



WINTER 2022

NEWSLETTER

WWW.VRGONLINE.ORG

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

2022 VRG EVENT SCHEDULE

- April 1-3** **Wild Hare Run with VDCA – Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA**
Event Chairman: Mike Jackson, 561-622-7554, vdca@vintagedrive.com
- April 25** **Driver Development Program – Jefferson Circuit, Summit Point, WV**
Advanced/Refresher Clinic for VRG's current experienced racers and veteran drivers returning to the sport – Chief Instructor: Denny Austin, denny@vrgonline.org
- May 10-12** **Driver School – Summit Point, WV**
Level 1/Novice Students – Chief Instructor: Denny Austin, denny@vrgonline.org
- May 12-15** **Jefferson 500 – Summit Point, WV**
Event Chairmen: Cal Trumbo & Jim Karamanis, 304-449-7050, j500@vrgonline.org
- June 23-25** **Vintage Motorsports Festival with VSCCA – Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, Thompson, CT**
Event Chairman: Mark Gunsalus, 508-272-1323, mgunsalus@charter.net
- July 15-17** **Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix at PittRace – Wampum, PA**
Event Chairman: Ian Wisbon, 412-400-9375, ian@vrgonline.org
- September 2-5** **Lime Rock Historics with VSCCA – Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, CT**
VRG Event Chairman: Paul King, 508-847-4809, paulking@vrgonline.org
- September 23-25** **VRG at The Glen – Watkins Glen, NY**
Event Chairman: Mike Lawton, 978-274-5935, lawton@vrgonline.org
- October 14-16** **New Jersey Historics – NJMP Lightning, Millville, NJ**
Event Chairman: Butch O'Connor, Tel: 973-295-3674, Email: bfo@spsk.com
- November 18-20** **Annual Turkey Bowl – Summit Point, WV**
Event Chairman: Jim Karamanis, 304-449-7050, jim@vrgonline.org



View more at BillStoler.com

HEADING BACK TO NJMP!

by *Bill Stoler*

Looking forward to returning to NJMP in October.

It's a good place to shoot and I love the connection to the old Army Air Corps training site, with the track being named for the aircraft, "Lightning" and "Thunderbolt." I've shot both tracks and I'm rather excited to be returning to the "Lightning" circuit and the photo opportunities it provides.

Looking back at my photos, it's hard to believe my first visit was the VRG event in 2010 when Bill Hollingsworth asked me to shoot for the newsletter. This visit would be significant after Mark Palmer suggested that I submit my photos to *Victory Lane Magazine*. He helped me get in touch with *VL* media

liaison, Pam Shatraw. A few months later I found my photos in print for the first time, and I've been getting published ever since – thanks to Mark and Bill. Eventually I found my way to *Vintage Motorsport Magazine*, which represented the "big-time" for me and I'm hopeful we may get our return to NJMP in an issue later this year.

If you want to relive the old memories or view my photos to get a feel for what the track is like, I'm attaching a few links to my photo galleries. Hope to see you in October!

[2010](#) [2013](#) [2014](#) [2015](#) [2016](#) [2017](#)



View more at BillStoler.com

WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO START RACING – AT 81 YEARS YOUNG!

by Bill Stoler

The laid-back event at Summit was the perfect place for Bill Bazley's first race at 81 years young.

As a teenager he attended his first race at Thompson Speedway back in the '50s. His friends had sports cars and the experience always stuck with him. Proving it's never too late to try something new, the Boston native found himself searching on-line for a race car during the early days of the pandemic. He found his '62 Austin Healey Sprite, took the Skip Barber school in July at Lime Rock and he began researching clubs for his racing debut. He selected

the VRG because of its focus on safety and driver behavior and circled the November date on his calendar for his first race. Bazley reported that the weekend exceeded his expectations, "everyone with the VRG was so courteous and helpful, the level of sportsmanship was unbelievable, and it was a great experience!" Bazley is hoping to attend the VRG drivers school at Summit Point this year.

The cool cars, safe racing and great friends of the VRG..."what a great place to start racing at any age!"



View more at BillStoler.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

by Mike Lawton

Hello racers! As I sit here in mid-February reflecting back on 2021 and thinking forward about the 2022 season, I can't help but be optimistic for a great season. Our 2021 season was by any measure, a great season for VRG and the membership. We recovered from the 2020 season where we were only able to hold two events, to run our full schedule in 2021. Events were safe – our Drivers Committee is effective, and your club was able to run every event by covering all our operating costs. As a non-profit, we work to keep costs low while balancing the budget on each event that we run so the club can continue to fund events. By covering all our event operating costs in both 2020 and 2021, we are building back a financial cushion to allow us to withstand another potential significant loss like the Jefferson 500 rainout several years ago.

Some personal highlights from 2021:

Unfortunately, I was unable to make the J500 and school but by all accounts, it was possibly the best J500 ever. The school enrolled a record number of

students and we're seeing great club growth both economically and into newer cars and some younger drivers year-over-year.

Thompson continues to grow, and our partners the VSCCA who share costs allow us to hold a "Club" type event that's a lot of fun. Mark Gunsalus has done a great job finding some sponsors and the event has a great "vibe."

