



Lime Rock 2022

NEWSLETTER

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

2022 VRG Event Schedule

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|-----------------|---|
| 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 – Assistant EC: John Jeffery |
| 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 – Assistant EC: Matthew Barbour |
| October 14-16 | New Jersey Historics – NJMP Lightning, Millville, NJ – Event Chairman: Butch O’Connor, Tel: 973-295-3674, Email: bfo@spsk.com – Assistant EC: Nial McCabe |
| November 18-20 | Annual Turkey Bowl – Summit Point, WV
Event Chairman: Jim Karamanis, 304-449-7050, jim@vrgonline.org . |

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**2022
Lime Rock
Historic
Festival #40**

Bill Stoler's SNAPSHOT! From Lime Rock Historic Festival #40

I've been attending Lime Rock since 2018, but I've read about many memorable moments during the 40 years of the Historic Festival at Lime Rock. Moments like 1989, when they brought back Roger Ward and the midget he drove to victory over the sports cars in 1959. (Google that one! – 1959 Formula Libre Race) 1990 marked the 20th anniversary for the Trans Am series and Sam Posey got back in the Carroll Shelby Mustang he drove to victory in '69. There has been a Briggs Cunningham reunion and one for the legendary Mercedes among many others. I was here for the celebration of the Bugatti in 2018, which was incredible.

But this year will long be remembered as the year that they gathered up 12 Corvette Concept cars for a once in a lifetime display celebrating the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Corvette next year. Concept cars like the '57 Corvette SS (XP-64) built to compete in

the 12 Hours of Sebring – but the project cancelled shortly after when the AMA banned factory racing in the U.S. They brought a bunch of competition Corvettes as well, including the 1960 LeMans winner #3 raced to victory by John Fitch and Bob Grossman. The Stingray designed by Pete Brock and Larry Shinoda – the concept car that would become the 2nd generation Corvette Stingray was here too. The car was raced here in 1959 by Dr. Dick Thompson in the aforementioned "Formula Libre Race."

If Corvettes don't trip your trigger – how about a return of the Historic Trans Am Series to Lime Rock? I must admit – this was the main attraction for me. I was only 10-12 years old during the glory years of Trans Am – my only connection to these cars were model kits and slot cars. Black and white photos in magazines always intrigued me – I knew drivers like Swede Savage and



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1957 Corvette SS (XP-64) concept car



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Mark Donohue racing at Indy – but what were these cars? But I sure loved them, they looked like real cars – American Muscle cars that I hoped to drive when I got my license – which seemed like a lifetime away! So, finally getting to see and hear these cars exercised properly on a racetrack was the highlight of the year for me. Over the years, I’ve run into racing announcer Mike Joy at some of our events (he races BMW CCA at VIR and WGI) and learned that he and his son Scott purchased Camaros to race in the Historic Trans Am – it was good to see them racing on track, but I must report that Scott is quicker than Dad!

A memorable moment happened on Saturday during the lunch break. As most of you know, Sam Posey has been battling Parkinson’s for some time and It’s great to see him still visiting Lime Rock. Richard

Goldsmith is the custodian of the #77 Classic Wax Dodge Challenger that Sam raced to a 3rd place finish at the Lime Rock Trans Am in 1970. Recently Richard added a seat so his wife could ride in the parades at Lime Rock and Watkins Glen. Richard reports that it was wasn’t planned ahead of time – but while visiting with Sam – he asked Sam about taking a ride and he “lit up!” According to Richard – “it was an emotional event for both of us!” When Sam spoke about the ride, he said “It was what I expected and so much more... being in the car, hearing the car, feeling it, even watching the dashboard – brought back so many good memories of the Trans Am Series!” I was in the media center overlooking “Sam Posey Straight” when I heard he would be taking a lap – rushed out and caught the moment with my 300mm lens – better than nothing. Gosh, gives me chills thinking about it now. Sam is one

Sam Posey riding with Richard Goldsmith in the #77 Classic Wax Dodge Challenger that Sam raced to a 3rd place finish at the Lime Rock Trans Am in 1970.



