

MARTY BARBER

Marty Barber began racing at the age of 17 in the first year of the street stock class at Huset's, when the race cars were little more than street cars with the glass removed. He soon attracted a legion of fans with his aggressive driving style along with his antics behind the wheel and outside of the race car. As the street stock class evolved into a division of true racing machines, Barber left his own car in the early 1980s to drive for Ben Nothdurft, beginning what would eventually become one of the most successful owner-driver relationships in local racing. Except for driving one year for Kenny Moe and another season for the Fisher brothers, Barber drove the Ben's Bargain Barn car through the 1999 season, amassing local racing records that will be difficult to match. Barber is the all-time leading winner at the now-closed Lake County Speedway with 67 victories along with nine championships. He has 52 career feature wins at Huset's, including seven track titles. He won three track championships each at Hartford Speedway in Hartford, South Dakota and Rapid Speedway in Rock Rapids, Iowa. He also won features in Wagner and Jefferson, South Dakota and at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls. Most notable was that, in an era of inverted starts, nearly all of Barber's wins came after starting either near or at the back of the field. Barber also showed that his driving skills weren't limited to stock cars. In his only year behind the wheel of a sprint car in 1990, he won multiple features at Huset's, Hartford and Rapid and collected the Hartford championship. Barber always gave credit for his success to his long-time friend Jim Schmidt, who built the engines that provided the horsepower and reliability for all of his track championships. Racing part-time in 2000, Barber drove the Plimpton-owned street stock to a win at Huset's. While being interviewed by track announcer Tom Savage following his victory, Barber removed his firesuit and handed it to Savage, announcing his retirement.