

Profile on Sam Odom

There once was a young Macon, Georgia lad named Sam Odom, whose dad ran a machine shop in the Macon area. When Sam was 7 or 8, he got to see a go-cart race for the first time. Sam was hooked. After racing the little carts for a while, he became pretty good at it. In fact, he raced them so well that he and his family (and friends) toured not only the United States, but other countries winning championships along the way. The kid was a winner!



Sam grew up working in his Dad's machine shop, and Sam took over the machine shop after his Dad died. Sam is now one of the best engine builders in the Southeast. Sam also moved into drag racing, where he also did well.



In the late 1990s, when Stewart Seymore and Bob Moore (owners of S&M Racing) needed a motor built for one of their show cars, they went to Sam's shop. While there, they got to talking about their hobby of restoring old racecars and racing them. Sam thought that racing the old cars sounded like a neat activity. Since they had known Sam since he was racing go-carts, they asked if he would be interested in driving one of their cars. Sam decided to take a break from his drag racing, and the rest is now history. Sam has been driving S&M Racing vintage cars for several years now.

Sam's first race with the NVRA came when he drove S&M Racing's outlaw 'Vega at a non-NVRA sanctioned event held at the Lavonia (GA) Speedway in the late 1990s. Even though the Vega was "too new" for the NVRA rules, it got the interest of everyone at S&M Racing. They had an old

modified “skeeter car” and started running with the NVRA. The picture below shows Sam in the old modified in 2002 at Greenville-Pickens Speedway in South Carolina.



The boys at S&M Racing started building their own vintage cars from scratch. One of the first cars was a little blue 1932 Ford coupe. Bob Moore started driving the blue #39, but Sam took over those chores when Bob’s back prevented him from driving.



Several years ago, the boys at S&M Racing got away from building the old coupes and coaches to build a little Ford Falcon, which Sam drove at times. The picture below shows Sam in the Falcon racing against Ron Dyke in his 1955 Chevy.



After running the coupes a few years, S&M Racing found that the coupe bodies limited the things they wanted to do with the chassis. As a result, they found some old Chevy coach bodies and started a whole new wave of hot rods. This is still the ride that has carried Sam to several NVRA wins across the Southeast.



Sam is a well-established member of the S&M Racing family. The picture below was taken at the NVRA's annual banquet a few years ago. Left to right: Stewart Seymore (the "S") and Bob Moore (the "M") of S&M Racing, along with Artie Bird (driver of the white #75) and Sam.



Good luck and keep up the good work guys. You all are a major part of the NVRA.