



NEWSLETTER

Vol 39 #4 April 2021

MGVR FOCUS RACE ISSUE



NEXT UP
THE COLLIER CUP
WATKINS GLEN
SEPT 9-12
LET'S MAKE IT

LOOKLIKE THE COLLIER CUPS OF LONG AGO.

From The Editor:

A very successful MGVR focus race at Virginia International Raceway this month. Story and photos are the entirety of this issue. It's your job to send me letters, advertisements, photos and stories for May. We *look forward to a great Collier Cup in September. Get those motors running and ready for The Glen.*

MGVR FOCUS RACE
April 4, 2021
Virginia International



What a great weekend for the MGVR crowd. It was cold most of the weekend, but The Faithful were true. Over 40 race entries and even about 30 folks appeared Saturday evening for burgers, hot dogs, 4 salads, two kinds of beans, cookies, deserts, cold beer, red and white wine, soft drinks, chips – a bona fide old fashioned back yard BBQ. We were honored as MGB driver Dave Blakey brought two of his crew who just happen to be professional chefs. This was mana from heaven or Eric Russell and I would have been slinging burgers. The chefs, Curtis Matthews and Chris Medico kept everything moving. The food hot, smiles on their faces and they even brought some superb gourmet beans for the crowd. AND they brought their own grille. It's nice to see professionals at work.

During the festivities, the three MGVR yearly awards were voted on and presented. The **John Target "doff of the Cap"** award for an MGB driver **Honouring the MGB racer and car capturing the look and character of the period.** Poor Hap Waldrop won. At race time, Hap's car was not completely finished but he was motivated to support the MGVR and tried to finish his car at the track. It ran, but not for long. Yet Hap stayed the entire weekend watching races, shaking hands and telling stories.

The **Bill Parish award** to the **"MG vintage racer who is having the most fun and being the Master of Speed Deception while being unconcerned about winning"** went to long time MGVR MGA racer Eric Russell. Eric builds and



campaigns his car, never complaining, always helping and simply enjoys the competition.

The prestigious **Big Copper Bucket Spirit Award** is awarded every year at the focus event. The winner is selected by vote of his/her peers, who vote for the **MG vintage Racer** who best represents **The Spirit of MG Vintage Racing**. I was honored to be the recipient.

The VIR paddock was so swamped there was no way for us to rope off an MG only area but, as always, everyone found a place and many were around MGVR central which was a big, grassy space between the RV's of Eric Russell and Dave Nicholas.

For racers, the MG's were in 3 groups. Group 1 had the T-types in GP, MGA's and MG midgets or Sprites in FP. Group 3 had the MGB's and Couriers and Group 8 had Les Gonda in the screaming MGB-GT V8. Every car had practice sessions, 2 qualifying sessions and 2 races Plus the MG race. For many of us the weather was simply too cold for the daily 8:15am sessions. Friday and Saturday it was below freezing, and I mean in the mid 20's. I kept saying that Honey Bee's motor doesn't run well under 45° but really it was the driver who wanted no part of those freezing temperatures.

Sunday dawned sunny and not too cold. As we got ready to go to the grid it was well into the 40's and was warming by the minute. Pete Uzdavinis in his 1275 MkII midget sat on the pole as two faster cars never made it to the grid. But Wait ! Sitting alone in the back was the evil looking, bulging muscle MGB GT V8 of Les Gonda. He was supposed to start on pole but made the decision it was not fair to the other 45 cars (yes there were 46 entered) to start first and drive away. But having raced cars for 50+ years I knew there was a sly grin on his unshaven face thinking he wanted to scream by every car in the field to show his prodigious speed. VIR is perfect for that with two long straights for the V8 to stretch its legs without any danger. Frankly, in the same situation, who wouldn't do exactly the same thing? The officials were totally pissed but nobody from the MG crowd said a word. It was kind of fun, and if you want to see how fast he went by the leaders

I offer you Kenny Williamson's go-pro video to see for yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNPHitKpfml>

Have fun with the entire video, but the 4th lap about 14 minutes into the race is when Les makes his appearance. Kenny and Alan Tosler were fighting for the lead when Les went by. Shortly after the pass you'll see double yellow flags being shown. There were close to a half dozen cars stranded on the circuit and wisely, the officials decided it would be too dangerous for the race to continue.

