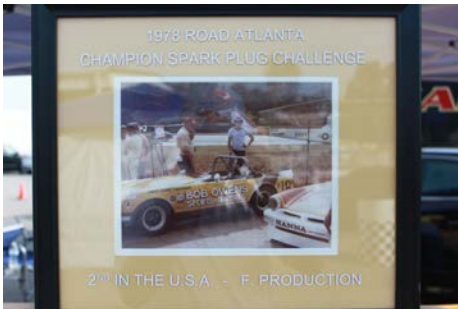


Gotta Get Back In Time—An Amazing MG Trip to the Classic Motorsports Mitty at Road Atlanta.

Steve Finch - Events Coordinator

Where to today Mr. Peabody? Sherman, set the Wayback Machine to 1978. Today we are going to relive the SCCA National Championship Runoffs.

My brother, Neal, and I took a fly-away trip to Road Atlanta for The Classic Motorsports Mitty vintage sportscar races the last weekend of April. We arrived on Friday and started walking thru the pits talking about the things that we recognized and what had changed since last we were there. That was in 1978 when we crewed for the Bob Owens Sports and Imports MG Midget at the SCCA Runoffs. We won the 1978 2nd Place National Championship Trophy for F Production sportscars.



Bob Owens Sports and Imports was the MG, Triumph, Austin, Jaguar dealership in Westland MI from 1958 - 1980. Many of the cars in our Club were first bought from that dealership. Neal, our roommate Louie, and I crewed for that car at Waterford Hills for a number of years in the mid-'70s. Neal was a mechanic, Louie was service write-up, and Barry Hartzel was the Service Manager. The car was owned by Bob Owens (Jr) and Barry was the driver and chief mechanic. We lost track of Bob Owens and the car when the dealership closed in 1980.

And then, right there in front of us, was the Bob Owens Midget. *WOW! I can't believe it. Here's the same car!* Hanging on a pole of the pit awning was a picture taken on the false grid before the race in 1978. We walked up and started talking to the guy in a driver's suit. Neal told the guy that he worked for Bob Owens back in the day and that we crewed for this car at that race. He told the driver that the guy with the cowboy hat in the picture behind the car was our roommate Louie. The driver said that's right, that the car is a re-creation of the original, and asked who we are. Neal said his name and the guy said "Oh my God, Neal Finch, I'm Bob Owens." It's been over 35 years since we all raced together.

Needless to say the rest of the weekend was arguably one of best weekends in the last 35 years of my life. *(Ok, I got married in '76 so I can still say that.)* We got crew and hot pit passes and I got to do my old job again of Aesthetics Control Manager (I kept the car clean all weekend—clean is fast.)