PVGP at PittRace, VRG's first year back supporting this charity event with the PVGP team, and it was a great start. The PVGP management has been very eager to work with VRG to find ways to improve the event and integrate things like our Drivers Committee that will help the event grow as we continue the partnership.

LimeRock Historics, 2021 was our first year supporting this benchmark event "under normal circumstances" with spectators and a midway up the hill. We are pleased to support an already successful event and



integrate the “VRG brand” of “Cool Cars, Safe Racing and Great Friends” to the show.

Watkins Glen – what can I say? The car count continues to grow, there was great, safe racing in all groups, our partner BMW Club Racing continues to fill their time with a great field and the paddock parties were back. The VRG/BMW social in the garage consumed an amazing amount of beer in a very short time and we will be much more prepared in the future! On track, incidents were down from previous years and racing was close, respectful and safe. Overall, a big win! For 2022, we have been able to move into a September date after a number of years in early October so we’re looking forward to keeping the great momentum going!

Turkey Bowl continues to grow both the car count and a great vibe as the season-ending event before we put the cars away for the winter.

Great job everyone and we’re excited for an even better 2022 with some great new opportunities, including... NJMP! With Watkins Glen moving to a September date, that leaves October open and we will be going back to NJMP in October. Joisey Boy, esq. Butch O’Connor is going to get the band back together and “Lightning Strikes Twice!” Come on, brave the jug handles and let them pump your gas, we’re going to have a great time!

OK, a few key additional things I wanted to share...

1. The VRG Board has been working to develop a VRG Event Code of Conduct that we will be rolling out in 2022. This will apply to all attendees, crew, anyone at our events. It will be posted on the VRG

website and included in the event information supplement for each VRG race event.

2. Our video DOP (Driver Orientation Program) has been a great success for racers new to VRG, wherever they come from. We’ve had great feedback from drivers coming from other vintage groups, from SCCA and even some folks with international race experience. We will be asking all entrants at VRG events (yes, even those like me who may have been with VRG since 2004) to watch it this year. It’s always good to have a refresher on how we can respect our fellow racers (whoever they are) by playing to the same set of rules, so we’re all safe on track. [Click here](#) to visit the link posted on the Events page on the website.
3. We have developed a new document (VRG Member Guide to Race events) which is also linked on the Events page on the website. The idea here is, since our events take many flavors and schemes – we wanted everyone to be aware of what’s going on at each event. This document will give you the roadmap to your correct destination. So if you are wondering when the Wild Hare will open registration, please reach out to VDCA. If you have car classification questions at Lime Rock, please reach out to Lime Rock even staff directly. However, if you want to know why we can’t enter the track before 6 PM on Thursday or why we ran out of beer at Watkins Glen, well – yeah. That’s me.

Thanks everyone and I hope to see you all at the races!

Based on the VRG Member Guide, there’s an event-by-event synopsis for 2022 in the following pages:



