

## **Write up for Coronado Speed Festival Sept. 24, 2010**

Once again on Sept. 24-26, the stock car race series was fortunate to be part of the annual Coronado speed festival, one of the premier vintage car events in the country. HMSA under the guidance of Cris Vandagriff put on a tremendous and well attended event that not only showcases the cars, but is an opportunity to showcase the Coronado Naval Air Station and give back to the navy and our military through the Coronado Fleetweek charities.

With the admiral's reception to kick off the festivities on Friday night, followed by the SCRS dinner on Saturday night at the officers club on the beautiful bay, there was plenty of quality and fun social activities to go around, and of course the San Diego area offers a wide variety of entertainment and is a beautiful venue.

A full field of 22 stock cars entered the Speedfest and after Friday's practice session on the challenging course, everyone could see that the racing was going to be competitive. The spectators all weekend long were ready and excited to see the former NASCAR stock cars on track and filled the stands and the paddock.

Rhine enterprises once again sponsored a hospitality area within the stock car paddock that invited all military personnel to enjoy food and drinks and be part of the stock car experience. As before, it was well attended and appreciated by all who took advantage it. SCRS and the military personnel and their families cannot express enough thanks to Bill Rhine and Rhine enterprises for what he does for the Coronado speed festival.

Saturday's qualifying race gave the spectator's and competitors an opportunity to see what was in store for the weekend as Tom Klauer's #35 Tabasco Pontiac led the way to the pole followed by Wes Mcnay's Pennzoil #30 Pontiac, Steve Beck's #75 Carolina Potter Thunderbird, Jim Phillion's #9 Dodge Intrepid, and Steve Thomas' #11 Budweiser Thunderbird rounding out the top 5. This set up a Sunday final event that would be worth waiting for.

Unfortunately on Sunday, prior commitments did not allow Tom Klauer to participate, but the race itself was extremely competitive and had the completely full grandstands on their feet throughout the 15 lap final. The race leader, Wes Mcnay had to retire early due to a broken axle and Steve Thomas took over the lead and eventually wore his tires out and turned the lead over to Gary Cosgrove. Steve Beck also had to retire early after losing

a clutch. Winning his first race was Gary Cosgrove in the #2 Miller Lite Taurus with Steve Thomas a close 2nd place. The rest of the top five were Andy Weiss' #42 Dodge Charger, Russ Romer's #18 Interstate Battery Pontiac Grand Prix, and Jay Russell's #38 M & M's Ford Taurus.

Bob Lavinia returned to competition with his #43 Richard Petty Pontiac and turned in an excellent 8th place. Dick Young's #5 Kellogg's Lumina, Gary Sousa's #17 Tide Monte Carlo, and the two Kodak #4 Chevrolet Lumina's of Tim Smith and Newt Withers filled out the rest of the top 10.

The Rhine Enterprises awards for the Coronado Speedfest went to SCRS class winners for the historic and contemporary entrants as follows:

Historic class:

1st Steve Thomas  
2nd Dick Young  
3rd Gary Sousa

Contemporary class:

1st Gary Cosgrove  
2nd Russ Romer  
3rd Jim Phillion

Steve Thomas won the Admiral's trophy. This is the second year that a SCRS participant has won the coveted award. David Goodell won the award for the overall stock car participant awarded by HMSA.

Special recognition should also be give to Dan Verstuyft and Carol Herron for the massive amount of effort put forth to insure that the stock car race series put on a great show and contributed to the overall success of the Speedfest. Thanks to all who participated and helped, as well as to HMSA, the Fleetweek personnel and committee, and of course our Troops and the Navy.