



NEWSLETTER

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Visit the VRG website at www.vrgonline.org for changes and updates to the schedule.

VRG RACE SCHEDULE 2017

- March 11 Winter Tech III in Clifton, NJ - 300 Colfax Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013
- April 7-9 VDCA WILD HARE RUN, VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY, ALTON, VA
Event Chairman: Mike Jackson, Tel: 561-622-7554 Email: vdca@vintagedrive.com
- ✓ May 17-21 “JEFFERSON 500” AT SUMMIT POINT, WEST VIRGINIA, VRG DRIVERS SCHOOL
ROYALE FF CHALLENGE SERIES
Co-Event Chairmen: Cal Trumbo & Jim Karamanis, Tel: 304-449-7050 Email: j500@vrgonline.org
- June 22-24 4th ANNUAL VINTAGE MOTORSPORTS FESTIVAL at THOMPSON SPEEDWAY
MOTORSPORTS PARK, THOMPSON, CT
OLDEST ROAD COURSE IN U.S., CO-SANCTIONED WITH THE VSCCA
Royale Formula Ford Feature Race
Event Chairmen: Paul King, Chairman, and Mark Gunsalus, Co-Chairman, Tel: 508-847-4809
Email: paulking@charter.net
- September 15-17 NEW JERSEY HISTORIC RACES, LIGHTNING CIRCUIT, NEW JERSEY MOTORSPORTS
PARK, MILLVILLE, NJ MG Vintage Racers Focus Event, Royale Formula Ford Feature Race.
Event Chairman: Butch O’Connor, Tel: 973-295-3674 Email: bfo@spsk.com
- October 6-8 VRG at THE GLEN, NY. Royale Formula Ford Feature Race.
Event Chairman: Mike Lawton, Tel: 978-274-5935 Email: Lawton@vrgonline.org
- October 20-22 THE VINTAGE PUMPKIN RUN, DOMINION RACEWAY, THORNBURG, VA.
Royale Formula Ford Feature Race, IMSA RS/Trans Am 2.5 Reunion
Event Chairmen: Cal Trumbo and Jim Karamanis, Tel: 304-449-7050 Email:
- November 24-26 21st ANNUAL TURKEY BOWL XXI, SUMMIT POINT, WEST VIRGINIA
Event Chairman: Michael Oritt, Tel: 305-420-4929 Email: Michael@vrgonline.org

“SNAPSHOT” from the VRG Lensman
SNAPSHOT No. 1
WILD HARE RUN at Virginia International Raceway
April 7-9, 2017

My 2017 racing season began with another visit to the VDCA Wild Hare Run, which has become a favorite. It was another great weekend for the VRG racers that made the trip to VIR. Mike and Sandy Jackson and the rest of the VDCA put on a great event and this year was no exception. The Wild Hare Run Pursuit Race may be the most interesting racing event that I have ever witnessed and it headlines the weekend at VIR. This was my third trip to VIR on behalf of the VRG and it hasn't taken me long to realize why our club shares this event with the VDCA. This event has the same “vibe” as a VRG event with smiles everywhere and safe driving on the track. One other note about this place is the ability to stay at the track at the trackside “villas.” These rooms are reasonably priced and it really it cuts down on the travel time at the end of the day. For those of you that follow my work on Facebook, it's obvious that I place a priority on getting some photos posted each day, and sometimes I'm up till midnight downloading before scrambling back to the track in the morning! I originally had some resistance, but I'm beginning to realize that social media is another way to promote our club and attract new racers. I'm amazed at the number of people that learn about vintage racing from my work on Facebook. Finally, what more can I say about the place that late racer, PLN described as “Heaven on Earth.” The place is simply amazing.

The VRG Royale FF Challenge Series: As a friend of the VRG and the Royale FF Challenge Series, I'm thrilled to report that another BIG highlight of the weekend was the return of the VRG “Royale Formula Ford Challenge Series.” The inaugural weekend included three exclusive races for the series and it wrapped up with what I would describe as the most exciting race of the weekend, the RFFCS Feature which was captured by Bob Bruce!

A few words about “THE SNAPSHOT!”

With the Jefferson 500 quickly approaching, I wanted to do something to share my work from the VDCA Wild Hare Run and to help get the VRG “engines revved” for the Jeff 500. This abbreviated version of the newsletter (The SNAPSHOT) is something I'd like to continue for those times when a full blown newsletter isn't possible. I'd like to thank Darry Bova and Bill Hollingsworth for helping me throw this together on short notice. I hope you enjoy the photos and check out more of my photos from the weekend on the website: www.billstoler.com

See you at the Jeff 500! –Bill Stoler



2017 Wild Hare Run @ VIR







2017 Wild Hare Run @ VIR







2017 Royale FF Challenge Series @ VIR





NOTES FROM THE FORMER EDITOR

Welcome to the 2017 Jefferson 500. NASCAR begins it's year at Daytona with their 500. VRG's 500 is a little different as it's season began with VDCA at VIR, and the Jefferson 500 is not about 500 miles, but it is a the first major get together of the year. It draws a major entry, includes the Driver School and gives the entrants a free open practice day. There is no better bargain in vintage racing. *It is a gathering of 500 – 1,000 friends!*

As of today, ten days before the Driver School, there are 242 entries. Be patient when being directed to a parking spot in the paddock.

