

# Monte and Neil Shelton

The only father-son duo to win the Rose Cup

If you read the names on the side of the Rose Cup trophy (or the list on page 25 of this program), you'll notice two things. One is that Monte Shelton has won this race 7 times — more often than anyone else. The second thing you might notice is that the 2008 winner of the Rose Cup was Neil Shelton. That's no accident. Neil is Monte's oldest son, and he has followed in his father's footsteps to the Rose Cup podium.

Monte Shelton won his first Rose Cup in 1972, and then followed it up with wins in 1974, 1976, 1984, 1988, and 2005. In addition to those wins, the elder Shelton can claim 9 second place and 3 third place Rose Cup finishes. That means he's been on the podium 19 times in the 49 years of the Rose Cup race. Monte's career record also includes a stint in Can-Am racing, and 7 years of Trans-Am competition, where he earned 5 victories, 3 seconds, and 2 third place finishes. And Monte picked up a third place finish at the legendary 24 Hours of Daytona in 1979, driving a Porsche 934 with Indy veteran Rick Mears.

"The only thing I regret is not doing Indy," Shelton says. "It would have been easy to do in the 60s."

For the 2008 Rose Cup, Neil Shelton entered the car in which his father won his



most recent Rose Cup title — a Porsche 962 built for Le Mans GT competition.

"My father stepped down and didn't want to race that car again, and he offered it to me," Neil says, and then adds, "I was only too eager to accept. It was a big deal to a lot of people, including me and Dad."

Neil drove a hard clean race with Todd Harris, owner of PIR's ProDrive Racing School. Harris drove a Der Haag Corvette built for the Trans-Am series. The two ace drivers finished a close 1-2 that year, and Neil Shelton got to enjoy the view from the podium that his father had seen so many times before. Monte joined Neil on the stage to share the moment.

"It was very emotional. Dad was there," Neil remembers. "I think he was more excited than I was."

# Jerry Grant and George Follmer

Honorary Grand Marshals of the Rose Cup

50 years ago, Jerry Grant won the first Rose Cup race in a 3-liter Ferrari owned by Yakima auto dealer Dick Hahn. Sixteen years later, George Follmer won the 1977 Rose Cup as part of the Trans-Am series. Both drivers and Hahn will be on hand this weekend as honorary grand marshals of the 50th Annual Rose Cup Races.

"I started out racing in hot rods, and then Dick Hahn noticed me and asked if I'd like to drive for him. He asked me what I wanted and I said I'd like a 3-liter Ferrari. We ended up locating one in California. It was for sale and I flew down with \$14,000 in my pocket and bought it. At the time, that was several times my net worth," Grant says.

The following year, Grant came back and won the second Rose Cup, again in a Ferrari supplied by Hahn. Then his career took him to the big time, where he earned considerable fame in the USAC Championship Series. Grant raced USAC professionally from 1965 to 1977, including driving in the Indianapolis 500 from 1965 through 1968, 1970, and 1972 through 1976.

Additionally, Grant drove Can Am and USRRC with Dan Gurney's Lola team, and in Gurney's Ford GT sports cars at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, where he still holds a record lap time in the old long course configuration. Grant was also the first driver ever to record a 200 MPH average speed on an oval track. He set that record while qualifying at Ontario Motor Speedway in 1972.



Jerry Grant driving the first rose cup-winning car — a Ferrari 3-liter.

George Follmer is one of the great Can Am and Trans-Am drivers of the 1970s. He won both the Can Am and Trans-Am championships in 1972 and he earned another Trans-Am championship in 1976. His career also included racing in the Indianapolis 500, Formula 5000, NASCAR and Formula One.

Follmer is known as a driver who could win in any kind of racing, from the tough rubbing and bumping of NASCAR Winston Cup in the early 1970s and Trans-Am, to the refined precision of Formula One and Can Am. Grant is one of the legends of Le Mans and American sports car racing. These two names on the Rose Cup raise the power of the trophy for every driver who wins this event.

Keep an eye open for Grant, Hahn, and Follmer this weekend. They'll be at the Rose Cup Cruise In at noon on Sunday, and then at the starting ceremonies for the Rose Cup at 3 PM.