

Road Kings



*Burbank
Since 1952*

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE CLUB
IT'S MEMBERS
and
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Jim Miles

1952 -1955

The Road Kings were established in November of 1952. The club founder was Ralph Marshall, who was chosen to be the first President of the club. Assisting Ralph as Vice President was Dave Osterkamp. Al Totleono, another initial founder of the club, served as the Treasurer and Ralph Marshall's wife Margaret took on the duties as the first club Secretary.

Of the 17 people attended the first meeting of the club, most were in the 17 – 18 year old bracket, and most were from the City of Burbank. Initially the meetings were held once a week with dues a whopping 25 cents each week.

Club President Ralph Marshall, raced his Vincent Rapid motorcycle at the Saugus Drag Strip, and turned speeds of 100 in the quarter mile. In the first two or three years, about half of the membership raced their cars at the drag races. The cars were a mix of Fords and Chevy's. Some were stock and some were modified.

The following are some of the early racers:

RALPH MARSHALL	BILL HANDLY
JIM ALLISON	JIM DELAMARE
JIM MILES	TOMIVO
BOB SAGASER	TOM JANDT
TIM QUINN	CLYDE RICHARDSON

In the early days, all of the cars that raced were daily driving cars, modified to serve a dual purpose. One might guess that most of the parents of these young people were not fully in agreement them racing their cars.

By 1954, some of the members had built 'drag race only' vehicles, that they raced as the race tracks of the time, including Saugus, Colton, Pomona, Fontana, Santa Ana, Bakersfield and Inyo Kern.

From the years 1952 - 1965 the Road Kings competed in about every class that drag racing had to offer. During this period, the club averaged about 35 – 40 members. While not all the members of the club had cars they were all an important part of the Road Kings organization and performed varied and vitally important duties on the individual race teams.

During those early years the Road Kings competed in the following classes:

MOTORCYCLES	3	GAS DRAGSTERS	8
GAS COUPS & SEDANS	19	FUEL COUPS & ROADSTERS	3
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Many of the Road Kings found themselves racing as Professional Drag Racers during those early years and beyond. "TV" Tom Ivo, Don Prudhomme, Roy Fjastad, Cedarquist Bros & Ryan, Don (The Beach Comber), Johnson, Bob (Freight Train) Muravez, Tom McCourry and Jim Miles to name the most famous. Most of those named above held records at various tracks where they raced. There is little doubt that the Road Kings of Burbank became synonymous with quality race teams, and FAST cars.

GAS COUPE RACERS / DUAL PURPOSE CARS

1952 -1956	
Bob Wright	35 Ford Sedan
Bob Sagaser	39 Ford Coupe
Jim Allison	35 Ford Sedan
Jim Miles	41 & 49 Ford
Tim Quinn	37 Chevy / GMC MTR
Bill Handly	41 Chevy / GMC
Ron Cravens	41 Chevy / GMC
Phil Riepe	41 Hudson / Hornet Motor
Jim Delemar	39 Ford Coupe
Ron Rayburn	MOD "A" IV-8
Dan Ladwig	MOD "A" IV-8
Tom Jandt	32 Ford / Olds
Clyde Richardson	41 Stude / Olds
1956 -1960	
Dale Norstrom	Ford / Olds
Jay Lewis	Ford / Ford Flathead
Ray Cash	51 Olds / Olds (470 CU IN)
Starr Williams	57 Chevy SS
Mike Platt	57 Ford SS (supercharged)
Kenny Safford	57 Chevy

GAS ROADSTERS / SINGLE PURPOSE

Tom Ivo	MOD "T" Ford / Buick
Kenny Zyke	31 Ford / Olds
Dick McNay	Club Roadster / DeSoto
Butch & Dave Cedarquist	29 Roadster / Dodge V-8

MOTORCYCLES / SINGLE PURPOSE

Ralph Marshall	Vincent Rapid
Don Hoffman	BSA
Skip Torgeson	Triumph

FUEL COUPES / ROADSTERS

1959 -1975	
Jim Miles	AA/FA - Chrysler V-8
Cedarquist Bros & Ryan	AA/FA - Chrysler V-8
Roy Fjastad	Modified Coupe - Chrysler V-8

FUEL DRAGSTERS

1960 -1970	
Tom Ivo	Chrysler V-8
Don Prudhomme	Chrysler V-8
Don Gaide & Kenny Safford	Olds V-8
Kent Barber & Gary Cassidy	Chrysler V-8
Roy Fjastad & Mike King	Chrysler V-8
Don Johnson	Chrysler V-8

