

30th Annual Peach Bowl Speedway Reunion

by Jack Jackson

Join us in celebrating the 30th Annual Peach Bowl Reunion. This tiny racetrack in downtown Atlanta had major impact on a lot of peoples lives, including mine. I remember sitting in the grandstand watching my heroes: Gober Sosebee, Jack Smith, Roscoe Thompson, Bill Carden, Bob Flock and other race. I never dreamed that I would one day get to know them and compete with some of them.

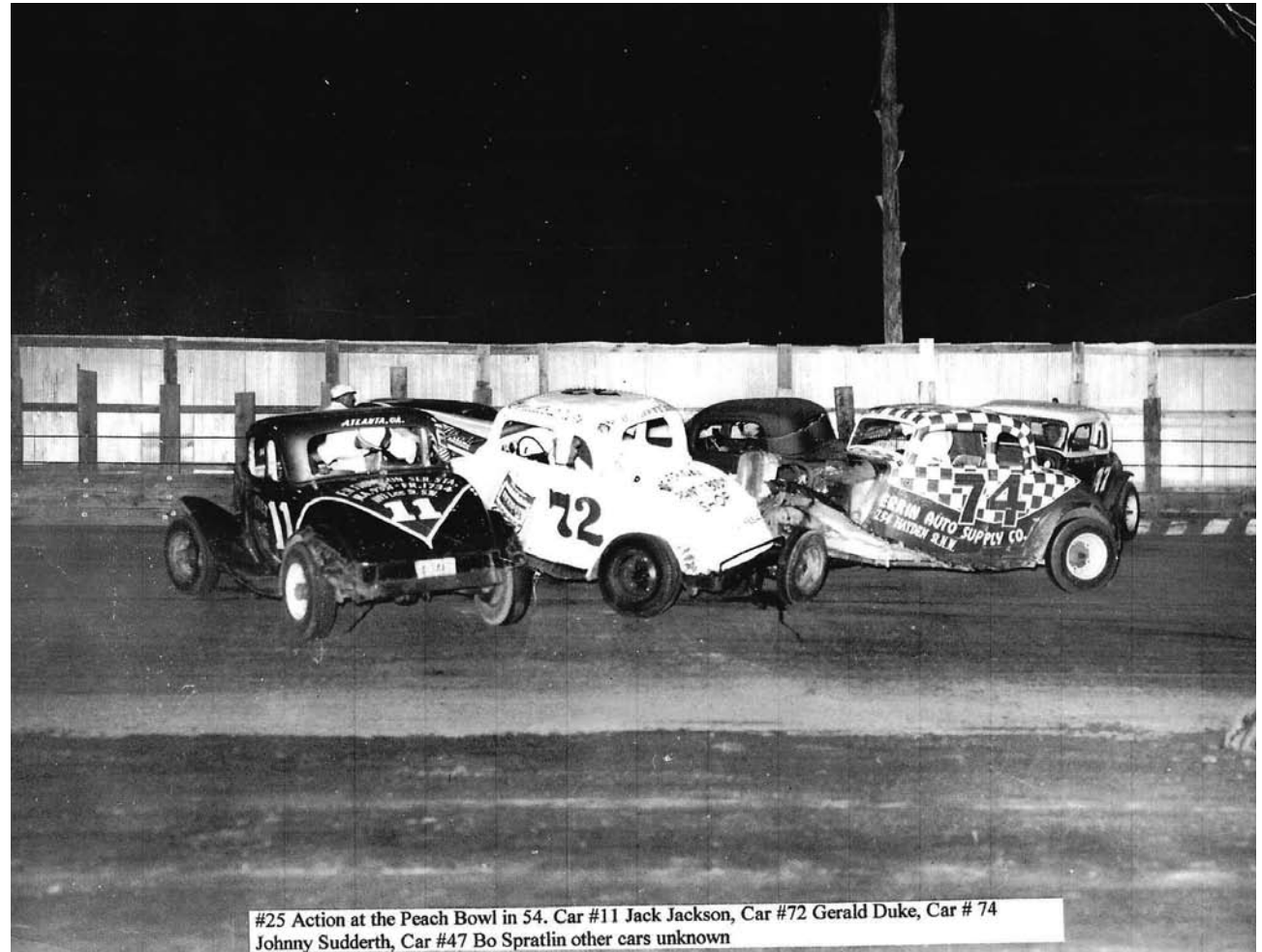
For those that do not know the history of the Peach Bowl Speedway, it was built for midget in 1949. It was a flat 1/4 mile dirt track located in downtown Atlanta at the corner of Howell Mill road and Brady avenue. In the early 1950s the promoter experimented with rack cars and was such a success that eventually the midgets faded and cars took over. Cars were rough on the dirt so in latter part of 1950 the promoter had it paved.

All the drivers will agree that Roy Shoemaker was one of the best promoter of speedway they ever raced for. To me, he was also a visionary. In the latter part of the 1950 season he realized he needed a support group for the professional racers so he started an amateur division. This continued until the track finally closed at the end of the 1971 season.

I can not stress the importance of this tiny track in downtown Atlanta. In the lobby of the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame in Dawsonville there is a 5x9 foot wall plaque with 360 names on it dedicated to the drivers of the Peach Bowl Speedway. These names were take from the Atlanta newspapers and represents only a partial list of those that actually raced there.

All the driver s I listed as my heroes have been inducted into the Georgia Hall of Fame. Of the first 40 inductees, 25 had a connection to the Peach Bowl Speedway.

Drivers that raced at the Peach Bowl in the past that may be at the Peach Bowl Reunion will be Rex White, Leon Sells, Bruce Brantley, Bud Lunsford, Billy Long



#25 Action at the Peach Bowl in 54. Car #11 Jack Jackson, Car #72 Gerald Duke, Car # 74 Johnny Sudderth, Car #47 Bo Spratlin other cars unknown

Roscoe Smith, Mike Head and many more.

Officials with the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame Association will there with their display of photos of Peach Bowl cars and drivers. They will also have a large selection of photos albums for your enjoyment. You will be able to renew your annual membership and join our Association. There will be tee shirts, caps and other items for sale. Each paying member will receive a souvenir from the Association.

The reunion will be held January 27, 2019 at the American Legion located at

3914 Ewing Road, Austell, GA (directions: go west on I-20 to Thornton Road and exit to the right, go 1.4 miles and turn right on Maxham Road and go 3.5 miles, turn left on Clay Road, go 1.4 miles, turn right on Ewing Road and follow to the American Legion on the left.)

Doors will open at noon and the entrance fee will be \$20 per person. A BBQ and Chicken lunch will be served by Fred's Barbecue House at 2pm. Reservations must be make by Jan. 22 to give the caterer an advance notice of approximate attendance. For late arrivals without reservations the fee will be \$25.

If you have not attended in the past we would love to have you help us celebrate this special occasion. Just make a check payable to Jack Jackson for \$20 for each person attending along with their names. Mail check to me at 2665 Honey Creek Road, Conyers, GA 30094. If you have any questions, please do hesitate to call me at 770-922-1472. For those that normally attend, your invitation will be mailed the day after Christmas.

Looking forward to seeing you there and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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