If you look at the entry list it is a cross section of the member's racecars. The smallest group is that of the Sports 2000, and yet that group, which races all year as a group with different sanctioning bodies depending on the event, is very well represented with 22 entries. They are group that grows itself through the collective effort of its car owners. The Formula Fords are the best represented with 47 entries.

When VRG was founded in 2004, we were not sure that "build it and they will come." It was a slog. It was through the major efforts of a few: Bob Girvin, Mark Palmer, Tivvy Shenton, Brad Marshall, Chris Shoemaker, Ralph Steinberg and "their friends" that it grew...that it survived. It has grown fairly orderly around four run groups that has allowed your Event Chairmen to allocate a maximum of track time. In other words, **BANG FOR ONE'S BUCK**. In 2004 we may have had 10 Formula Fords – maybe. That along with some Formula Juniors and a few Formula V's was the Open Wheel Group. Monoposto had made Club Fords (1973-1981) part of the Wings and Slicks group. That was method of exile as the FF owners did not want the later model and cheaper to buy Formula Fords (It was about money). It was Jack Woerhle at SVRA who recognized the imbalance and Chris Shoemaker who suggested we incorporate Club Ford with the 1968-72 Formula Fords on the same tires as a way to grow the group – they are all Formula Fords! SVRA pulled CF into Group 2 with FF and FB and VRG, essentially with the push from Chris and a few others grow FF and CF as one group on the same specified tires. (The rules for FF and CF are the same). There are 80 Formula Fords listed in the VRG Roster. We grew it as a group. No vintage racing organization in the East can boast of such a large group of Formula Fords. A few have changed ownership this year. Some no longer race but the group grows. We may have ten new members who have FF or CF, and not everyone who races with VRG is a member, as some remain with VDCA, SVRA, or VSCDA. Soon our Formula Ford Roster will have 100 cars listed.

My point of bringing this out is about the growth of VRG. Membership is at a high and increasing. We are looking to grow VRG with cars that would be compatible with existing run groups. My point is that the groups grow because the car owners in that group solicit new members. It is a growth through bringing in compatible cars. If you want more Alfa's or Mustangs then you Alfa Romeo or Mustang owners need to find Alfa Romeo and Mustang owners who are not VRG members to come race with us – to join VRG. It is happening in the FV ranks because that group has banded together. It happened with the MG's in the 1980's because Greg Prehodka started the MG Vintage Racers Newsletter – *A Band of Brothers*. It became a *movement!* Which ever is your make you would rather have 5-10-15 of the same with which to race. Talk among yourselves and see where you think it is possible to grow your group...and do something about. *We built it and you came*. As a members organization you are the future and it is in your control to see where that goes.

WELCOME TO THE VRG/BRIAN REDMAN JEFFERSON 500

Bill Hollingsworth



Mike Lawton, SECRETARY
 94 Old Shirley Road
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**WELCOME TO THE VRG/
 BRIAN REDMAN JEFFERSON 500**

For the driver who enjoys racing with others who value driver attitude, skill and car preparation.

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 Cal Trumbo, Treasurer
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VRG DRIVING SCHOOL

By the time you read this, the 2017 VRG Driving School preceding the Jefferson 500, will be under way or have already been completed by the 28 enrolled students. The school's role is to help train new prospective drivers in the art of car control and the science of vehicle dynamics. This is accomplished through written materials, oral instruction and a variety of practical exercises. The students comprise both rookies and seasoned drivers who want to brush up on their skills prior to the "season" beginning.

Exercises include an extended period of skid pad exercises to have new drivers experience understeer and oversteer in a safe controlled environment. Seasoned drivers get the opportunity to practice controlled car rotation to improve their corner entry skills and recovery reflexes.

Braking exercises teach new drivers the art of threshold braking and heel/toe downshifts. Experienced drivers practice their heel/toe techniques and braking skills. A series of on track exercises allow new drivers to experience the intense adrenalin rush of a race start via a series of mock starts. They also get to practice the driving line in a series of lead/follow exercises at increasing speeds. The objective is to give the prospective driver a taste of wheel to wheel driving on track in a safe controlled environment prior to their first experience in an actual race group. On Thursday they will get an opportunity to run in a school only group prior to joining their assigned race group for the weekend. Our level 2 drivers use the track exercise period to concentrate on problem corners and fine tuning their skills in preparation for the race weekend.

This will be the last school that I will be directing as Chief Driving Instructor. I am turning my duties over to the capable hands of Denny Austin who will carry on the proud tradition of the VRG Driving School. I am confident that Denny's experience will lead to new and innovative ideas in the Club's quest to train our driver's in the most effective manner possible.

Paul Bova
Chief Driving Instructor