

Triskaidekaphobia at Salina Speedway

Photos and Story
by Terry Spradley

Race drivers have always had their phobias and superstitions. Broken mirrors, green cars, some NASCAR drivers even have a fear of peanuts on race day. Busch series drivers Jeff Green and Kyle Busch will not wear blue driving shoes. Triskaidekaphobia, the fear of the number thirteen, has been around almost as long as drivers have been painting numbers on their cars. Now Hobby Stock drivers at Salina Speedway have even more reason to fear the #13.

This week's column takes me to a secluded little hideaway somewhere north of Gypsum and somewhere east of the setting sun. Courting the number, thirteen is a mysterious and secretive endeavor. I make a right turn off the gravel road and I can start to see around a line of trees. Like a ghost ship slipping in out of the fog, the backend of the black and gold points leader comes into view and shortly after the bold black 13.

The 1983-84 Monte Carlo sits on the double driveway, its driver Rick Slothower, Gypsum, peers into the engine compartment. Today the black and gold does not look quite so threatening. The engine compartment sits high and empty. The red 350 V8 hangs from an engine hoist above a pan of oil. "The clutch was slipping a little bit, leaking quite a bit of oil, and I've found other problems since then," Slothower said. "She actually found it before I found it," referring to his fiancée, Tiffany Sanchez, Salina, standing next to him in the driveway. "She was sitting down there in the pits and she said, 'your car sounds like it's struggling for some reason. The motor doesn't sound right.' One thing led to another and out it comes."

Sanchez has become a seasoned race fan since her engagement to Slothower. "Last year was my first year ever around racing," Sanchez said. "This is definitely a new experience for me." Slothower said, "There was the wreck in Hutchinson last year where she about ripped her friend's arm off."

While attempting to pass the car in second place, the car he was passing had other ideas. "I don't know if he didn't like it or what, but anyway he turned down into me and I ended up stuck in the wall. Ended up standing the car straight up on end." Slothower said. "Tore up the rear end on the car and a bunch of other stuff." Sanchez said, "I think I did more damage to my friend's arm than he did to the car."

The 31-year old Slothower does not have any children but is quick to point out that he will. "Eventually, I'll have a step-daughter!" Sanchez has a 6-year old daughter that is also becoming a fan. "She loves her Ricky," Sanchez said. In approximately 7 years Slothower may learn what the real fear of thirteen is all about.

Sanchez is an employee of Target. The couple was planning to be wed this spring. "We were going to do it in April," Sanchez said. "We were going to go to Vegas. He ended up having to go in for back surgery." Slothower had back surgery to repair a herniated disc from a non-race related



Rick Slothower is shown above standing in front of his garage with his fiancée, Tiffany Sanchez. Tiffany is proving to be an invaluable member of the racing team with her suggestion about a needed engine repair.

Slothower is an employee of Waddles Manufacturing, Salina. A custom job shop for all things metal, Slothower and his fellow workers turn out a variety of innovative quality creations.

Even with a struggling engine, Slothower brought the Monte Carlo across the finish line in fourth place June 18. The phobia causing #13 has worked its way to the top of the points chase with consistency. Battling with the likes of Dauer and Slothower's older brother Tony (Slothower), Salina, the racing is always tight at the front of the pack. Tony antagonizes his younger brother from the driver's seat of the orange #06. The night Rick placed fourth, Tony claimed first in their class.

While competitors on the track, the fellowship of friendly combatants is apparent on Slothower's car. Tony is listed under the heading of 'Special Thanks' on the Monte's rear roof support and fellow racer B.J. Dauer built the main part of the number 13's chassis.

Another name under the heading is Dick. You don't know Dick, and in keeping with the mystique of the #13, he seems to prefer it that way. Dick is responsible for much of the Chevy's motor and chassis work. At the track, he is generally seen only partially visible, sticking out of the black and gold's engine compartment or underbelly.

Richard and Nancy Lightner, Slothower's step-dad and mom sponsor the Lightner Trucking logo on one quarter panel. His dad Gary and step-mom Kathy promote the Cookie Jar and Exide logos. Gary is a 28-year employee of the company. Clark Rowell, Matt Burns, Kelly Younger, Blake Monasmith and others all make their contributions to the number thirteen's reign of terror.

