Like Father, Like Son
– story and photos by Robyn Handy

For many of us in vintage racing, there is some concern about the future and longevity of the sport, so we are delighted when we see family members and the next generation enjoying this great hobby together. In the Monoposto Racing group we have many father and son teams, so here I share stories with you of three great family teams.

Marcus and Charlie Jones
Marcus started racing about 18 years ago when his son Charlie was 3 or 4. He started at Summit Point driving a 1967 MGB-GT. Soon thereafter he purchased a 1965 Triumph Spitfire, which was an ex-SCCA race car and auto-crosser. Marcus rebuilt the car and has been racing in vintage events with it ever since. Marcus then moved to racing a Formula Vee. Charlie always enjoyed coming to the races with his dad so last year

Charles and Marcus Jones.
they found and purchased the Zink C4 FV for him. He went through an SCCA driving school last February and they are now racing Formula Vee’s together.
Just recently, at VIR’s Gold Cup race, Marcus and Charlie were able to Qualify first and second in their class. They were not able to stay for the race on Sunday but the qualifying race was great.

A race on their bucket list to do together is SVRA’s Watkins Glen event next September. It will be quite the celebration, as Charlie will have recently graduated from Virginia Tech.

David and Scott Fairchild
When Scott was 17 years old, he and his dad restored and built a 1973 Porsche 911 RS clone car with the intention of making it a street & track car. On his 19th birthday, they attended their first track day, which was on VIR’s South Course. After a few more track days, they decided they didn’t want to tear up a car with such a nice body, so they contacted long time vintage racer Peter Krause who sold them a 1969 PBS Mk. IV. Peter helped Scott and David acquire their vintage racing licenses in June of 2002.

Scott’s favorite memory in vintage racing is finishing 0.000 sec to his dad at the line at the Gold Cup race to tie for the win in 2009.

Will there be another generation of Fairchild’s racing? “Yes!” says Scott. He certainly hopes so, and the fact that his daughter is already attending events and enjoys fixing things, I see a third generation Fairchild on the grid one day!
What would be a dream race for the Scott and David? Monterey!! With family on the west coast it would be not only an amazing event to compete in, but would be a great opportunity for their family on the West Coast to watch them in action too!

Paul and Doug Meis
As with many of the father and son teams, dad Paul started racing first in a Honda S800. Doug came to the races and got the bug and wasted no time. He went to a drivers school the following year. Doug joined his dad in a few enduros and soon acquired his own Honda S800. With a pair S800 Coupes on the track, Team Escargot was born. (creatively named after the Honda S).

Around 2005, Paul decided to try out Monoposto racing in a FV and has loved it ever since. Doug saw how much fun he was having and acquired a FF in 2007 in which he is frequently on the pole and a front runner in the FF group. Doug and Paul have both proven their versatility as drivers in their small bore racers as well as open wheel cars.

With so many years in vintage racing, great memories abound. One of Doug’s favorites is well worth sharing. If you know Doug, you know he is an athlete (biking and running in particular), and that quality came in handy during an enduro at Road Atlanta. In Doug’s words “As was our usual practice, Dad started the one hour race but came to the pits after about 15 minutes, several laps ahead of schedule with a flat tire. Our spare parts for the weekend did include a wheel/tire but it was back at the paddock along with the jack and the lug wrench. So I made a mad dash to the paddock. I think I had to make two trips to get everything. One trip for the jack and lug wrench and a second trip for the tire while Dad was getting the car jacked up and the flat tire removed. I got in the car and got buckled up while Dad finished the tire change. Somehow, despite the crazy fire drill of a stop, our pit time was just six minutes, losing only one minute over the required five minute stop. We had no time to check tire pressure on the replacement and I don’t know if we ever did after the race. I matched Dad’s quick lap times from his stint and we won our class.”

Will there be a third generation Meis in the mix in the future? Doug’s son Tyler likes the cars and race weekends but the racing bug has not infected him to the extent that he has plans to get into a car and go racing . . . yet. He’s done a few autocrosses and shown that he has the talent to go fast so who knows, maybe the racing bug will bite him somewhere down the road.

One of my favorite things about Team Escargot is that Rene (Doug’s wife) and Marcia (Paul’s wife) love the racing too and can often be found on the grid, in the pits, or back at the team trailer making sure all is perfect for the guys. A true racing family.

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