WILD HARE RUN AT VIR – APRIL 1-3

Virginia International Raceway – Alton, Virginia



View more at BillStoler.com

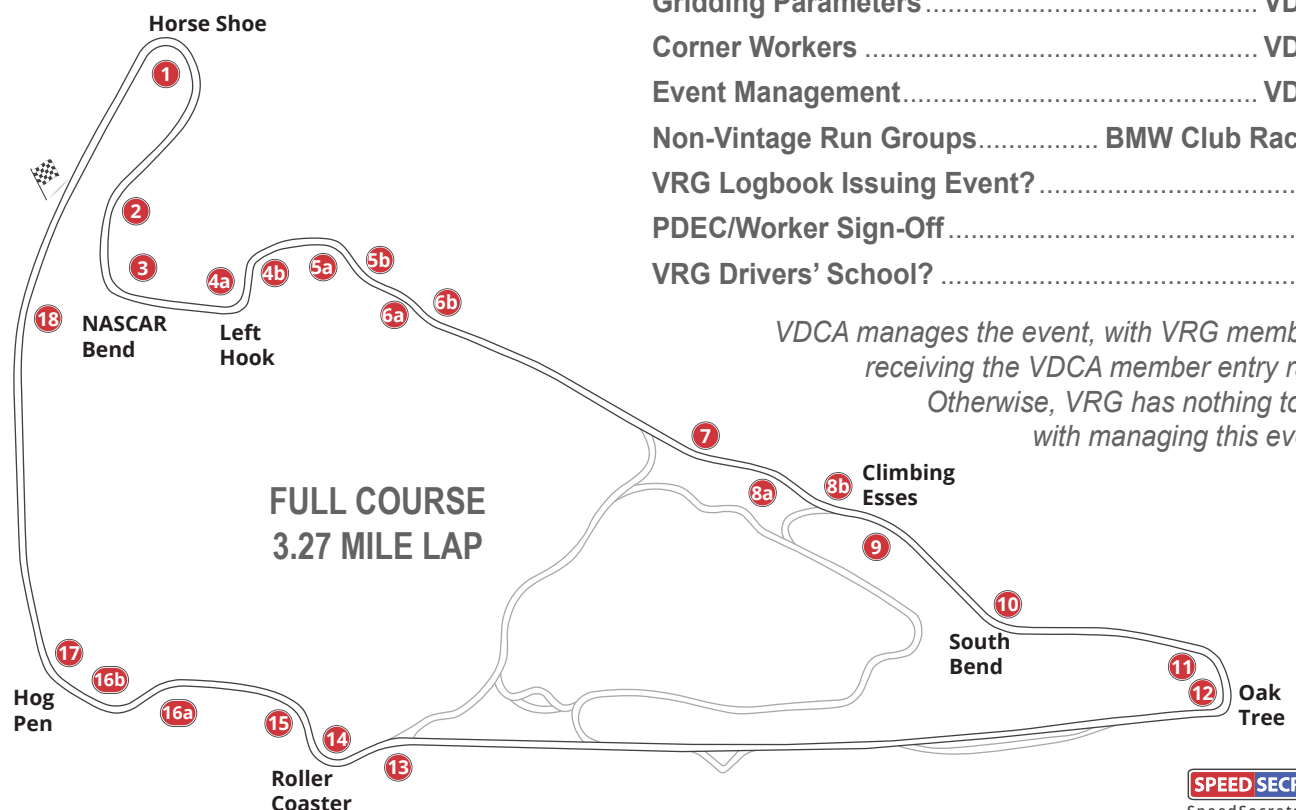


VIR is the first event of VRG’s 2022 schedule, and it’s a great way to start the season! The Wild Hare Run offers plenty of track time and features the unique “Australian Pursuit” race. Cars are sent out based on their qualifying times such that, in theory, everyone would finish at the same time! Of course that never exactly works out but it is a fun event nonetheless.

With the easing of Covid restrictions the Wild Hare also offers a couple of opportunities for social gathering. Friday evening, SASCO Sports hosts a Welcome Party/ Open House at their facility in VIR’s Technology Park. And included with your entry are two tickets (Driver & one Crew) for a catered dinner in the Gallery at VIR. (Extra crew tickets are available at additional cost – sign up early so you’re not left out.) – *Eric Russell*

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Timing & Scoring..... | VDCA |
| Driver’s Committee..... | VDCA, except for BMW club |
| Car Classification for Run Groups..... | VDCA |
| Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session)..... | VDCA |
| Tech Inspection | VDCA |
| Gridding Parameters | VDCA |
| Corner Workers | VDCA |
| Event Management..... | VDCA |
| Non-Vintage Run Groups..... | BMW Club Racing |
| VRG Logbook Issuing Event?..... | No |
| PDEC/Worker Sign-Off | No |
| VRG Drivers’ School? | No |

VDCA manages the event, with VRG members receiving the VDCA member entry rate. Otherwise, VRG has nothing to do with managing this event.



JEFFERSON 500 – MAY 12-15

Summit Point Motorsports Park – Summit Point, West Virginia



View more at BillStoler.com



Summit Point Motorsports park is located close to the Virginia, West Virginia state line, not far from Interstate 81. The track is located about midway between Winchester, VA and Charles Town, WV. Motels and restaurants a plenty in both those area. The Jefferson 500, May 12 to May 15 is really the jewel in VRG’s crown. It’s one of the most prestigious vintage events in the country, and entries fill up quickly so if you plan on racing there, get your entry in!

I raced there in the seventies and the facility is constantly being improved and updated. It’s a fast track and one of my favorites, two miles, eleven turns and a 2,900 foot main straightway, it rewards smoothness and fast corner exits to take advantage of several long straightaways. The highly regarded VRG Drivers School will also be held that same week, May 10 to May 12.

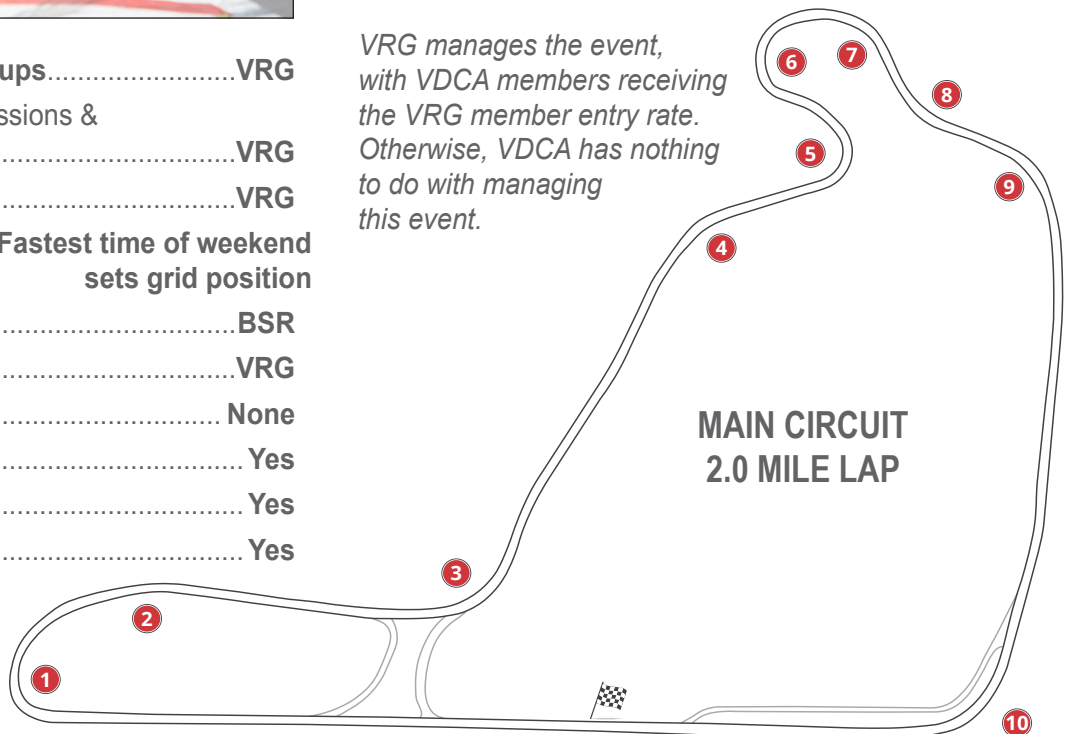
For the first time ever, the Rocker Cover Races are coming to the Jefferson 500! [Visit here for details.](#)