The start was hectic as always. I was starting 6th alongside Kenny "Goose" Williamson. Pete was on the pole in the midget, Richard Schnabel had a guest driver in his MGA who stormed the field on Saturday and started 2nd then Alan Tosler's blue/white MGB hardtop, John Hamilton in his orange MGB and the aforementioned Goose in his MGB. Watch the start. Kenny simply powers through the entire field but showed good judgement in giving Pete room in turn one. From there it was game on – except for me. I got passed at the start by the B's but went outside at turn one hoping to re-pass on the way to turns 2 & 3. Except the combination of cold track and cold tires got me. Applying full power the rear wheels spun and I went sideways. I caught the lurid slide, but had two wheels on the grass and thought better of spinning in front of the entire field and coasted it out until safe to return to the pavement.

Alan passed Goose going into turns 2 & 3, then nearly passed Pete on the back straight showing how powerful these 1800's can be. John Hamilton out-braked Williamson into the hairpin known as Oak Tree and set out after Pete and Tosler. But Kenny had too much power and went back into 3rd place on the back straight. Pete held them back through the twisty bits then both B's went into the lead on the front straight with Kenny nearly pulling even with Alan. The better handling midget swept past Williamson going into turn 3 and it was back and forth after that. Until Les showed up and spoiled the party. Pete had his throttle cable break on lap 3 but was able to idle in gear all the way back to the pits.

And that's how it ended. Les in the V8, Alan in the B hardtop, Kenny in the B roadster, John Hamilton in his orange B and the very quick midget of Pete Carroll made up the top 5. Dave Conrad was the first MGA home in 9th. I made it back past a lot of the field but could not catch David's maroon car. Jonathon Lane came from Colorado and took top T honors in his TC. All in all, 26 cars were still running at the end of a long weekend and some hard driving.

We are all proud of you MGVR racers. There were times during the past couple of years where we did not get 26 entries much less 26 cars that finished and 46 I am hoping to have an announcement soon for the balance of 2021 and for 2022. Manley Ford has proposed we nominate Put-In-Bay as an MGVR event, and I agree. You can learn more about this historical and unique event at <http://www.pibroadrace.com>

Keep the shiny side up and the greasy side down. All the racers hope to see you during the season.

WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE BBQ



Our chef hard at work



Dog anyone?



It was cold but sunny and the group was happy



The beer drinkers



The wine o's

It was so cold Todd Stevenson wore his drivers suit all weekend.

"It was the warmest thing I brought with me"



The Nashville Zapata's relax after a long day.

