series Championships, using a variety of different body styles. It was a very successful and popular class.

In 1998 Dave Smith made improvements to the original chassis design, which were adopted as the new style for the NASTE Chassis. In 2006 Bryan Trachsel built four cars using this basic chassis design to be used as IROC style racing cars for the 2007 NASTE Point Series. 1955 Chevrolet two door hardtop bodies

were mounted on the chassis for the series. The cars were first raced at Rapid Raceway in September of 2006.

After that initial race the NASTE '55s appeared in December 2006 at Checkered Flag Raceway, February 2007 again at Rapid Raceway, March 2007 at Checkered Flag Raceway. After the March 2007 race the cars were put away and given a rest.

Their next appearance was three years later in October of 2010 at Hemi Heights Raceway Park. No repairs or alterations had been made to the cars since the March 2007 race. They were brought out, dusted off and oiled, had their rear tires sanded, and thrown out onto the track to be thrashed again. They performed without flaw!

The '55s were again given a rest as NASTE focused more on 1/32 scale racing for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 seasons. Then in January of 2012 the '55s were again serviced for a return appearance at Hemi Heights Raceway Park. During the 2012 NASTE series the '55s also raced at Rapid Raceway in March.

This recent race at Rapid Raceway was the eighth NASTE Point Series Championship Race for the '55 Chevys. The cars have been raced by no less than 45 different racers, all with various levels of driving skill (read: lots of crashing!). They have over 11,732 racing laps on them (those are actual RACING laps, and do NOT count the multitude of practice laps, which if they had been counted would probably at least equal the number of racing laps!). After more than 12,000 laps by more than 45 different drivers in over 5 years, the only parts replaced on these cars were; one pickup contact braid and one crown gear. These cars are still on their original motors, gears, tires, and bodies! And in spite of all the wear and tear, a new Rapid Raceway lap record for these cars was set during this last race! And who set the new lap record? Well, Bryan Trachsel of course!

		Season
Race No. 9 - Rapid Raceway	Laps	Points
Bryan Trachsel	89.8	20
Bill Bostic	88.4	19
Monte Saager	87.4	18
Terry Abbott	87.1	17
Dave Smith	86.1	16
Rico Locati	84.5	15
Howie Howard	82.2	14
Bryan Dickerson	80.0	13
Dorothy Abbott	79.8	12
Victoria Saager	78.0	11
Jimmy Jones	73.1	10
Don	73.2	9
Sherry Wilson	71.9	8
Donna	70.9	7