Looking forward to it. A good way to shake the winter doldrums and put some more distance on the Pandemic! See you there!
 – Don Mei

Timing & Scoring.....VRG
Driver’s Committee.....VRG

- Car Classification for Run Groups.....VRG**
- Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session).....VRG**
- Tech InspectionVRG**
- Gridding Parameters Fastest time of weekend sets grid position**
- Corner WorkersBSR**
- Event Management.....VRG**
- Non-Vintage Run Groups..... None**
- VRG Logbook Issuing Event?..... Yes**
- PDEC/Worker Sign-Off Yes**
- VRG Drivers’ School? Yes**

VRG manages the event, with VDCA members receiving the VRG member entry rate. Otherwise, VDCA has nothing to do with managing this event.



THOMPSON VINTAGE MOTORSPORTS FESTIVAL – JUNE 23-25

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park – Thompson Connecticut



The third event of the VRG season is June 24, 25 at Thompson Speedway. June 23 is a practice day run by the track and will cost \$150. It is NOT included in the entry. The event is run in conjunction with the VSCCA. The track is located a few miles off interstate 395 in the Northeast corner of Connecticut near Putnam. It's about twenty miles south of Worcester, Mass and is convenient to Boston, Providence and most of New England.

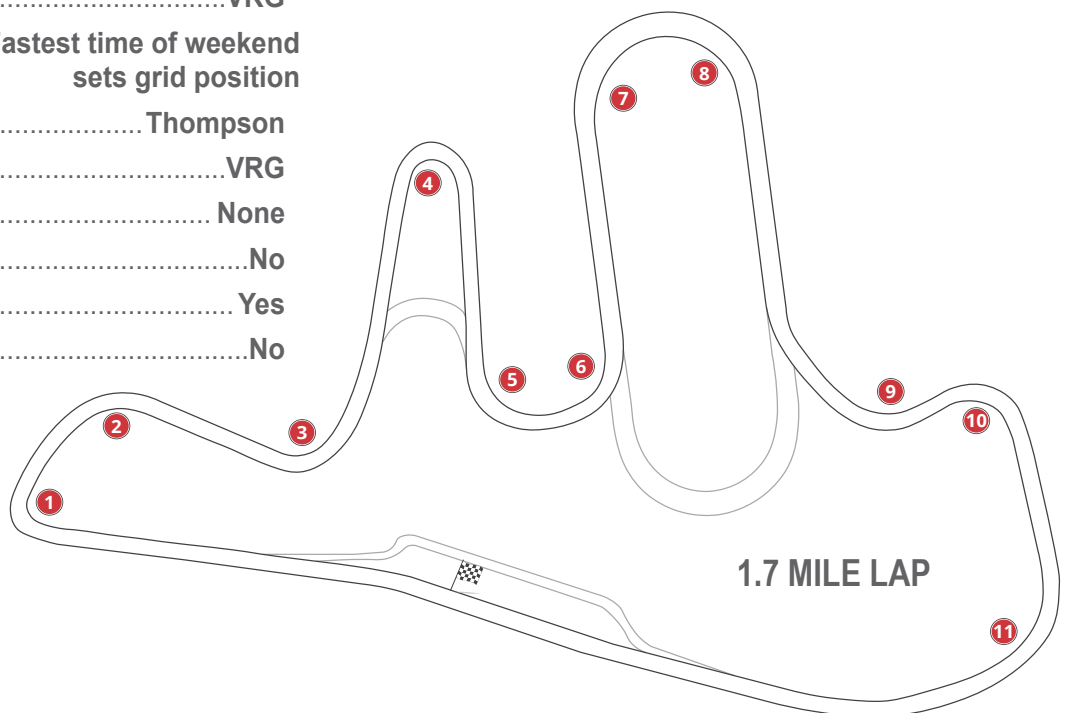
Thompson is a 1.7 mile road course built around a 5/8 oval. The oval is part of the road course and there is a transition turning onto and exiting the oval. A medium speed track, it's a fairly comprehensive facility with a very long history. Thompson is actually the oldest road course in the US. The oval dates back to 1940. When the post WW2 sports car boom began, a number of oval tracks in the northeast added road courses to provide the fledgling SCCA with venues to add to the airport circuits that were also in vogue at the time. Most are defunct now, but Thompson survives!

