

**Jonathan Spinney induction Speech to
Pete and Denise Talabach**

It is my great pleasure to be in front of my friends and fellow racers having been given the honor of introducing Pete and Denise Talabach at their induction to the USCRA Hall of Fame. It is all the more poignant for me as my relationship with Pete and Denise extends beyond the racetrack both professionally as well as socially.

In 1985 while honeymooning on the Isle of Man during TT week, the sidecars blasted under the bridge where Pete and Denise were spectating- giving Denise her first exposure to racing sidecars. She proclaimed "We're doing this!!!" This led them to the USCRA in the mid 90's and was the genesis of a long journey traveled ultimately to the fabrication tour de force Red Molly... a 1951 Vincent Rapide powered Classic racing sidecar. Before completion of Red Molly came an introduction to sidecar teamwork aboard an early Fairbank Racing Sidecar known as Yard Waste.

I can tell you from personal experience Yard Waste is an evil machine. Pete applied his considerable skills and tamed Yard Waste making it faster... as if that was the problem,... totally reliable and at least drivable at speed without obvious threat to live and limb. But little could be done to make a rig that worked correctly without tremendous input and ultimately an off track excursion resulted in the now famous corner worker radio transmission of a "domestic dispute" in turn 1a. Both Pete and Denise have campaigned solo bikes as well. Denise on her yellow "Ugly Duckling" Ducati 250 and Pete on a Ducati 250 as well.

Denise is one of the first riders of the Team Mach 1 Benelli 650 Endurance racer. Which to her credit, Denise never bothered her husband crew chief with complaints about gearing, suspension, and brake feel and fade. Unlike Rabbie and I, who through nonstop complaint have rendered the Benelli unstoppable, un-shiftable scraped and ground;- now hidden in the back of the shop. Pete has also ridden an endurance race aboard a highly tuned..... *Hard to ride...* EX 500 and despite zero practice and years off of solo machines, climbed aboard and clicked off repeated and respectable lap times.

Pete and Denise have also participated in numerous MotoGiros on solo bikes and in Denise's Moto Guzzi 850 EML sidecar. The pair traveled to Italy so Denise could compete in the MotoGiro D Italia on her Gilera 150. The list of achievements of Talabach sponsored riders and prepared machines both in Team Mach 1 and not is impressive. Who can forget the performances turned in on the mighty Ducati Mach 1 350b by both Greg Nichols and Zack Courts.. And Hall of Famer Rabbie Demetrius on his 350 Honda with dozens of regional and national championships, solo bike and sidecar. The list goes on and on I've seen 9 of 10 podium finishers thank Pete and Mach 1 for one reason or another.

But the Hall of Fame is more than just on track success and bringing competence to the grid. It is about contribution to the club, and to the sport. Pete and Denise have worked in the club helping with every aspect at one time or another. From scoring to race directing, corner working to rules committee, their thoughtful level headed input is always sought and greatly appreciated.

Here for their induction to the United States Classic Racing Associations', please welcome your fellow racers and friends...

Pete and Denise Talabach