

OBITUARIES

Jay Overbay

BY RICK STARK
Contributing reporter

Jay Overbay passed away Jan. 9, 2008, at Overlake Hospital after a lengthy stay. He is survived by his daughter, Keri; son Marc; two grandchildren; and three sisters.

Jay was very involved in the sports

car racing scene starting in 1965, when he started crewing for me and my Corvette racing operation. He went to the Riverside National Runoffs with me in 1966. He crewed for me through the 1960s and worked at my business in 1969. In the early 1970s, he crewed for Bill Cupp on the Lola that is currently raced and owned by SOVREN driver Tom Armstrong.

After crewing for many years, Jay de-

ecided to lend his racing expertise to the clubs. He worked with the emergency crew, drove tow trucks and worked as a starter with SCCA-NWR and SOVREN. Last summer at the Pacific Northwest Historic Races, Jay and daughter Keri assisted at driver services.

All of us in the racing fraternity will miss Jay and his helpfulness. A memorial will be held in the near future.

Neil Swanson

BY JEFF ZURSCHMEIDE
Past RE, Oregon Region

PORTLAND, Ore. — When we hold the grand reopening of PIR on Feb. 23 this year, we should have a moment of silence in honor of Neil Swanson. Or maybe a moment of complete cacophony as hundreds of racing engines are revved up together to celebrate the life of a man who did as much as anyone to preserve and protect our race track. Neil would appreciate the subtle humor of the action either way.

Most of us knew Neil as the sound judge at PIR. Some of us have cursed his name unjustly when we pegged the sound meter and he called us on it. But no one ever said that Neil Swanson didn't know his business, or that he wasn't fair in his judgments — not anyone who actually met him, anyway.

On many occasions, I saw Neil spend his lunch hour conferring with drivers not just about the basic facts of their car's noise levels, but also about how to reduce their noise to avoid future black flags. Neil would meet with neighborhood representatives and City Hall offi-



cials and every one of those people came away with a better understanding of what we're doing about noise, and with confidence that Neil knew what he was talking about. It may have felt like he was in our way sometimes, but there never was a more dedicated guardian of our sport.

Beyond his work at PIR, Neil served as the National Administrator of Sound Control for SCCA. In this capacity he was the front line of defense not just for our track, but for tracks across America that face the same challenges. Neil was a dedicated worker at the Runoffs, working under tremendous pressure

there. Neil also gave his time at the NORPAC and SCCA conventions each year, standing up and explaining — always patiently — the science of sound control. People always finished a conversation with Neil holding more information than they had at the start.

I worked closely with Neil for years. I saw his commitment to fairness at every event. If Neil said the equipment was calibrated, you knew it was correct to the last whisper. If he said a car was too loud, it was because he had three clear readings and no doubt about it. Sound control is a thankless, often tedious, and completely necessary job. Neil accepted those conditions cheerfully.

As I sat down to write this, I was struck by how little I really know about Neil. I know he used to be a police officer at one time, I know he loved his wife Margie deeply, and I know he was as reliable as the Earth. I know he always had a pleasant word for people, and I know he loved his time at the track. This picture says it all. There's Neil, with more years of "Race Worker" patches than his jacket will hold, cruising around at the Runoffs with a friend and a grin. That's how I plan to remember him.

Johnston 'Jay' Kingsley Jr.

Longtime NWR-SCCA member Johnston "Jay" Kingsley Jr. passed away Nov. 30, 2007, at age 56 of complications from multiple sclerosis.

He was born June 7, 1951, in Hingham, Mass., to Johnston and Priscilla Smith Kingsley. When he was 12 years old, the family moved from Hingham to Mercer Island.

He graduated from Mercer Island

High School in 1969 and attended community colleges in Bellevue, Auburn and Seattle.

Jay became involved in motorsports as a young man racing motorcycles, later organizing road rallies. He was an active member of the Northwest Region, beginning in 1982. He became a sound control worker and later the Chief of Sound for NWR, traveling to different tracks between Canada and California. After his medical retirement from Boeing, he remained as active as possible even at-

tending a few NorPac Conventions until he was forced to stay at home in 2004.

Services were held Dec. 8 on Mercer Island. Jay is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Nat and Madeline Kingsley of Kensington, Calif.; twin sister and brother-in-law, Joanie and Kurt Matter of Kettle Falls; sister and brother-in-law, Su and Jeff Howat of Sequim; uncle and aunt, Al and Sarah Skinner of Mercer Island; one nephew; four nieces; one grandnephew; and numerous cousins.