

A Quick Report on our MGVR Focus Event at Grattan with VSCDA

Our Grattan Focus Event is in the record books. 45 MG's of all sorts snarled around Grattan's 2 miles of twists, turns, blind apexes and v-e-r-y long front straight. What a blast it was to race once you conquered your fear of the unknown and unseen.

Thursday night was check in, registration, and of course the famous MGVR Wine and Cheese party-despite crippling monsoon rains and a very wet paddock we managed to consume several bottles of wine, blocks of cheese and bowls of snacks, and an occasional Spaten (thanks PVGP). Everyone was in good spirits and awaiting what would turn out to be a dry, mild weekend perfect for vintage race and MG tour activities. Thanks to Vicki and Dan for supplying much of the food and vino for the wine and cheese party!

Friday was bright and beautiful as advertised as we set off to the drivers' meeting where a serious discussion of driver behavior and VSCDA race procedures was mixed with good natured ribbing and humor courtesy of the comedy team of Fohrman and Farr-one of the best driver meetings I have attended. With that out of the way, drivers fired up their trusty MGs and headed to the track for practice. I will share with you that I entered the track late in the my first practice group and had nobody to follow. Terror soon set in when I discovered a missing apex on turn 3, followed by a few more missing apexes. I was only too glad to see traffic in my mirrors-a fine chance to practice point bys and play 'follow the leader'. Friday's practice consisted of three long sessions-enough track time for Day 1. Following morning practice, Vicki Leonard served up a sumptuous lunch buffet for MGVRs (thanks to Dan and Vicki for providing the food and tableware for all three lunches for MGVRs and friends) After the final practice was a track walk, followed by "Hamburger Heaven" -VSCDA's burger bar with beer, soda and wine. Those less inclined to consume beef had the option of Portabella mushrooms. A great end to a fun first day at Grattan.

Saturday's weather was a carbon copy of Fridays, with sunshine and moderate temperatures. Morning qualifying gave way to lunch time track tours and afternoon racing, including a fantastic All MG race. Winners were Dick Lueining in 1st, followed by Scott Fohrman in 2nd, and Donald Dickey in 3rd. There was plenty of dicing action throughout the grid with The Konsin Lester, capably piloted by Manley Ford, particularly fun to watch, as were the MGC's of Chris Mc Grath and Pat McManus. There was plenty of PreWar fun as well with Dan Leonard's TC Special dicing with Frank Mount's TC, and Steve Konsin's TD grinding it out with George Shafer's TD. Other PW MG racers included Ed Cronin and Mike Barstow, and Dale Schmidt. Special guest George Edney was just starting to learn the track and Manley's TD by Saturday's All MG race. Following the race MG racers lined up at Start/Finish for our MG group photo and joke-fest. Coming up was the VSCDA/MGVR Banquet.

As with our Focus Event at Mid Ohio with VSCDA, MGVR chose to join with VSCDA for the on-track Saturday banquet, where all vintage racers, corner workers and track workers enjoyed an "English Pub" menu of Curry Chicken, Shepherd's Pie, Chicken liver, and other pub fare, along with Old Speckled Hen on tap and a nice wine selection. VSCDA event chair Scott Fohrman began the ceremony portion of the banquet with thank you's galore for the deserving workers, staff and other volunteers. Scott singled out VSCDA's Laura Hire, who trained and watched over a volunteer staff who registered over 100 racers in One Hour! As a follow up the famous VSCDA raffle awarded prizes to ten lucky corner workers. Next up was our MGVR Awards and Mischief ceremony, where the Parish Award, Doff of the Cap Award, MG V-8 Trophy and MGVR Spirit Award were intermingled with door prizes for correct answers to Burt Levy/Last Open Road trivia questions. By the way, the corner workers obviously studied for this trivia contest-they won the bulk of the door prizes. This year's award winners were:

Parish Award: Tom Baumgardner. As I announced this award, Tom was filling up two beer cups at the keg-timing couldn't have been more perfect! It was particularly touching to hear Tom speak of his friendship with Bill Parish. Congratulations Tom.

Doff of the Cap Award. This new perpetual award is given to the MGB racer whose race car most resembles the spirit of a period MGB racer. Donated by John Ruth, this year's award winner was Jim Austhof.

MG V-8 Award: This annual Trophy is awarded to the winner of the All MG race. This year's recipient was Dick Luening, who ran a skillful and respectful race while fighting off the barking Scott Fohrman and Donald Dickey. Very nice work out there Richard!

MGVR Spirit Award "The Big Copper Bucket". This award is presented annually to the MG vintage racer who most represents the MGVR vintage racing spirit and is selected by popular vote by the MG vintage racers who participate in the focus event. This year's award winner is Scott Fohrman. A well deserved award to someone whose MG vintage racing spirit cup runneth over. Scott surely shared his spirit with his fellow vintage racer this weekend! Congrats Scott!

Sunday activities included University Motors track touring, another All MG race, some group racing, Charity Rides, and a late afternoon enduro. The All MG race was run in fits and starts with some off course activity bringing out the Black Flag All while workers cleaned up the track. Winner again was Dick Luening, followed by John Targett and Brandon Bullock. Stirling Heath put on a good show in his MGB GT, as did Patrick McManus in his MGC GT. Other finishers of note included Manley Ford (MGTD), Storm Field (MGA), Frank Mount and Dan Leonard (MGTC and MGCT Special, respectively). Following the All MG race came the Charity Rides, where fortunate riders could partake in track laps in their favorite MG for a donation of \$20, with proceeds going to *Children's Tumor Foundation*. Thanks go to Frank Mount, Mike Barstow, Marv Primack, Dan Leonard, Manley Ford, John Targett, Jim Austhof, Tom Baumgardner, John Deikis, and Mark Brandow; the result of their efforts is a VSCDA donation of over \$1000 to CTF.

By mid afternoon many of us were ready to toss in the towel and head home after a fantastic weekend of vintage race activity!

That wraps up my focus event report. I heard very few gripes, many MANY thumbs up and lots of kudos to VSCDA, their staff, and especially Scott Fohrman for making our focus event a success.

I would like to thank the many racers, friends and volunteers who helped me with this year's event. The list goes something like this: Dan and Vicki Leonard, Scott Fohrman, Laura Hire, Larry Smith, Jim Austhof, Manley Ford, Jeff Kelly, Chris McGrath (paddock muscle), Julie Meyers (how could I forget her), John Ruth, Greg Prehodka, and everyone who joined me at Grattan for VSCDA's Vintage Au Grattan.

Safety Fast,

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