



# Pit Pass

## Volunteer of the Month Mark Amsberg



### Why did you join?

Initially I joined to race. I helped Dan Novembre at Temple Canyon and knew I wanted to race Hill Climb.

### Favorite volunteer job?

I always liked Staging and the

care the Staging Official took to ensure you were safe to go.

### Favorite course?

Hands down Temple Canyon!

### Favorite class?

Sportsman Class. I really like Camaros and the older style cars in that class. I also like the Open Wheels a lot they are the perfect vehicle for the hill climbs. The Rally class is beginning to grow on me too!

### Dream race car?

That's a tough question! I think at this point I'm leaning towards an AWD Subaru WRX Rally car.

### Favorite memory?

Remembering back to my first season, Kyle Cosgrove helped me with tire pressures--where to start and how to find where your car worked the best. Joe Portillo and Jeff Pierce helped me with some driving techniques. The coolest part of that was talking with Jerry Lewis about getting comfortable with the car and he told me about



Alvin Browning, 1979 Mt. Pisgah Hill Climb

## How CHCA Came To Be

The Colorado Hill Climb Association has its roots in another local race, the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. The second oldest motorsports race in America, Pikes Peak has attracted generations of racers looking to challenge themselves on the tricky upslope dirt course. The passion for driving race cars inspired them to constantly improve their vehicles, working year-round to prepare. When the hill climb began to make changes to its classes and limit drivers, a few took it upon themselves to create an alternative group, providing multiple races throughout the year with many classes, and CHCA was born. In 1970, drivers John Atnip, Jimmy Good, and Bill Maxedon gathered a group of about 250 people, and began working on what would become a lasting organization. In the beginning, there were few courses, including a race in Los Alamos, NM. Over the years, the club has raced in nearly all corners of the state, from Idaho Springs, to Salida, Limon to Grand Junction, and everywhere in between.

how he did things in his class car but he suggested I ask someone in my Sportsman Class. I talked with Jeff Pierce and he gave me some tips. Then after a run to the top at Land's End, I was just getting out of my car and Jeff was right after me, and without hesitation when he pulled in front of me to park he just cranked the steering wheel, gassed it, and spun it perfectly in front of my car and parked it. He hopped out very confidently and said, "well Mark, when you can do that, you're not afraid of the car any more."

Classes haven't changed much since then--Open Wheel, Championship, Stock Car, Sportsman, and Truck--with a few additions. Today's available options also include Super Sprints, Quads, Motorcycles, UTVs, Rally, and in 2020, a new Unlimited class. Next year, the club will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and after all this time, it is still made of a close-knit community of friends and families who look forward to every season, working together year-round to have the best season possible.



### CHCA Throughout The Years

Those pictured include Leonard Vahsholtz, Lynn Cowan, Randy Schranz, and Gene Pacheco



### Rider of the Month Chris O'Brien

Achieving Rookie of the Year last year, Chris O'Brien says he loved his first year in CHCA riding Motorcycle #318 and that it was a dream come true for him. Chris has wanted to race since he was little, coming to the races with his uncle Danny and aunt Ginger Bartley. He liked not only being able to watch the races, but also being a part of his uncle's crew, dreaming of the day he would get his chance. Of his first year, Chris says his

favorite moments were getting to run the roads that inspired him to race, bettering his times each run, going neck and neck with fellow competitor #103 Dezi Bernhardt, and generally enjoying each race while learning the roads. He learned many things, figuring out each road's challenges, how to corner without a berm, and how to take each corner, straight, and switchback to improve his time. "I'm looking forward to next year, getting back out there, and having a blast trying to better my times from last year and seeing the people who helped me out and treated me like family again. This was my first racing experience and I loved and enjoyed it so much that I can't wait to get back out there and do it again next year!"

# Club News



## Parking Lot Sale

**Saturday, March 21st**

**9am-3pm**

555 25 Rd, Grand Junction, CO81505

*Vendors, Food Trucks, Giveaways and More!*

*If you would like to participate in our booth and display, contact Malissa at (719) 648-0718*



**Saturday  
May 2nd  
1:00pm**

### **Apple Blossom Festival Parade**

*If you are interested in participating, contact  
chcaracingsecretary@gmail.com*

## 2020 Race Schedule

- **Temple Canyon: May 16-17**
- **Rangely I: June 6-7**
- **Continental Divide: July 11-12**
- **Land's End: August 8-9**
- **Rangely II: September 12-13**

## 2020 Program

- We need driver photos! You can email them to chcaracingsecretary@gmail.com or we can take them in person at the March meeting (Tuesday, March 3rd).
- **Deadline is March 31st, 2020**

## Technical Inspection

- Make sure to check your class rules and general safety rules in the 2020 Rulebook
- Your vehicle **MUST** be teched by 12am before the race
- To schedule an appointment, contact your class rep, or **Harry Baker at (719) 440-2132**

**Whoe else's Saturdays  
look like this? Keep building,  
the snow will melt and  
we'll be racing soon!**

