



DECEMBER 2017 TURKEY BOWL

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, 2017** **Winter Tech in Clifton, NJ**
- April 7-9, 2017** **VDCA Wild Hare Run – Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA**
Event Chairman: Mike Jackson, Tel: 561-622-7554, Email: vdca@vintagedrive.com
- May 17-21, 2017** **Jefferson 500 – Summit Point, WV**
VRG Drivers School (May 17-18)
with FREE Open Test Day (May 18)
Co-Event Chairmen: Cal Trumbo & Jim Karamanis
Tel: 304-449-7050 Email: j500@vrgonline.org
- June 22-24, 2017** **The Vintage Motorsports Festival – Thompson Speedway, Thompson, CT**
Oldest Road Course in the USA, 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
- Sept. 15-17, 2017** **New Jersey Historics – Lightning Circuit, NJ 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
- Oct. 6-8, 2017** **VRG at The Glen – Watkins Glen, NY**
Royale Formula Ford Feature Race
Event Chairman: Mike Lawton, Tel: 978-274-5935, Email: Lawton@vrgonline.org
- Oct. 20-22, 2017** **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: jim@vrgonline.org.
- ✓ Nov. 24-26, 2017** **Annual Turkey Bowl XXI – Summit Point, WV**
Event Chairman: Michael Oritt, Tel: 305-420-4929, Email: Michael@vrgonline.org

21ST RUNNING OF THE VRG TURKEY BOWL, SUMMIT POINT, WV

by Don Mei (This article also ran in the February 2018 issue of VICTORY LANE magazine)

It's 371 miles from Branford, CT to Summit Point Motorsports Park, a bit more than 400 miles if you included my detour to meet up with friends in New Jersey on the way. It also involves getting up at four AM after a gluttonous holiday dinner with family in order to meet said friends at six, so we can get there in time for practice at 11. Insanity you say; probably, but it's Turkey Bowl weekend, the swan song for vintage racing here in the northeast.

The VRG schedule begins and ends at Summit Point. The Jefferson 500 in May, (May 16-20 in 2018) is one of the premier vintage events in the country, attracting close to 300 entrants from all over the US and Canada who come to attend a much lauded two day drivers school, and some of the best racing in the country. The bookend at the other end of the schedule is the Turkey Bowl, Thanksgiving weekend and a MUCH more laid

back event. There is no timing and scoring and the entire weekend is ultra low key and all about having fun.

This year was the 21st running of an event that was started back in the mists of time by Lee Raskin and Joe Blocker with the encouragement of Bill Scott, owner of Summit Point. The original sanctioning body was VSCCA, the New England based vintage racing group. From the beginning, the event was set up as a gathering of automobile potpourri. This year had several vintage racing groups, a modern group (mostly populated today by well behaved spec Miatas) and a group for Legends cars with their howling high RPM motorcycle motors. It's an interesting mix and wandering about a Turkey Bowl paddock, is always great fun. VRG became the sanctioning body somewhere around 2006 and Michael Oritt has been the Event Chairman for some six years or so.



2017 VRG Turkey Bowl -Summit Point



The real question is why would some 85 drivers and their equally unbalanced friends make the trek to run the Turkey Bowl the day after Thanksgiving? Part of the answer is that it's just fun but over the years this has also become part of these drivers extended families. They come for another celebration... one a bit louder and faster than the one they enjoyed on the Thursday before. It doesn't matter what the weather is like. This year it was variable with reasonably good crisp fall weather; forties in the morning rising to fifties in the afternoon. There was a bit of early morning rain one day that left the track damp for the first few practice sessions, but not that big a deal. I've been there when it's been in the sixties and also when it was in the low thirties. The camaraderie that is such an important component of vintage racing is especially strong at the Turkey Bowl and it's helped along by the laid back atmosphere of

the event and the pleasant continental breakfast laid out every morning in the classroom, which is a gathering point to talk and hang out with friends. Saturday night was a pleasant evening spent with fellow competitors at the Piccadilly Pub in beautiful Winchester, Virginia. And let's not forget the Turkey Bowl beanies! These warm wool caps are handed out to drivers and crew, a badge of honor for all attendees to wear. TB or not TB... it's not a question. For many of us, it's a must do before winter hibernation!

The racing was good, but we have no results to report. The four car relay race is always a high point of the event, with four cars, one from each race group participating. Who won? I don't know. I was having too much fun. Come join us next year. We'll save a cap for you!



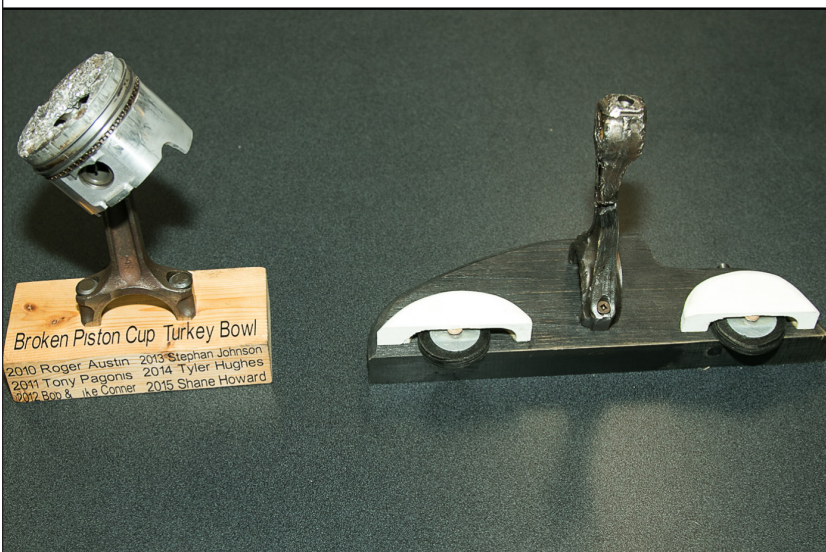




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For the driver who enjoys racing with others who value driver attitude, skill and car preparation.

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