THE CARS ARE ALWAYS THE STARS



Les Gonda's V8 MGB won



Alan Tosler's MGB was 2nd



Kenny “Goose” Williamson in 3rd



John Hamilton was 4th



Pete Carroll's midget finished 5th



Colorado's Jon Lane was first T type



Dave Conrad was first MGA



John Daniels Jr was first Sprite HP



Burt Stein



David Kessinger



David Conrad



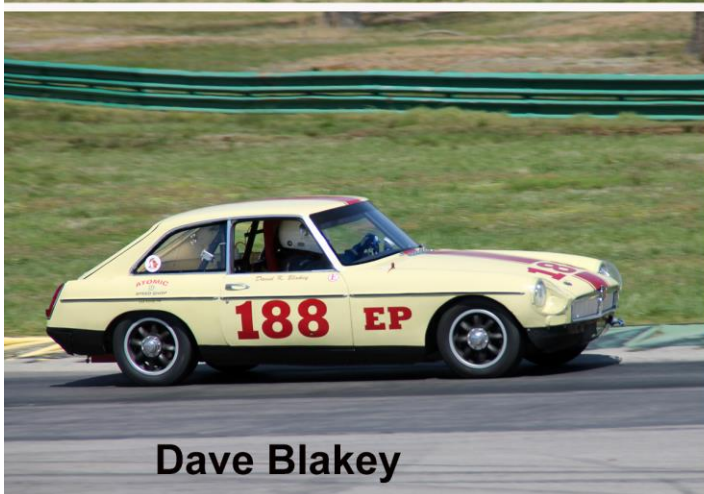
Danny Dougherty



Craig Seifert



Andy Russell



Dave Blakey



Bob Schaefer



Brian MacEachern



Manley Ford



Dave Nicholas



Eric Russell



Jim Hofer



James & Julie Allen



Derek Chima



Mike Morrison



The Chief Carl George



Richard Schnabel



Mark Lemmon



Larry Smith

© F&S Enterprises



Jet Tamburri

© F&S Enterprises



Marcus Jones

© F&S Enterprises



Hap Waldrop

© F&S Enterprises



John Fontanella



Todd Stevenson



Scott Calhoun



Pete Uzdavinis



Steve Konsin



Tom Van Auken



Nick Chamberlain



Dan Leonard



John E. Jones

MGVR 2021 FOCUS RACE VIRGINIA INT'L RACEWAY APRIL 4

TOTAL: 00:17:53 / 5 LAPS 16.35 MI / 70.20 MPH AVG

pos	qual	name	class	laps	back	best lap
1	0	#02 LES GONDA 🏆🏆	8AP	5	WINNER!	3 / 2:23.344
2	4	#01 ALAN TOSLER 🏆	3EP	5	1.143	2 / 2:26.979
3	5	#27 KENNY WILLIAMSON 🏆	3EP	5	1.878	3 / 2:27.131
4	1	#80 JOHN HAMILTON	3EP	5	2.525	3 / 2:29.643
5	6	#55 PETER CARROLL	1FP	5	5.272	
6	4	#16 ANDY RUSSELL	1FP	5	6.000	3 / 2:28.544
7	9	#188 DAVID BLAKEY	3EP	5	7.304	4 / 2:31.280
8	7	#34 MIKE MORRISON	3EP	5	8.383	3 / 2:30.685
9	9	#49 DAVID CONRAD First MGA	1FP	5	9.819	2 / 2:34.533
10	3	#76 DAVE NICHOLAS	1FP	5	11.203	3 / 2:33.971
11	15	#113 JOHN DANIELS JR	1HP	5	12.443	3 / 2:41.075
12	12	#94 BRIAN MACEACHERN	1HP	5	13.351	3 / 2:40.622
13	7	#9 DEREK CHIMA	1FP	4	1 LAP	3 / 2:39.645
14	11	#181 JIM HOFER	1HP	4	1 LAP	3 / 2:45.856
15	15	#189 BURTON STEIN	1FP	4	1 LAP	3 / 2:45.663
16	24	#56 DAVID KESSINGER 🏆	1FP	4	1 LAP	3 / 2:47.171
17	21	#881 JONATHAN LANE First T series	1GP	4	1 LAP	1 / 2:52.753
18	23	#828 SCOTT CALHOUN	1HP	4	1 LAP	3 / 2:53.374
19	4	#127 BOB SCHAEFER	3EP	4	1 LAP	1 / 2:44.195
20	6	#66 CRAIG SEIFERT	3EP	4	1 LAP	1 / 2:33.312
21	22	#409 DAN LEONARD	1GP	4	1 LAP	2 / 3:01.238
22	24	#709 TODD STEVENSON	1GP	4	1 LAP	1 / 3:06.007
23	21	#52 DANNY DOUGHERTY SR	1HP	4	1 LAP	2 / 3:08.105
24	18	#13 THOMAS VAN AUKEN	1FP	4	1 LAP	2 / 2:54.748
25	22	#25 PETER UZDAVINIS	1FP	2	3 LAPS	2 / 2:29.649
26	13	#64 STEVEN HIRSCHTRITT	1FP	2	3 LAPS	1 / 2:42.082
DNF	9	#130 MARK LEMMON	1HP	1	4 LAPS	1 / 2:54.602
28		#284 J. RICHARD SCHNABEL	1FP	0		

DNF	#36 BILL THUMEL	3CP	0
DNF	#195 MARCUS JONES	3EP	0
DNF	#36* JOHN E. JONES	1FP	0
DNF	#107 CARL GEORGE	1FP	0
DNF	#98 RICHARD JEFFERSON	1FP	0
DNF	#61 ERIC RUSSELL	1FP	0
DNF	#15 STEVE KONSIN SR.	1GP	0
DNF	#62 LARRY SMITH	1FP	0
DNF	#348 ROY CROWNSHIELD	1FP	0
DNF	#18 JOHN J. FONTANELLA	3EP	0
DNF	#40 HAP WALDROP	3EP	0
DNF	#51 JIM/JULIE ALLEN	1GP	0
DNF	#25* KEN SLATTUM	3EP	0
DNF	#58 JOE LESNOWSKI	3EP	0
DNF	#164 TOM KENT	1FP	0
DNF	#776 MANLEY FORD	1GP	0
DNF	#41 NICK CHAMBERLAIN	1FP	0
DNF	#49* JET TAMBURRI	3EP	0