One of the things that makes Thompson unique is it sits on the same property as a golf course and the course has a large, comfortable restaurant that is a short walk across the parking lot. The combination of restaurant and garages makes the whole event a very friendly and sociable event. I'm looking forward to racing there and seeing some old friends.

– Don Mei

| | |
|---|--|
| Timing & Scoring..... | VRG |
| Driver's Committee..... | VRG |
| Car Classification for Run Groups..... | VRG for VRG Entries VSCCA for VSCCA Entries |
| Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session)..... | VRG |
| Tech Inspection | VRG |
| Gridding Parameters | Fastest time of weekend sets grid position |
| Corner Workers | Thompson |
| Event Management..... | VRG |
| Non-Vintage Run Groups..... | None |
| VRG Logbook Issuing Event?..... | No |
| PDEC/Worker Sign-Off..... | Yes |
| VRG Drivers' School? | No |

VRG manages this event, with support and collaboration from VSCCA.

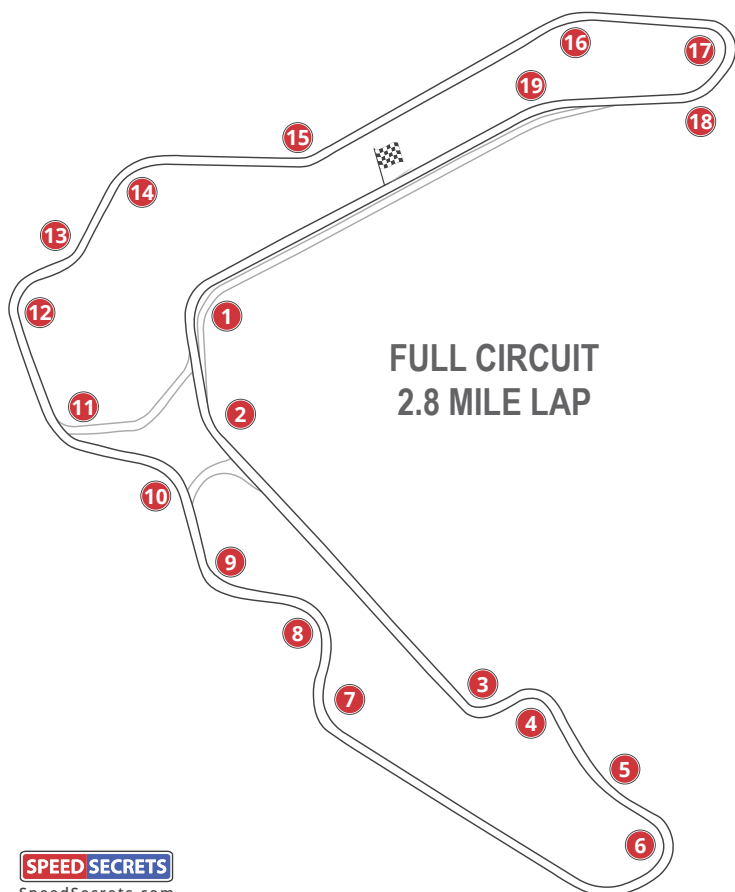


PVGP HISTORICS AT PITTRACE – JUNE 23-25

Pittsburgh International Race Complex – Wampum, Pennsylvania



View more at BillStoler.com



PittRace is a fabulous, technical, track! It has all of the features and challenges that most of us look for: big elevation changes, blind apexes, rhythmic esses and flat-out straights.

Turn One starts the show with the crest of a rise at the end of the long front straight hiding the apex until you're right on top of it. The exit of Turn Two has you tracking out into blue sky. PittRace has its own version of the Corkscrew, which drops you down into Coyote Gulch. The "Rhythm Section" will allow you to demonstrate your smoothness and finesse. And so on, through its 2.8 miles. The track is one of those circuits which feels so good when you get it right, and reminds you when you don't.

PittRace's facilities are second to none. The paddock is level and paved, and the view from "Spectator Hill" includes about 80% of the track. – Joe Teplitz

- Timing & Scoring PVGP
- Driver's Committee..... PVGP with support from VRG, except for BMW Club
- Car Classification for Run Groups.....PVGP
- Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session)..... PVGP
- Tech InspectionVRG
- Gridding Parameters Fastest time of weekend sets grid position
- Corner Workers PittRace
- Event Management..... PVGP Association with input from VRG
- Non-Vintage Run Groups..... Modern Historics (including cars starting in mid-1980s) BMW Club Racing
- VRG Logbook Issuing Event? Yes
- PDEC/Worker Sign-Off Yes
- VRG Drivers' School?No

VRG provides input to PVGP. PVGP manages the event and makes final decisions. VRG plays no role in the PVGP Schenley Park event.

