

VRG RACE SCHEDULE

2018

- April 6-8** **Wild Hare Run with VDCA – Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA**
Royale Formula Ford Feature Race
Event Chairman: Mike Jackson, Tel: 561-622-7554, Email: vdca@vintagedrive.com
- May 17-20** **Jefferson 500 – Summit Point, WV**
VRG Drivers School, Royale FF Challenge Series, VeeRG Challenge Series, IMSA RS/Trans Am 2.5 Reunion, VRG Drivers School (May 16-17) with FREE Open Test Day (May 17)
Co-Event Chairmen: Cal Trumbo & Jim Karamanis
Tel: 304-449-7050 Email: j500@vrgonline.org
- June 21-23** **5th Annual Vintage Motorsports Festival – Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, Thompson, CT**
Oldest Road Course in the USA, Co-Sanctioned with the VSCCA
Event Chairman: Paul King, (508) 847-4809, paulking@vrgonline.org,
- July 27-29** **New Jersey Historics – NJMP Thunderbolt, Millville, NJ**
Royale Formula Ford Feature Race, VeeRG Challenge Series
Event Chairman: Butch O'Connor, Tel: 973-295-3674, Email: bfo@spsk.com
- ✓ **September 7-9** **VRG at Pitt-Race – Wampum, PA**
Full Track at PIRC. Royale Formula Ford Feature Race
VeeRG Challenge Series Finale
Event Chairman: Keith Lawrence, Tel: 412-770-8267, Email: Keith@VRGonline.org
- October 5-7** **VRG at The Glen – Watkins Glen, NY**
Royale Formula Ford Feature Race
Event Chairman: Mike Lawton, Tel: 978-274-5935, Email: Lawton@vrgonline.org
- November 23-25** **Annual Turkey Bowl XXII – Summit Point, WV**
Event Chairman: Michael Oritt, Tel: 305-420-4929, Email: Michael@vrgonline.org

A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

by Bill Stoler

The phrase, “A Weekend to Remember” is well worn and used frequently, but I can’t think of a better way to describe the VRG event at the Thunderbolt circuit at New Jersey Motorsports Park.

It will be remembered.

Years from now, in a random vintage racing conversation, we’ll be talking about a driver or race car from this weekend and trying to get the listener to scan the memory bank and recall the subject and the “lightbulb” will come on... ”Oh, yeah... now I remember, THAT weekend!”

For those you that didn’t make it, you probably have heard or experienced this most unusual weather pattern that has dominated the “Summer of 2018.” A record

amount of rain has fallen on the Mid-Atlantic region during the typically dry months of July and August. In the eastern half of PA, we haven’t seen this much rain since 1972, when the remnants of Hurricane Agnes parked over the state for a few days!

The good news was it wasn’t a washout like the Jeff 500 and there was plenty of sunshine and racing. It should be apparent in the photos, that we had a bunch of good racing in spite of the weather. The rain only affected Friday and came in the form of thunderstorms. During the early eighties, watching NASCAR races on CBS, I learned the weather term – “frog swallower.” My memory may be totally skewed here, but I think I remember the British accent of racing analyst David Hobbs telling us that this is how Cale Yarborough described a major downpour!



2018 VRG New Jersey Historics



But the racing did get underway and I'm glad to report that it was very good. I heard a lot of good comments about the track and it provided great entertainment from my side of the fence. The Royale Formula Ford Series put on another great feature race and it was captured again by Scott Fairchild in his 1978 Zink Z-10. Joe Griffin and Doug Voss battled for the runner up spot with Joe taking that spot in his 1981 Crossle and Doug rounded out the podium in a 1971 Merlyn Mk20. Ron Beard had a great drive in the 1987 Crossle 65, starting 22nd and improving to a 10th place finish. Denny Austin had the 1976 Zink dialed in for a 4th place finish. Kyle Kaulback finally got his 1971 Lotus sorted out and seemed to enjoy his top five finish. Commenting on the top five finishers would be tidy, but I just can't help bringing the 6th place finish of John Gaither into the mix. John ran very well all weekend in the PRS RH-01. The youngster driving for Holger Al and Powerslide Motorsports, Alex Scaler dropped out with a mechanical problem but was back and took the win on Sunday. I didn't get a chance to mention this in the last newsletter, so I'll do it now... Congrats to Alex for jumping into Paul Buttrose's Ford at Mosport and taking the FF win in a car that he had no track time. Well done, Alex! The other big race of the weekend was the inaugural VeeRG Formula Vee Challenge Feature that was one for the ages. Harry Sroka took the win in the 1967 Autodynamics FV after battling Mike Lawrence and Doug Zink. The real story here is,

Mike Lawrence went off track and sprayed Harry with a load of mud and Harry's Formula Vee was dirty for what seemed like the first time ever and resembled a monster truck at mud bog! Doug Zink (the nephew of the car builder) came home 2nd in the 1968 Zink Z5 that he just purchased from Bob Houston. Bob was on hand wrenching on the car that has a great deal of history. This was the car that was owned and driven by Bill Scott, the late owner of Summit Point and a former Formula Vee World Champion. Ivan Long took the 3rd spot in the 1965 Zink Z5. Eric Logan finished 4th in his 1964 Formcar. The "rookie" Mike Lawrence recovered to finish 5th, but will always be remembered for the day he "hogged up" Harry's immaculate Vee!

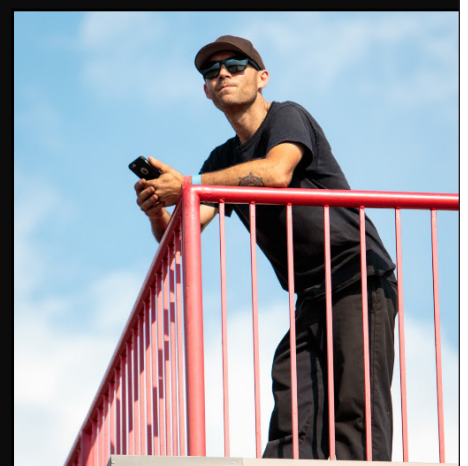
All in all, it was a great weekend for the VRG. My take away for this weekend will be that in spite of a rough start with the weather on Friday, the VRG put on another good, safe weekend. The Joisey Boys really know how to throw a party! Congrats to Butch and the gang for giving all of us a "Weekend to Remember" at NJMP's Thunderbolt!

Next stop is Pitt-Race!

Bill Stoler

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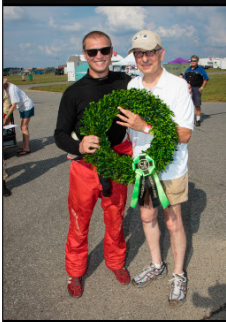




photos by Bill Stoler



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Royale FF Challenge Series





VeeRG Formula Vee Challenge Series





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

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