With Rowell as his partner Slothower started his racing career in 1998 driving the now extinct, (from Salina Speedway) Cruiser cars. "It was kind of an outlet for me and my dad," Slothower said. "He helped out several people." His brother Tony joined him in the cruisers before they moved on to the hobby stockers they drive now. Slothower won the Rookie of the Year Award, as well as Sportsman of the Year in the Hobby Stock Class.

The color scheme and numbering of Slothower's Monte Carlo is a tribute to legendary car owner and mechanic Smokey Yunic. In 1963 he started using the number and paint scheme on a team of Chevrolets he was fielding. The legendary Johnny Rutherford and A. J. Foyt both drove the black and gold Chevrolets. Yunic passed away May 11, 2001.

This version of the Yunic paint scheme has more local sponsors, like Innovators West, Quiznos' Subs, Salina, and Stone Brothers, Salina. Bootleggers Saloon has a happy logo of a large man and a frothy brew painted on the hood, Maggie Mae Bar & Grill covers the rear deck. Mary Spellman does the lettering on the Chevrolet.

Whether the mystique of the number 13, the tradition of Yunic's black and gold color scheme, or some voodoo ritual, you don't know Dick is performing under the hood, rest assured Slothower will not be suffering from Triskaidekaphobia.

Fear and superstitions aside, local drivers are sliding around Salina's dirt oval Saturday nights through September. Photos of recent racers and fans can be viewed at www.tslegends.com

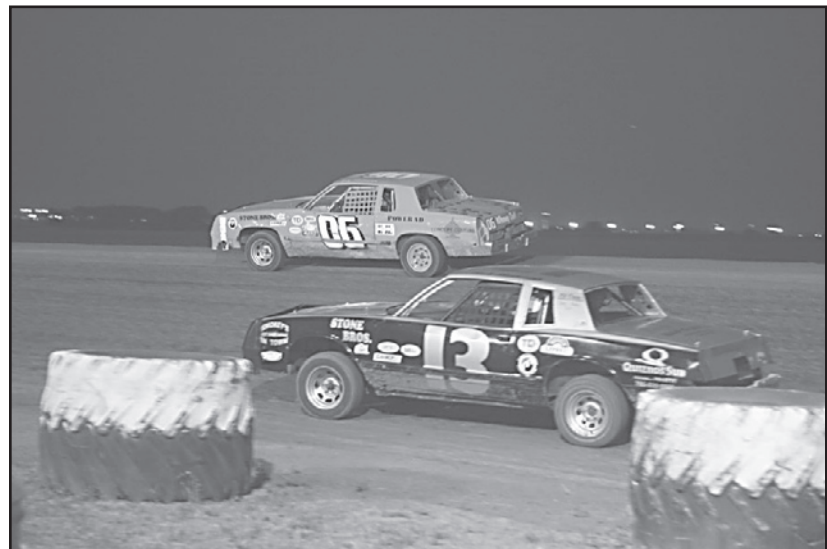
BC football camp is filling up quickly

The Tony Johnson/Bethany College 2005 Full Contact Football Camp for boys ages 13-18 will be held at Bethany College July 17-21.

This very popular summer football camp is filling quickly so campers are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. You may contact the BC coaching staff at (785) 227-3380, ext. 8175 or e-mail at sjogren@bethanylb.edu. Prospective campers may also print off a camp brochure at www.bethanylb.edu.

The camp fees are \$210 for resident campers (includes room and all meals) and \$180 (includes all meals) for commuter campers. A deposit of \$80 is required at the time of reservation.

The camp features include: Camp Photo, T-Shirt, Personalized Written Evaluation, Personal Player Football Manual, Speed & Strength Development, Specialty Instruction (Kicking and Punting), and Goal Setting (Athletic and Lifetime).



Rick, (car #13) and Tony Slothower, (car #06), have duelled in the 2005 points series about as close as this race time picture shows. Only seven points separate the brothers after last week's races and the mid-season points championships loom only two weeks away.

"Swede Scramble" golf tourney nears

The Lindsborg Quarterback Club "Swede Scramble" Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 9 at the Lindsborg Golf Course. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the tournament will get underway at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start.