LIME ROCK VINTAGE FESTIVAL – SEPTEMBER 2-5

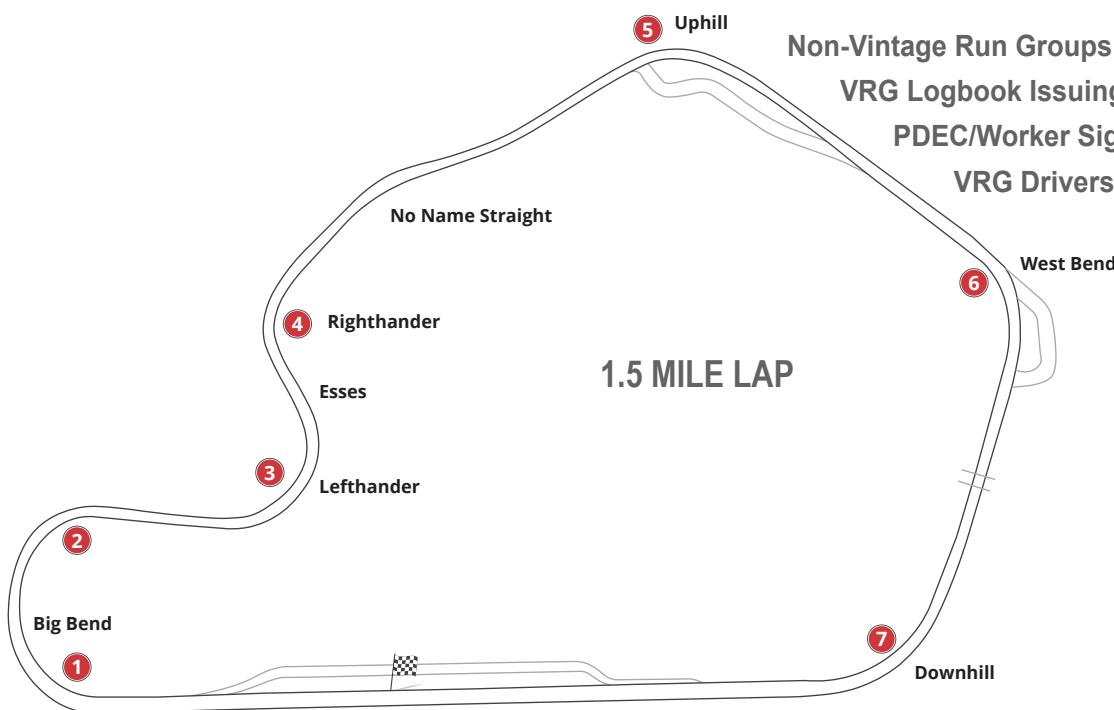
Lime Rock Park – Lakeville, Connecticut



The Labor Day event at Lime Rock isn't your typical VRG weekend – the Historic Festival is packed with activity. It begins with a 17-mile race car parade through the nearby villages and a street fair. Racing gets underway on Friday/Saturday – a break for the “Sunday in the Park Concours” and a return to racing on Monday. The event features a midway, book signings, legendary drivers, and a collection of racing machines that you rarely see these days. The park-like setting has no grandstands and with thousands of spectators covering the hillsides of the 1.5-mile facility – it seems more like a “racing amphitheater” nestled among the surrounding Berkshire Mountains! – *Bill Stoler*

- Timing & Scoring LRP
- Driver's Committee VRG & VSCCA
- Car Classification for Run Groups Lime Rock Historics
- Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session) Lime Rock Historics
- Tech Inspection Lime Rock Historics (includes some VRG Inspectors)
- Gridding Parameters Fastest time of weekend sets grid position
- Corner Workers Lime Rock
- Event Management Lime Rock Historics with input from VRG and VSCCA
- Non-Vintage Run Groups None
- VRG Logbook Issuing Event? No
- PDEC/Worker Sign-Off Yes
- VRG Drivers' School? No

VRG provides input to Lime Rock Historics and Lime Rock Historics makes final decisions.



VRG AT THE GLEN – SEPTEMBER 23-25

Watkins Glen International – Watkins Glen, New York

Watkins Glen has it all – the Finger Lakes, waterfalls, wine and the historic racetrack that hosted Formula One. Arguably, the most iconic place to photograph a race car may be at the top of the Glen’s famous esses! This place always tops the list of the VRG member survey as the place we want to visit year after year. The 3.4-mile circuit ringed by the baby blue Armco is considered by many as the superspeedway of road courses and is still making history with IMSA and NASCAR today.

– Bill Stoler



View more at BillStoler.com

Timing & Scoring.....VRG
 Driver’s Committee.....VRG, except for BMW club
 Car Classification for Run Groups.....VRG, except
 BMW run group

