

Tribal Members Are in the Family Business of Racing Cars

■ Brothers go head to head on the track this summer.

Photo courtesy of the Shandy family



Race Ready — Mark Shandy recently won "Rookie of the Year" honors after completing his first season as a driver.



Photo by Tammy Shandy

Bad Attitude — Todd Shandy just completed another season racing at Willamette Speedway in Lebanon. He has been behind the wheel of a racecar for the last 15 years.

By Willie Mercier

As the cars roll into position the crowd tenses. The green flag drops and they're off. Engines howl as the cars at Willamette Speedway in Lebanon, just east of Corvallis, race around the track, each one vying for the coveted first place.

Two Tribal members, brothers Todd and Mark Shandy, are among those being watched. Family and friends fill the stands as the two take to the track. Many are here every week on Saturday night.

"I get excited, nervous and enthusiastic," said Todd's wife Tammy Shandy.

Todd has been racing off and on at the speedway for 15 years.

"It's an adrenaline rush," said Todd about the way he feels at the starting line.

Todd credits his father, Rollie

Shandy, for getting him started. Rollie used to race when Todd was younger.

"I do it for the whole family, they like it, it's what we do in the summer," said Todd about why he continues to race.

"I just get excited watching them," said Todd and Mark's mother and Tribal Elder Louise Coulson of her going to the raceway. She is at the races every weekend.

Mark was always there to set up the car for his younger brother Todd, but this year Mark decided to get behind the wheel.

"He (Mark) has always wanted to race," said Coulson, the mother of the two siblings. In his first year as a driver Mark pulled away from the rest of the pack of first year drivers by bringing home the "Rookie of the Year" award. He came in

ninth overall for the season.

"It makes him happy" said Mariah Shandy, Mark's wife, when asked what she thinks of Mark racing.

So how did the veteran racer Todd fare this year? He came in fifth for the season.

"They do it for fun and for the family that come to watch," said Tammy Shandy. "I couldn't imagine life without racing, our daughters love it, they are the reason that Todd still does it, they help him at home with the car and they just really enjoy it."

Both brothers have been involved with more than just their own cars too. Todd helped build three of the racecars that are on the track every week and will help build another this year. The brothers also help maintain roughly 15 cars that they race against.

"It's like a big family," said

Tammy. "If you need a car part and someone has an extra they will loan it to you, they would rather have the competition."

"We are all buddies, it's a good group of people to hang with," said Todd of his peers.

So what did mom think when Todd came to her the first time to tell her that he was going to race?

"No, you can't do that, you know how parents worry," she said.

Now she has to worry not only about the two sons that are already into the racing, but her youngest son Gregg is also thinking about getting into a car of his own. Gregg, who lives in San Diego at the moment, participated in a few races in Lebanon and is thinking of moving back to Oregon where he will consider joining his older siblings on the racetrack.

Rolston Finishes Another Racing Season in Banks, Oregon

■ Tribal member is still the youngest driver in his class.

By Justin Phillips

"It's not what you drive; it's how you drive it," said Tribal member Nathan Rolston after putting the finishing touches on another racing season at the Sunset Speedway in Banks, Oregon. Rolston had just finished the 2001 season, which annually runs from April through the end of August.

Rolston and his teammate Andy Hoyt together form R & H Racing. They compete in the Street Stock Class along with 22 other drivers. Rolston mostly does the driving while Hoyt does the "wrenching." Wrenching is racing lingo for mechanical work done on the racecar.

Rolston and Hoyt race a 1979 Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

In the specific event they race, the rules are that the frame of the car has to be all original steel and sheet metal. There is to be no fiberglass used on the car in any place.

"All parts of the engine have to be steel," said Rolston. "The track inspector comes around and uses a magnet on the engine. If the magnet doesn't stick on something, you can't race."

As the same with last year's racing season, Rolston, 21, is still the youngest driver to climb into a car in his class.

When Rolston can't be present at the race, Hoyt takes the wheel.

The start of the evening consists of "hot laps" used for the "shake down" of the car. Hot laps involve the process of packing the dirt on the track and warm up of the cars. Shake down is the checking of the car internally and externally to make sure everything is working.



Photos by Justin Phillips

Behind the Wheel

Tribal member Nathan Rolston of Tillamook recently completed another season of racing his Monte Carlo in the Street Stock Class and has been sporting a new, patriotic helmet this year.



The racers are divided up and will be ready to perform heat races, which involve between seven and eight cars. The heat races will determine who will race in what position for the main events.

The main events are A-main and B-main. A-main is the top four cars from the heat races. B-main consists of all other cars that were outside of top four in the heat race.

"This basically determines how well you perform in the heat races," said Rolston.

Rolston and Hoyt had an unfortunate accident the second to the last race this season — an accident that almost put them out for the rest of the year.

"It happened so fast I don't remember it," said Rolston. "The crash broke our radiator support bars, bent the frame of the car on the left side, smashed the hood straight up and broke the rear end housing."

Rolston and Hoyt would like to thank their sponsors for the support they have given them over the season. A special thanks goes out to Marvin Grout Trucking, (grandpa of Rolston), Hoyt Farms (Hoyt's family owned business), Allen Farms, Radio Shack of Tillamook, Tillamook Tire, Strong Metals, Pingel's Muffler Shop in Tillamook and Extreme Air in McMinnville.

"It was a really good learning season," said Rolston.

R & H Racing will be waiting for the green flag when next season starts.

"Each year we learn from our mistakes," said Rolston. "With experience, determination and dedication, we will rise to the top."