GAS DRAGSTERS

1956 -1960	
Kent Barber & Denny Cross	4 Banger
Don Johnson	Buick V-8
Tom McCourry	Buick V-8
Bob Muravez & Ed Jenke	ChevyV-8
Tom Jandt & Rod Peppmuller	Olds V-8
Don Prudhomme	Buick V-8
Owen Engle & Kent Barber	4 Banger
George Sakora	Crosley

BONNEVILLE RACERS

1960 -1969	
Roy Fjastad	250 MPS Tank
Jim Miles	218 MPH Mod Coupe
Ron Vanetta	Roadster / Ford Cammer (Indy)

In 1957 a Car Club from Van Nuys, Road Rumlbers, approached the Road Kings with the request to merge with them. With the majority of the Road Kings membership agreeing to the merge, the following names of former Road Rumlbers were added to the roster of the Road Kings of Burbank:

Ray Cash	Jim Volk
Mac McGunis **	Bob Smith
Butch Cedarquist	John Clapper
Dave Cedarquist	Dick Garland

From 1956 through 1959 Dave Cedarquist and his father worked at The San Fernando Drag Strip. Dave was the starter and Mr. Cedarquist ran the timing tower.

NAME	CLASS	YEAR
Bob Sagaser	Gas Coupe	1952-1953
Jim Allison	Gas Coupe	1953-1953
Jim Miles	Fuel – Altereds	1952-1977
Don Hoffman	Gas Boat / Motorcycles	1956-1965
Starr Williams **	Gas Coupe / Sport Car	1956-1974
Mike Platt **	Gas Coupe / Sport Car	1956-1974
Cedarquist Bros	Gas & Fuel Altered	1955-1972
Richard Johnson	Gas Coupe / Sport Car	1952-Current
Tim Quinn	Gas Coupe	1953-1953
Bill Handly	Gas Coupe	1953-1959
George Sakora **	4 cyl Gas Dragster	1960-1962
Owen Engle	4 cyl Gas Dragster	1956-1962
Denny Cross	4 cyl Gas Dragster	1960-1962
Gary Cassidy	Fuel Dragster	1966-1968
Jim Delamare	Gas Coupe .	1953-1953
Bob Muravez	Gas & Fuel Dragster	1957 -Current
Ed Janke	Gas Dragster	1957-1958
Nick Sfetku	Gas Drag Boat	1970-1975
Joel Embick	Gas Drag Boat	1980-1980
Tom McCourry	Gas Dragster	1956-1980
Don Johnson	Gas & Fuel Dragster / Funny Car	1956-1970
Phil Riepe	Gas Coupe	1956-1956
Larry Sutton	Gas Coupe	1956-1956
Ron Cravens	Gas Coupe	1954-1954
Ron Rayburn	Gas Coupe	1961-1961
Dick McNay	Gas Roadster	1956-1956
Roy Fjastad	Dragsters / Bonneville	1953-Current
Dan Ladwig	Gas Coupe	1956-1956
Bob Wright **	Gas Coupe	1954-1954
Kent Barber	Gas & Fuel Dragster	1958-1967
Don Lewis	Gas Coupe	1970-1976
Skip Torgerson	Gas Motorcycle	1956-1957
Dale Norstrom	Gas Coupe	1956-1956
Tim Ryan	Fuel Altered	1967-1967
Fred Murphy	Circle Track Midget	1967-1967
Jay Lewis	Gas Coupe	1956-1956
Ron Vanetta	Bonneville Racer	1956-1965
Ray Cash	Gas Coupe	1959-1962
Dave Ostercamp**	Gas Motorcycle	1952-1959
Bill King	Lakes Racer	1946-1949
Doug Auzene	Gas Sedan	1997 -Current

Stan Dalton	Gas Coupe	1990-Current
Sharron Dalton	Gas Coupe	1992-Current
Ed Drogmund	Gas Altered / Drag Boat Racer	1958-1976

NAME	CLASS	YEAR
Jim Giannoulis	Bracket Racer	1980-Current
Peter Giannoulis	Bracket Racer	1980-Current
Frank Pucio	Bracket Racer	1990-Current
Brian Pucio	Bracket Racer	1990-Current
Eddie Salvatore	Bracket Racer	1980-Current
Noel Salvatore	Bracket Racer	1990-Current
Jerry Sater	Bracket Racer	1990-Current
Rick Sayers	Bracket Racer	1990-Current
Wade Zimmerman	Bonneville Racer	1990-Current
Pat Zimmerman	Bonneville Racer	1990-Current
Lynn Greenberg	Bracket Racer	1991-1993
Bob Beck	Bracket Racer	1974-1996
Bob Stratford **	Bracket Racer	1990-Current
Andre Reneux **	Bracket Racer	2003-Current
Rich Baldaseroni	Bracket Racer	2003-Current
Don Prudhomme	Gas/Fuel Dragster & Funny Car	1957 -Current
Tom Ivo	Gas/Fuel Dragster & Funny Car/Jet	1952-1983
Ken Safford	Gas/Fuel Dragster & Funny Car	1957-1976
Don Gaide	Gas/Fuel Dragster	1957-1965
Tom Jandt	Gas/Fuel Dragster	1955-1966
Rod Peppmuller	Gas Dragster	1955-1966
Ralph Marshall **	Gas Motorcycle	1952-1953
Clyde Richardson	Gas Coupe	1953-1955