The tournament will feature 3-person teams with a fee of \$40 per person or \$120 per team. Everyone is encouraged to sign up in advance at the Lindsborg Golf Course Clubhouse. A catered meal will

follow the tournament.

Activities during the day will include a silent auction of sports related and autographed items, a snack and drink cart, as well as door and pin prizes. Winners of the silent auction items will be announced at the dinner following the tournament.

Come out and enjoy a great day of fun and prizes and help the Lindsborg Quarterback Club in their many ongoing activities.

Lindsborg Wavemakers continue march toward another league title

continued from page B1

Erica Pope: Girls' 13-14 50 Backstroke, 51.34, 4; Girls' 13-14 50 Breaststroke, 55.85, 5; Girls' 13-14 50 Freestyle, 42.31, 6; Girls' 11-12 100 Freestyle, 1:38.41, 5.

Haley Pope: Girls' 11-12 50 Breaststroke, 1:07.75; Girls' 11-12 50 Freestyle, 59.75.

Maverick Raile: Boys' 9-10 25 Butterfly, 33.50, 6; Boys' 8 and Under 25 Backstroke, 26.41, 3; Boys' 8 and Under 25 Breaststroke, 31.72, 4; Boys' 8 and Under 100 Freestyle, 28.00, 6.

Taryn Scott: Girls' 9-10 25 Backstroke, 29.00; Girls' 9-10 25 Breaststroke, 26.88; Girls' 9-10 25 Freestyle, 19.50, 6.

Lauren Smith: Girls' 13-14 50 Butterfly, 37.32, 3; Girls' 13-14 50 Breaststroke, 43.47, 2; Girls' 13-14 50 Freestyle, 33.44, 3; Girls' 13-14 100 Individual Medley, 1:27.93, 3.

Kristen Taylor: Girls' 13-14 50 Backstroke, 55.69, 5; Girls' 13-14 50 Freestyle, 43.87; Girls' 13-14 100 Freestyle, 1:45.78, 6.

Benton Van Der Wege: Boys' 8 and Under 25 Butterfly, 32.68, 4; Boys' 8 and Under 25 Backstroke, 28.10, 5; Boys' 8 and Under 25 Freestyle, 12.38, 2.

Katie Voigt: Girls' 15 and Over 50 Butterfly, 37.10, 5; Girls' 15 and Over 50 Backstroke, 39.63, 5; Girls' 15 and Over 50 Breaststroke, 40.72, 4; Girls' 15 and Over 50 Freestyle, 29.60, 3; Girls' 15 and Over 100 Individual Medley, 1:25.04, 5; Girls' 15 and Over 100 Freestyle, 1:14.81, 6.

Tommy Voigt: Boys' 11-12 50 Breaststroke, 44.80, 1; Boys' 11-12 50 Freestyle, 35.15, 1; Boys' 11-12 100 Individual Medley, 1:32.13, 1;

Boys' 11-12 100 Freestyle, 1:14.81, 1.

Vicky Voigt: Girls' 9-10 25 Butterfly, 23.60, 3; Girls' 9-10 25 Breaststroke, 23.12, 2; Girls' 9-10 25 Freestyle, 19.60; Girls' 9-10 100 Individual Medley, 1:57.00, 4.

Taylor Whittaker: Girls' 11-12 50 Freestyle, 36.50, 5; Girls' 11-12 100 Freestyle, 1:23.22, 3.

Bryanna Wishcop: Girls' 11-12 50 Breaststroke, 48.47; Girls' 11-12 50 Freestyle, 46.70.

Relay results were as follows:

Girls' 8 and Under 100 Medley: A Relay, Hannah Godfrey, Shealyn Cook, Hannah Morrill, Maggie Johnson, 1:59.59, 2.

Boys' 8 and Under 100 Medley: A Relay, Benton Van Der Wege, Austin Cook, Nils Peterson, Maverick Raile, 2:03.06, 1.

Girls' 9-10 100 Relay: A Relay, Hanna Heble, Hayley Morrill, Claire Denk, Vicky Voigt, 1:27.22, 1; B Relay, Taryn Scott, Grace Aspenwall, Jenell Hulse, Megan Bergstrom, 1:50.60, 3.