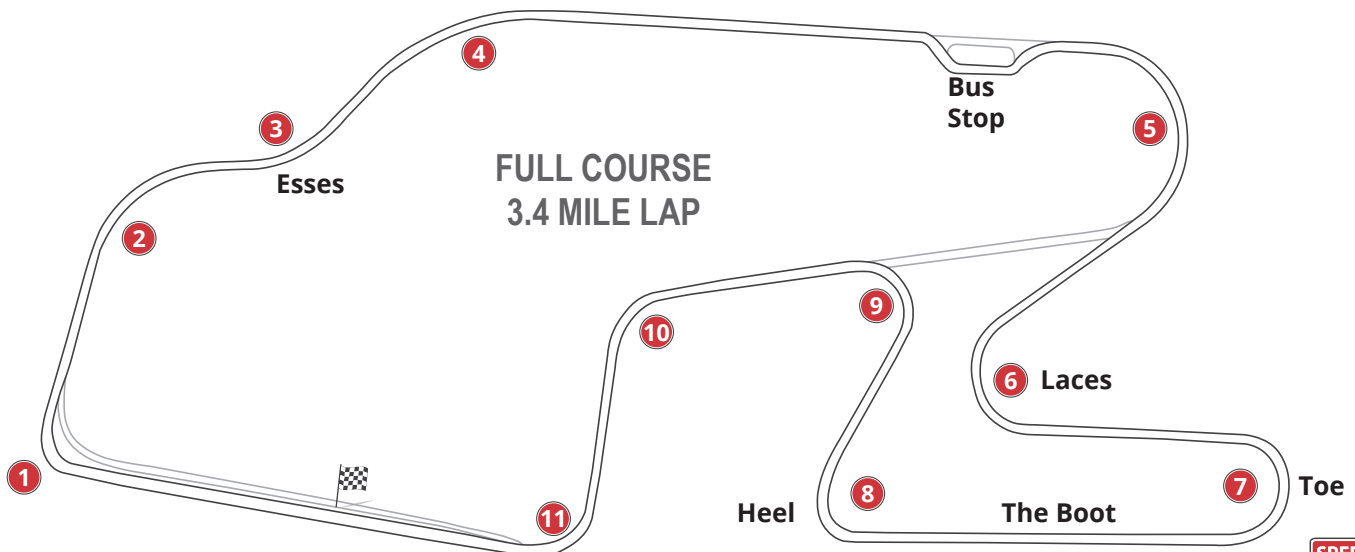
Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session).....VRG

Tech InspectionVRG, except BMW Club Racing
 Gridding ParametersFastest time of weekend sets grid position

Corner WorkersWatkins Glen
 Event Management.....VRG

Non-Vintage Run Groups.....BMW Club Racing
 Logbook Issuing Event?.....Yes
 PDEC/Worker Sign-OffYes
 VRG Drivers’ School?No

VRG manages the event.



NEW JERSEY HISTORICS – OCTOBER 14-16

Lightning Circuit, New Jersey Motorsports Park – Millville, New Jersey

NJMP is built near the site of the Millville Army Airfield that operated during WWII. The facility features two independent racetracks named for the aircraft used by the pilots who trained here. The “Thunderbolt” is a 2.25-mile course named for the Republic P-47 fighter aircraft. The course named for the P-38 “Lightning,” is a 1.9-mile course. The VRG has raced on both circuits and this year returns to the “Lightning” track which is the track used during the VRG’s first visit when the track opened in 2008. The event is hosted by Butch O’Connor and the “Joisey Boys” which assures you’ll have great time at the track!

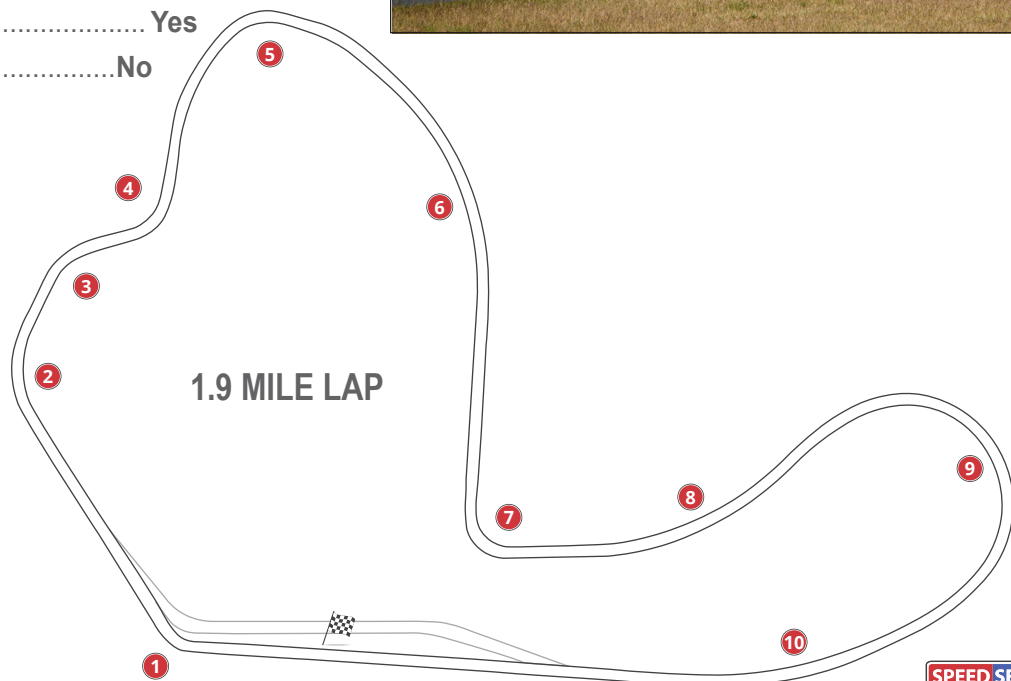
– *Bill Stoler*

- Timing & Scoring.....VRG
- Driver’s Committee.....VRG
- Car Classification for Run Groups.....VRG
- Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session).....VRG
- Tech InspectionVRG
- Gridding Parameters Fastest time of weekend sets grid position
- Corner Workers NJMP
- Event Management.....VRG
- Non-Vintage Run Groups..... BMW Club
- VRG Logbook Issuing Event?..... Yes
- PDEC/Worker Sign-Off Yes
- VRG Drivers’ School?No

VRG manages the event.