When The Road Kings of Burbank were initially established they were primarily a drag racing club...with a few hotrods mixed in. While many of the early members were making huge reputations for their Drag Racing exploits, the club was also beginning to gain notoriety as the home of some of the finest hot rods and street cars in Southern California.

Skip Torgerson introduced Don "The Snake" Prudhomme to the Road Kings and he shared the driving chores the club's dragster. As is well known, he perfected his skills as a driver to become a Champion in Top Fuel Dragsters and Funny Cars. He only just recently retired from Drag Racing where he was a Top Fuel team owner, campaigning a dragster and two funny cars.

"TV" Tommy Ivo made his reputation as an actor, Hot Rodder and Drag racer. His T-Bucket was featured in many hot rod magazines and movies for its style, and was well known for its low Elapse Times (ET). His reputation for multi Buick engine dragsters brought him even more fame. His 4-wheel burnouts were spectacular. He also drove Top Fuel dragsters, funny cars, and even a Jet Dragsters during a four decade career.

Bob Muravez (a.k.a. Floyd Lippencott Jr.) was a master at the wheel of the infamous Freight Train twin Blown Chevy Top Gas Dragster and the twin engine Gas Dragster "Pulsator". He set records and won countless events. In 1963, the FREIGHT TRAIN, driven by Bob Muravez (alias Floyd Lippencott Jr.) won the Top Gas Eliminator class at the NHRA Winternationals at Pomona, CA. starting it's meteoric climb to becoming the greatest and the best known gasoline powered dragster of all time. Bob Muravez was the fastest man on gas when NHRA eliminated the Top Gas class in the early 70's. In 2001, Bob returned to racing, driving a Nostalgia Top Fuel Dragster. At age 63, Bob scored 5 impressive wins during his first year back behind the wheel. He has also set a personal best of 6.17 seconds at over 230 MPH in the quarter mile.

Safford-Radicon-Gaide was fierce competitors in the 60's with their Olds powered Top Fuel dragster. Kenny Safford went on to a pro driving career in the "Mr. Norm" Dodge Funny cars.

Jimmy Miles built and drove the most awesome altered cars around. His most memorable experience was when the engine exploded on the starting line, sending the crankshaft spinning on the pavement below. That photo of his Magic Muffler Fiat has appeared in many magazines since.

Tom McCourry began his racing career in 1958. He competed in the gas dragster classes. His was a full-bodied Buick powered dragster. Tom campaigned this car very successfully until 1961. In 1961 Tom teamed up with Bill Rosakoski, and purchased an Ivo chassis and ran a 300" Chevy in the Junior Fuel Class until 1963. In 1963 Tom purchased Ivo's four motor car and toured it on the East coast for one year. In 1964 Jim Mosher designed a Buick wagon body and Hanna built the aluminum body. Tom ran the four-engine dragster in this configuration until he retired from racing in 1970.

Other well-known drag racers that helped cement the Road Kings legacy into the drag racing and hot rodding annals were: the Cedarquist Bros., Tom Jandt, Richard Johnson of Fiasco Engineering and more. The list keeps getting longer as current members continue to set the standards for racers and rodders everywhere.

From 1965 - 1985 the club was on an inactive status, only having occasional get togethers. In 1985, John Key, Eddie Salvatore, Bob Money and Mike Walsh reorganized the Road Kings.

The club puts on two car shows each year. The first show is a Picnic and Car Show that takes place in the spring at Johnny Carson Park and is open to everyone. Our second show takes place in October at the Santa Anita Race Track. From the proceeds of our car shows, we have been able to donate approximately \$200,000 to local charities. At present, the club has over 100 active members.

Over time the club has become more hotrod than racecar oriented, but there are a few members that still race at organized events every season. In 1999 at the NHRA Hot Rod Reunion, the Road Kings were recognized as the Justice Brothers Spotlight Club. The charitable and civic exploits of the club has brought recognition from the Congress of the United States, Eagle One, City of Burbank, among others.

Today, over 60 years later, The Road Kings of Burbank continue the Racing and Rodding traditions of the past.

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