Boys' 9-10 100 Relay: Caleb Mulhern, Hunter Cook, Bryce Kampfe, Ethan Crowther, 1:32.50, 1.

Girls' 11-12 200 Medley: A Relay, Baylee Kampfe, Abby Gengler, Selene Craig, Rachel Bellah, 2:37.65, 1; B Relay, Taylor Whittaker, Rachel Loder, Haley Martin, Lindy Peterson, 2:56.10, 2.

Boys' 11-12 200 Medley: A Relay, Lars Peterson, Tommy Voigt, Isaac Mulhern, Andrew Esping, 3:14.12, 1.

Girls' 13-14 200 Medley: A Relay, Kaitlyn Johnson, Kristin Baker, Lauren Smith, Erica Pope, 2:37.30, 1.

Boys' 13-14 200 Medley: A Relay, Jarrod Altenberg, Connor Denk, Andrew Loder, Anders Peterson, 1:16.56, 1.

Girls' 15 and Over 200 Medley: A Relay, Jill Hulse, Katie Voigt, Heather Greenup, 2:32.65, 3.

Boys' 15 and Over 200 Relay: A Relay, Kody Lynn, Adam Mulhern, Michael Baker, Brendan Kampfe, 2:10.12, 2.

Girls' 8 and Under 100 Freestyle: A Relay, Maggie Johnson, Mollie Esping, Shealyn Cook, Hannah Godfrey, 1:42.56, 2.

Boys' 8 and Under 100 Freestyle: Austin Cook, Nils Peterson, Maverick Raile, Benton Van Der Wege, 1:50.31, 1.

Girls' 9-10 100 Freestyle: A Relay, Hanna Heble, Megan Bergstrom, Vicky Voigt, Claire Denk, 1:19.35, 1; B Relay, Taryn Scott, Anita Daniel, Jenell Hulse, Hayley Morrill, 1:40.19, 5.

Boys' 9-10 100 Freestyle: A Relay, Hunter Cook, Caleb Mulhern,

Ethan Crowther, Bryce Kampfe, 1:15.69, 1.

Girls' 11-12 200 Freestyle: A Relay, Baylee Kampfe, Lindy Peterson, Rachel Bellah, Selene Craig, 2:17.81, 1; B Relay, Taylor Whittaker, Haley Martin, Jamie Bergstrom, Rachel Loder, 2:40.35, 2.

Boys' 11-12 200 Freestyle: A Relay, Isaac Mulhern, Andrew Esping, Lars Peterson, Tommy Voigt, 2:45.97, 1.

Girls' 13-14 200 Freestyle: Lauren Smith, Kristen Taylor, Kaitlyn Johnson, Kristin Baker, 2:22.53, 1.

Boys' 13-14 200 Freestyle: A Relay, Anders Peterson, Jarrod Altenberg, Andrew Loder, Connor Denk, 2:02.28, 1.

Girls' 15 and Over 200 Freestyle: A Relay, Jill Hulse, Erica Pope, Heather Greenup, Katie Voigt, 2:18.47, 3.

Boys' 15 and Over 200 Freestyle: A Relay, Brendan Kampfe, Kody Lynn, Adam Mulhern, Michael Baker, 1:54.38,

Salina Speedway Results

June 25, 2005 results

IMCA MODIFIEDS

A feature - 1. Larry Sutton; 2. Dean Brungardt; 3. Brian Knoell. First Qualifying feature - 1. Gary Clements; 2. Rick Dauer; 3. Danny Morrison Jr. Heat winners - Sutton, Sammy Brittendahl, Loren Dauer, Ron Dauer.

SUPER STOCK

A feature - 1. Bobby Arnold; 2. Brent Fielder; 3. Curtis Barnes. Heat winners - Arnold, Jeff Hilt, Barnes.

IMCA HOBBY STOCK

A feature - 1. David Weber; 2. B.J. Dauer; 3. John Berry. Heat winners - Tim Schmidt, Berry Weber.

