

Norm Nelson – USAC Stock Car Champion



Well, they're not Aero Warriors, but I happen to be fond of race car hauler photos. Mostly because you just don't see very many of them.

It's the winter of 1964-65, and here is Norm Nelson's Dodge car hauler parked at his Racine Wisconsin race shop, outside of Milwaukee. Judging by the new '65 Plymouth front clips on the hauler, I'll say they might have just made a quick run down to Nichols Engineering for some parts to update their cars. Note the "Plymouth Super Stocks" advertising on the hauler. Norm drove one, and Lloyd Ruby drove the other. Norm's shop is still there, but it looks nothing like it did in the 60's since a new façade has been added to the building.



It's now July 4th, 1965, and the Nelson team is at the gate to get into a race track – I'm not sure which one, but it's not Milwaukee, for sure.

They certainly have confidence in the tie-down of the cars, as it's just hanging on the back edge of their decks!

It's hard to see, but Norm has a couple of round "feature win" decals on the rear sail panel of the #2 car. Norm won his second USAC title that year.

The second car, #56 was driven by open wheel star Jim Hurtubise, making his comeback after suffering terrible hand burns at Milwaukee in 1964.



Fast forward to July 8th, 1967. This shot was taken at Soldier Field, in Chicago. Yes, the place where the Bears play. The track was inside the stadium, outside the football field.

The car has changed, but the winning style has not. Norm repeated as USAC points champion in 1966 and wore the #1 again. It was his third and final USAC title.

After sitting out some races in the early 70's Norm, now well into his fifties, made one last shot at the USAC stock car title in 1974. He almost did it, coming up just a little short to Butch Hartman. It came down to a race in Milwaukee in September. Hartman and Nelson were battling at the end of the race, and in the late afternoon title. Norm hung up his helmet after a He was one of the great ones.

shade of the grandstand, Norm just couldn't see. Hartman got away, and so went the nearly 30 year career. We lost Norm way too early in 1986 after a bout with cancer.