

## Member Profile: Ron Dykes

Warner Robins native Ron Dykes is a familiar sight at NVRA races in his bright red and yellow Modified Open '36 Chevy coach. But Ron started racing in a straight line – drag racing that is – in the late '80s. In '93 a friend of Ron's bought a late model circle-track chassis but ran out of money before putting a motor in it. Ron stepped up and bought a motor finishing up the racer that was then driver by Ron's buddy for the first year. Ron found out some time later that the motor he bought was one of Steward Seymore's when he was getting out of the weekly racing business prior to building vintage racecars with Bob Moore.



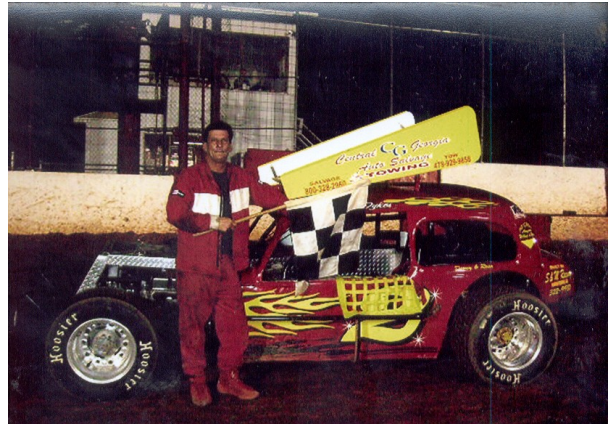
**That unmistakable red and yellow flamed #2**

So when it came time for hot laps, Ron jumped into the car and made a few laps to teach the boy a lesson - and that was it – Ron was hooked on circle-track racing.

Dykes started racing in a rookie class at Cordele in the "B" division and quickly won races that resulted in his being booted up to the "A" division. He eventually ended up running a Hobby car. Ron says he's won anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 with one of his big money wins coming last year at Cordele. It was a 100 lapper with a mandatory stop at lap 50 to change one tire. He finished the car on Friday but couldn't practice because of a failed starter.

With a new starter he showed up at the track Saturday in time for the 100 lapper with no heat races to set the line-up. Ron won that race! His daughter, Jordan, decided to take that same car and run in a ladies division race that same evening. Lap four of that race the tire that had been changed at lap 50 of the 100 lapper came off. If Ron's race was five laps longer, he would have lost the tire on the last lap.

Ron was introduced to vintage racecars when he hooked up with Hoot Gibson who was building a '55 replica of his former race car in Seymore's old shop. Ron's first red and yellow-flamed '55 Chevy was built as a show car meant for just a few laps with the vintage guys. But that didn't last long so Ron and S&M built a twin to the first '55 that Ron campaigned with vigor!



**Dykes Modified Open '36 Chevy**

A year later Ron and his now former-buddy split up. Ron was building a Monte Carlo for a friend's son to race. Twice the car was being prepped to race when a mechanical gremlin put the brakes on the effort for those two weekends. Ron was a bit put-out because the young fella that was supposed to drive didn't show up to help set the car up. The third try to get on the track, the to-be driver did show up, helmet in hand. But Ron was still a bit "put out", shall we say, about his previous no-shows.



**Dykes with Jordan**

A few seasons later Ron had the opportunity to buy a Modified Open car built by Seymore for Sam Odom to drive and it was transformed with the same bright red and yellow as his '55s. Ron has demonstrated some of the finest short-track driving you will ever see and is always a fierce competitor.

Dykes has a very successful used auto parts business, Central Georgia Auto Salvage, which he started in '91. Ron's out of the house at 6:30AM and never home before sunset managing the 18 acre business. Ron's married to Holly and their daughter, Jordan, is a regular competitor in the weekly races at middle Georgia tracks.



**The racing '55 A real competitor**



**The racing and show '55s at Augusta show**



**Daughter Jordan getting belted**



**Daughter Jordan and Daddy Ron starting at an early age**