

A bit of HISTORY OF THE FALLBROOK SHAFTERS

One of many small Town Car Clubs

By 1951 there were enough guys hopping up cars and hanging around the shop that they decided to form their own car club. So on April 4th of 1952 they became an official club, held their first club meeting with Dode Martin being President and Don Hegbee secretary / treasurer. They gave themselves the name of the "Fallbrook Shafters", subscribed to Hot Rod Magazine and joined the San Diego Timing Association.

The Club had bylaws to govern themselves and discipline misbehavior and carried these laws out democratically and very business like. Not only were you very "cool" by being part of this elite club, but there were incentives to join such as membership cards, car plaques, club shirts and by mid year '52 they had their club jackets,. The Members also had to have a street legal car that would reach a speed of at least 65 miles per hour, and just to join, it had to beat the third fastest car of the club. Before having a shop to work out of, the guys would meet at places like the packing shed on Hill St, I.O.O.F. building on Beech, the Boy Scout hut on Hawthorne, Hotel Ellis on Alvarado and Mel's Root Beer stand on Main and Iowa St

The Club built a crude but well built B/Street Roadster with a '27 T Roadster pickup cab setting on an all model A chassis. The engine had an overhead with two 97s, and ran it at one of the early drags strips up in Santa Ana at the Naval "Blind Landing" practice strip since there weren't any real drag strips around back then, they used anything available.

As time went on, they did a lot of drag racing, gained a lot of experience and came in contact with many other clubs.

They became very serious and began their journey to becoming the "top guns".

They built the World Record Holding B/Modified Roadster and were undefeated from 1955 to 1957 winning 34 Trophies. .

See the story as told by Richard Brain on the next page.

Here is how Richard W. Brain, an original member tells the story about the B/ modified Roadster and the club.

“During the three year life of this car and its’ many modifications along the way, it picked up 34 trophies from the old but not forgotten strips like Colton, Paradise Mesa, Saugus, Holtville, and Pomona. Racing against legends like Joaquine Arnett, the Bean Bandits, Lloyd Sirkel along with many others and defeated them because they had what no one else had, the” Purple Fuel”, concocted by none other that Dode Martin with several bottles of Aqua Velvet Aftershave mixed with their fuel. After the smoke cleared every one was wondering what sort of sweet, burnt shoe polish smell it was. It sure made the little B/Modified roadster churn “em and burn ‘em and eventually blow ‘em away. “

“Many of the small town car clubs were involved in community services as did the Shafter's of Fallbrook, doing good deeds and keeping up their good reputation as concerned the people of the community, as well as being lovers of speed and customs, living out their obsessions and dreams, and yet being law abiding citizens that they were. “

“The racing community is still involved with benefits and charities of all sorts, helping out the less fortunate and probably always will be as long as there are racers with big hearts in big and small towns through out the country.”

Richard W. Brain
Ahwahnee, CA