

BRP CanAm Series News

BRP CanAm Tour Opens With Duke DuClon Memorial

St Catharines, ON...The 2014 Bicknell Racing Products (BRP) CanAm Series will begin its 12th Anniversary Tour on Sunday May 25 at Little Valley Speedway. The tour lid lifter will serve as the 1st Annual Duke DuClon Memorial which will earn the A-Main winner \$1558.

Family and friends of DuClon in cooperation with Close Racing Supply and Little Valley Speedway have worked together to put this program together. A very fitting tribute to the man sometimes known as the "Father of the Super Stocks." The super stocks have evolved into BRP CanAm late models still using the basic configuration that DuClon designed in 2004.

"Duke worked here at CRS (Close Racing Supply) from 2004 until the end of the racing season in 2008. In 2004 the rules for limited lates at McKean (County Raceway) changed to the stock stubs in front of the late model chassis. Duke built the first one by cutting off the front clip of a GRT late model frame and fabricating the Camaro stub as a replacement. His design worked and the class flourished with about 200 cars built to that design. We here at CRS owe much of our success to Duke and his super stocks," shared Bob Close the owner of CRS.

We were honored when approached by some of Duke's friends to help put this memorial event together. Since CRS will sponsor the 2014 opening night program at LVS (Little Valley Speedway) I contacted John Charlesworth (President of Little Valley Speedway's management group) and we bundled Duke's Memorial race with that program. Together we have come up with some extra dollars and the BRP CanAm tour event race winner will earn \$1558. The origin of the amount is that Duke raced cars that wore number 58 and later he was involved with Todd Hanson's #58 BRP CanAm car. We hope that everyone comes out to honor Mike (Duke) DuClon on Sunday May 25."

Joel Smith of Smith Fab at CRS adds, "Duke was an excellent fabricator and welder. We were fortunate to have here in the Smith Fab shop at CRS. He was not only talented at his trade, but loved racing and race cars. That was a perfect combination for all of us. He drove back and forth from his home in Franklinville (NY) to Eldred (PA) every day. After work if Todd (Hanson) was racing Duke was there as an important part of the team. Duke died of cancer after a long and courageous battle last August. All that knew him respected him and miss him. I will bet that there will be a number 58 somewhere on the car that wins Duke's race on May 25."

The Duke DuClon Memorial will be the first of ten BRP CanAm tour events scheduled for 2014. The full schedule is available at BRPCanAmSeries.com