

## 2023 HOF Inductee – Steve Lewis

Steve Lewis began his involvement with the PHA in 2007 first a competitor. But it wasn't long before he also became a volunteer. He was always the first person to step up whenever help was needed. And since he was competent in everything he did, his contributions made quite an impact for the better.

Steve was the assistant RE and secretary for the BMR region for the past several years, and he was at every BMR function helping out -- cleanups, setups, work days, parties/banquets, etc. Not content to just help his region, he was the PHA Novice instructor for several years, and his novices still appreciate what they learned from him (and also tell some hilarious stories).



Among his many contributions, he made it his mission to replace the original wireless timing system in order to reduce the amount of time needed to set up and tear down the antenna masts and run communication cable. After spending several years researching many different systems, he succeeded in finding a system that would work at our hill climbs, and it is the system that PHA is using now.



After Nelson Kase passed in 2020, starting with the 2021 season, Steve and Nancy took over all timing operations. They ran the new system in parallel with the Race America system that first year for proof of concept (so were running 2 timing systems) and managed to race at every event except Spring Jefferson to boot!

At the events that Steve didn't have a car ready, he came to the event and worked a corner. And when his car broke (or had an incident), he generally stuck around and worked.

On top of his many contributions, he was an incredible driver!

In 2007, Steve started out in a 2004 Ford Mustang Mach 1, and by the end of his first season, he set a class record at Fall Weatherly, and came in 8<sup>th</sup> overall. This pattern continued over the next few years, and in 2011, he joined the "Under 2 Minutes at Duryea" club. Unfortunately, he had an incident at 2015 Duryea, forcing him to retire the car. Incidentally, his first run and only run of the weekend was under 2 minutes.

Steve returned to racing in 2017 with a 2017 Ford Mustang GT, and his winning pattern continued. Unfortunately, his co-driver (Nancy) had an incident at Fall Shenandoah that year, forcing them to retire that car.



In 2019, he returned with a 2019 Ford Mustang and continued to win his class and set class records. His final racing season was 2021, but he continued to set up and run timing in 2022 and 2023 until his health no longer allowed him to.

To this day, Steve still holds 5 class records:

- Spring Jefferson -- ESP, set in 2022 with a 78.233
- Pagoda -- SM, set in 2014 with a 80.109
- Giants Despair -- SM, set in 2014 with a 44.540
- Duryea -- SM, set in 2014 with a 112.297
- Fall Shenandoah -- ESP, set in 2021 with a 93.464

Steve passed away on Oct 2, 2023, after a long battle with cancer.

