

## **Press Release ... 9 August 2018**

### **The Del Monte Trophy Race Group celebrates Hagemann Specials, Allards, MG Specials and 750cc Crosley-engined Specials at the 2018 Rolex Monterey Motorsport Reunion at WeatherTech Laguna Seca Raceway August 23 – 26**

The Del Monte Trophy Race Group was launched four years ago to celebrate the great racers and race cars that participated in the Pebble Beach Road Races, held from 1950–1956, on roads around the Lodge at Pebble Beach. The races were the very beginning of European-style road racing on the West Coast which established the heart and soul of Sports Car racing on the Monterey Peninsula. We celebrate those races, racers, and race cars every August at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion at WeatherTech Laguna Seca Raceway.

The drivers of that era included Phil Hill, Bill Pollack, Sterling Edwards, John von Neumann, Roger Barlow, Ken Miles and Carroll Shelby. During the seven years of the Pebble Beach Road Races the program featured two main races: one for cars > 1500cc which included Jaguars, Allards and Ferraris and one for cars < 1500cc included: MGs, Porsches and OSCAs. In addition to these production sports cars and sports racing cars, both the large and small bore race groups were populated with West Coast Specials like the Parkinson Jaguar, Baldwin Mercury, Miles R1 / R2 and Allinger MGs and the Everly Crosley.

This year, the **1947 – 1955 Sports Racing and GT Cars Race Group 2A's** main event will take place on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> featuring over 40 race cars from the days of the Pebble Beach Road Races including several cars that participated in those very races.

**The Del Monte Trophy Race Group exists to recruit and bring the stories of these great races, great drivers and great cars to the track. This year will feature:**

- **Hagemann Specials:** Jack Hagemann was the aluminum fabricator favored by early Northern California sports car racers who wished to modify their production MGs and other imported sports cars, with sleek, light weight bodies. Hagemann built a number of large and small bore racing Specials. Three of those one off Sports Cars are participating this year. The Hagemann Jaguar Special, the Tatum GMC Special and the Hagemann Chrysler Special are surviving examples of his extraordinary craftsmanship. The three cars are pitted together on Row J.

- **Allard:** The Allard Models K and J were powerful, lightweight sports cars that began arriving in the U.S. in the late 40s. They were popular and successful and a number of those that were brought to the West Coast competed in the Pebble Beach Road Races from 1950 through 1955. Bill Pollack, driving Tom Carsten's Cad-Allard won the Del Monte Trophy main event in 1951. Although they were built in England, the car's design was quite similar to the West Coast Specials. Mostly Ford running gear was used, along with Chrysler, Cadillac and Ford V8 motors. There are three K2s, a J2, and a J2X LeMans (display) participating this year. All are pitted together on Row J.
- **MG Specials:** In the late 1940s and early 1950s, MG TCs and TDs were among the earliest Sports Cars to be produced and exported to the U.S. They, along with the Jaguar XK 120s, made up most of the race grids in 1950 and 1951. A number of racing Specials were created using the MG chassis and running gear. The von Neumann MG is one of the earliest examples. This survivor and several others including the Deidt Bell Special, the Evans Devin Special, the Byers MG Special and a supercharged MGTD are participating in Race Group 2A.
- **750cc Crosley-engined Specials:** The Crosley HotShot was a small sports car built in Marion, Indiana that was powered by a 750cc water-cooled cast-iron inline 4-cylinder engine. At 991 lb., the racing version was an impressive competitor in 1950. Henry N. Manny III raced a supercharged HotShot in the Inaugural Pebble Beach Road Race. Throughout the 1950s Crosley engines powered many successful small bore Specials in what became the SCCA's H-Modified Class. There are 5 Crosley-powered Specials participating in Race Group 2A

**Photography and Journalists:** On Friday the 24th. at 2.30 we will gather these Hagemanns, Allards, MGs, Crosleys for photographs / interviews with owners and drivers. This will be on Row J ... the home of Del Monte Trophy Race Group cars during the race weekend. Please join us for lots of paddock "talk".

**The Del Monte Trophy:** This year The Del Monte Trophy Race Group is introducing an annual award, given to the driver and car in each of the two Race Group Classes whose presentation and performance epitomizes the racing spirit of the original Pebble Beach Road Races. Please join us for a reception and trophy presentation on Saturday the 25th at 4pm.

*For more information regarding the Del Monte Trophy Race Group please contact:*

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