View more at BillStoler.com

of those guys that I didn't really appreciate growing up – he just sounded like an English teacher talking about racing next to Jim McKay at the Indy 500 on ABC. But after spending years digging into the history of Lime Rock, I've certainly gained appreciation for racing's "Renaissance Man."

"The Straight with No Name" is no more!

Forgive me, but I must share just one more memorable moment. After engines went silent on Saturday afternoon – a familiar red/white/blue #82 SCCA GT-1 Corvette rumbled around Big Bend on its way to "No-Name Straight," and coming to stop where the fans had gathered along the fences. Lime Rock President and CEO Dicky Riegel and Lissy Newman gave a few remarks as Sam Posey looked on. A curtain was dropped from a large red banner and just like that – the not quite straight but very fast backstretch of the Connecticut circuit was dedicated as the "Paul Newman Straight." Fans on the hillside were treated to free cans of PLN's favorite beverage – "Budweiser." Dicky Riegel, President and CEO of Lime Rock said: "Even with all his racing wins here on this legendary circuit and elsewhere around the world, it was Paul's expression of joy at Lime Rock Park in every drive and every visit that cemented this place as his true home. Paul's daughter, Lissy Newman remarked, "Two of my dad's "Happiest Happy Places" would have to be Hole in the Wall

and Lime Rock Park." At Hole in the Wall, he was simply "The guy who started Camp" and that was enough for campers.

One of the best on-track highlights was watching Group 7 – It's always a treat to see Krisjan Berzins racing his beautiful '87 BMW M3 – but getting to see a museum piece on the track was incredible. Hard to believe the Revs Institute would give a weekend pass to Dave Handy and the '63 Corvette Grand Sport at Lime Rock, but they did! This is what vintage racing is all about, allowing fans to experience classic race cars the way they were meant to be enjoyed – not on a museum floor, but on a racetrack. The 500 HP lightweight prototype is 1,000 pounds lighter than a production Sting Ray and built to counter Carroll Shelby's new Cobra in 1963. Unfortunately, GM's refusal to lift its ban on factory racing killed the project as quick as it started, but some of the cars were eventually raced by privateers in the SCCA C-Modified class.

Racing at Lime Rock Park always seems special, racing in a park – no grandstands, just hillsides for viewing. A great place with lots of history. Sounds like another great place, a park setting, lots of history, but quite a bit bigger – Watkins Glen.

What do you say we load up and head there next?

– *Bill Stoler*

1963 Corvette Grand Sport



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Working the Other Side of the Fence

by Joe Teplitz

One of the key players in the Historic Trans Am association, Bill Ockerlund, bought the old University of Pittsburgh Camaro car a few years ago and through discussions about the car with Don Mansfield and me, we all became friends. Lime Rock was to be the first race where Bill and I would both be driving, me in a Tin Top, and Bill in the Historic Trans Am. As my car was not ready, I called Bill to let him know I would not be driving, but would be at the race. Bill knew I was a photographer, and asked me to shoot the Historic Trans Am at both Lime Rock and Watkins Glen. Since my first race as a crew on the Camaro was the 1971 Lime Rock Trans Am, it was very exciting to know I would be shooting the same cars we ran against back then! Our old Camaro stayed on the West Coast for this one, but three of Mark Donohue's cars were entered, along with the Gray Ghost, Warren Agor's Camaro, and Sam Posey's Challenger.



Bill Stoler photo

(Left to right) Mike Joy, Joe Teplitz, Dorsey Schroeder



Joe Teplitz photo



Joe Teplitz photo

It had been eight years since I had done motorsports photography, so I channeled my inner Bill Stoler, got my gear together and went racing – on the other side of the lens.

The group was terrific! A bunch of vintage racers, just like us. These guys know it's about their cars more than it is about the drivers and they have a blast. Many of them were new to both tracks. As an aside, both tracks treat media people well, especially Lime Rock. I took 6,500 photos at the two races and boiled them down to about 300 “keepers” for the HTA website. Here are a few of my favorites, from both Lime Rock and the Glen.



Joe Teplitz photo



Joe Teplitz photo



Joe Teplitz photo

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Don Breslauer and Bob Leitzinger



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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 rob@rbtomasso.com.



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with others who value driver attitude,
skill and car preparation.***

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