360 MODIFIED

A feature - 1. Gary Rohloff Jr.; 2. G. W. Fuller; 3. Jason Lucas. Heat winners - Rod Klinkner, Craig Colgin.

MINI STOCK

A feature - 1. Marty Miller; 2. Troy Wente; 3. Jeanie Rodie. Heat winners - Miller, Wente.

Salina Speedway Points Races

2005 Point Standings after 6-25-05

IMCA Modifieds

1. Gary Clements, Minneapolis 316; 2. Brian Knoell, Falun 309; 3. A.J. Scott, Roxbury 301; 4. (tie) Ron Dauer, Lindsborg and Danny Morrison Jr., Minneapolis 294; 6. Corey Lagroon, Salina 292; 7. Rick Dauer, Lindsborg 280; 8. Scott Phillips, Salina 270; 9. (tie) Loren Dauer, Lindsborg and Larry Sutton, Beloit 266; 19. Mark Abell, Lindsborg 205; 21. Terry Malm, Lindsborg 186.

Super Stock

1. Bobby Arnold, Salina 362; 2. Jeff Hilt, Salina 359; 3. Tom Hilt, Lindsborg 356; 4. Ryan Riarden, Salina 352; 5. Warren Huffman, Salina 338; 6. Brent Fielder, Chapman 332; 7. John McCarrell, Chapman 327; 8. Kelly Dunn, Salina 321; 9. Troy Davis, Salina 318; 10. Shannon Johnson, Salina 314; 13. Curtis Barnes, Lindsborg 197; 20. Travis Hoppes, McPherson 106.

360 Modifieds

1. Gary Rohloff, Jr., Salina 335; 2. Craig Colgin, Canton 327; 3. G.W. Fuller, Tescott 322; 4. Jeff Welsh, Wilsey 301; 5. Jason Lucas, Manhattan

277; 6. Ken Berry, Hutchinson 237; 7. Thelma Woerz, Wichita 226; 8. Rod Klinkner, Manhattan 207; 9. Dace Pearce, Sterling 160; 10. John Martin, Minneapolis 136.

IMCA Hobby Stock

1. Rick Slothower, Gypsum 376; 2. Tony Slothower, Salina 360; 3. John Berry, Salina 337; 4. David Weber, Delphos 323; 5. Jason Caldwell, Salina 320; 6. Bill Clanton, Salina 316; 7. Tim Schmidt, McPherson 313; 8. B.J. Dauer, Marquette 307; 9. Tim McBurney, Salina 275; 10. Russ Cossell, Tescott 272; 17. Brian Fink, Lindsborg 205.

Mini Stock

1. Jeanie Rodie, Hoisington 327; 2. Stacey Fuller, Tescott 326; 3. Marty Miller, Minneapolis 324; 4. Anthony Engling, Salina 323; 5. Andrew Engling, Natoma 292; 6. Doug Baccus, Ada 290; 7. Shawn James, Solomon 289; 8. Marion Woody, Tescott 286; 9. Troy Wente, Salina 285; 10. Daryl Brunzell, Lindsborg 275; 13. Sean Hedberg, Lindsborg 154; 15. Mitch Rupert, Lindsborg 139; 17. Jerry Hedberg, Lindsborg 113; 18. Jeremy Hedberg, Lindsborg 93.

SVAF Golf Tourney Results Delayed

The Smoky Valley Athletic Foundation Golf Tournament results and pictures will be in our next report due to space limitations. Tournament organizers were pleased with the tournament field and want to thank everyone who participated!

Young Vike Football Camp

For grades 5 and 6. Camp will run from July 18-21 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the SVHS practice field. Registration deadline is Thursday, July 1, at 5:00 p.m. Fee is \$20.00 per child.

Hey Tennis Players!

Men's Affiliated Tennis Tournament will be held on July 10, 2005. The Mixed Affiliated Tennis Tournament will be held on July 17, 2005. If interested call Doug Talbott, 227-3877. Entry fee is \$20 per team. Each team is guaranteed at least three matches. Individuals who want to play but don't have a partner should let Doug know and he'll help you find one. Entry deadline for each event is 6:00 p.m. the evening prior to the tournament.

Recycling

Just a reminder that the next Recycling date is July 2. We still need volunteers!

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