View more at BillStoler.com



TURKEY BOWL – NOVEMBER 18-20

Summit Point Motorsports Park – Summit Point, West Virginia

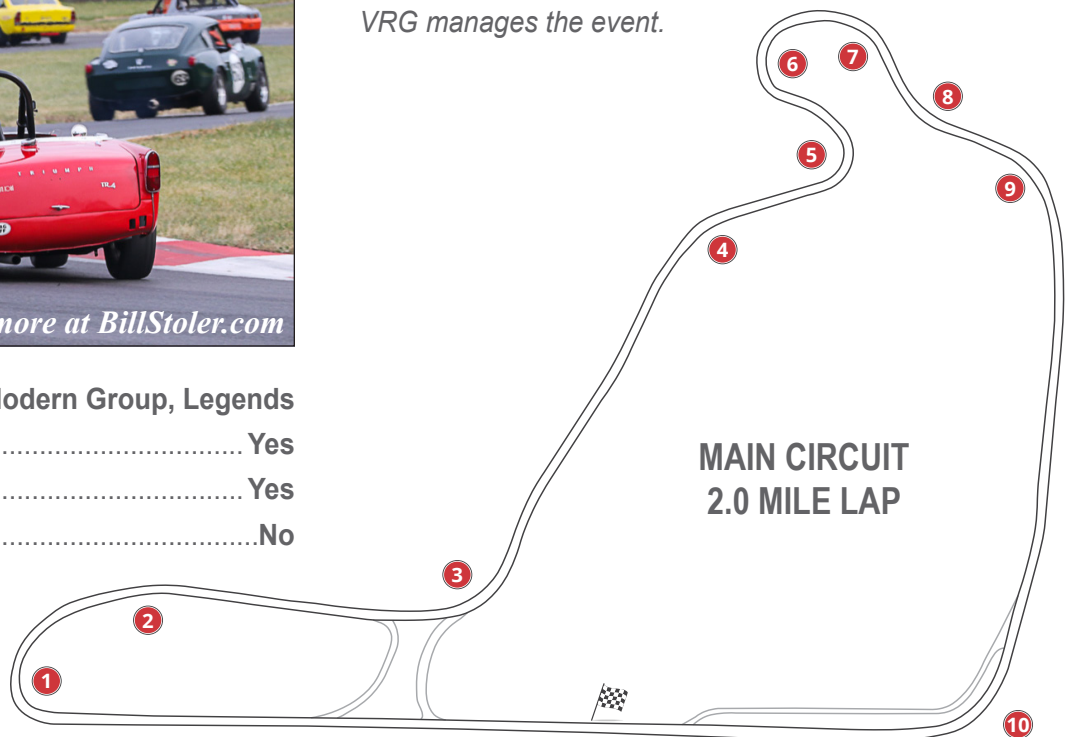


View more at BillStoler.com

The Turkey Bowl isn't just an event, it's an experience! This low-key gathering is the essence of grassroots VRG racing. Bring whatever is left of your car, tires, fuel and burn it all up at the end of season with some of the largest amounts of track time you'll ever experience at a vintage race event. Commonly, the end of day bench racing around the campfire is just as competitive as the actual on track action. And if you are lucky, you won't even have to break out the ice scraper. What better way to start the holiday season, and still be home in time for Thanksgiving Day Turkey! See ya at The Turkey Bowl...
 – Jim Karamanis

| | |
|---|--|
| Timing & Scoring..... | VRG |
| Driver's Committee..... | VRG |
| Car Classification for Run Groups..... | VRG |
| Schedule (# of run groups, # sessions & length of time for each session)..... | VRG |
| Tech Inspection | VRG |
| Gridding Parameters..... | Fastest time of weekend sets grid position |
| Corner Workers | BSR |
| Event Management..... | VRG |

VRG manages the event.



- Non-Vintage Run Groups..... Modern Group, Legends
- VRG Logbook Issuing Event? Yes
- PDEC/Worker Sign-Off Yes
- VRG Drivers' School? No



View more at BillStoler.com

WE NEED RACE REPORTERS!

No formal education required! – just tell us how the weekend went, throw a few sentences together and send to Bill Stoler at wrstoler@comcast.net or Rob Brownlee Tomasso at rbt25@verizon.net.



Cool Cars | Safe Racing | Great Friends



WWW.VRGONLINE.ORG

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

VRG 2021 DIRECTORS

- Mike Lawton – President
- John Wood – Vice President
- Scott Janzen – Treasurer
- Nial McCabe – Secretary
- Paul King – Director
- Keith Lawrence – Director
- Graham Long – Director
- Butch O'Connor – Director
- Ian Wisbon – Director

For questions, please contact:
asktheboard@vrgonline.org

VRG NEWSLETTER TEAM

Bill Stoler Photography
www.billstoler.com • wrstoler@comcast.net

Don Mei
dnmeicpa@aol.com

Rob Brownlee-Tomasso
rbt25@verizon.net