VINTAGE RACER GROUP
VRG
TURKEY BOWL 2020
NEWSLETTER
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Visit the VRG website at www.vrgonline.org for changes and updates to the schedule.

VRG RACE SCHEDULE 2021

April 2-4	**Wild Hare Run with VDCA – Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA** Event Chairman: Mike Jackson, Tel: 561-622-7554, Email: vdca@vintagedrive.com
May 14-16	**Jefferson 500 – Summit Point, WV** Co-Event Chairmen: Cal Trumbo & Jim Karamanis Tel: 304-449-7050 Email: j500@vrgonline.org
June 11-13	**Vintage Motorsports Festival with VSCCA – Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, Thompson, CT** Event Chairman: Paul King, (508) 847-4809, paulking@vrgonline.org,
July 15-18	**Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix at PittRace – Wampum, PA** Event Chairman: Keith Lawrence, Tel: 412-770-8267, Email: Keith@vrgonline.org
September 3-6	**Lime Rock Historics with VSCCA – Lakeville, CT** Email: historics@limerock.com
October 15-17	**VRG at The Glen – Watkins Glen, NY** Event Chairman: Mike Lawton, Tel: 978-274-5935, Email: lawton@vrgonline.org
November 19-21	**Annual Turkey Bowl – Summit Point, WV** Event Chairman: Jim Karamanis, Tel: 304-449-7050, Email: jim@vrgonline.org.

SNAPSHOT FROM THE TURKEY BOWL!

by Bill Stoler

Wow! You couldn't have scripted a better weekend at Summit Point!

The best Turkey Bowl weather in recent memory and a turnout of over 100 cars was a great way to close out a season that has been challenging for everyone. It was evident that everyone was thrilled to be back at Summit Point for a VRG event in 2020. Like most of you in the days leading up to the event – I was watching the Covid numbers start inching up again and I feared that the Turkey Bowl might suffer the same fate as the Jefferson 500 did in May. Those fears faded when I drove into the paddock on Friday morning and started seeing those familiar VRG faces, cars and trailers… well, let's just say the moment will be featured in my "Highlight Reel" for the "Best Moments of 2020."

The original "Turkey Bowl" took place during the '60s at the old Marlboro Raceway and it was the final race in 1969 when the last checkered flag waved and the track closed. The event was resurrected in 1997 when Lee Raskin, Denny Austin, and Joe Blacker worked with track owner Bill Scott to put together a "low key" event during the holiday weekend at Summit Point. Lee Raskin fondly recalls the moment when Bill Scott spoke at the dinner party. "I just want to let you all know, that this event has brought tears to my eyes… we used to do this race at Marlboro and this event is a keeper!" Bill Scott and the track strongly supported the Turkey Bowl for years by offering the track to organizers at a minimum. The VSCCA ran the event for many years before the VRG came on board in 2006. Vintage racing was always the headliner, but

the event has always benefited by strong support of the Modern Group and the popular Legends cars.

A few good stories to share from the weekend includes one that involves our Chief Steward, Steve Hyatt. In 1981, Steve wanted to go racing in Showroom Stock and attended the drivers school at Summit Point. The Chief instructor was Wally Hicks, winner of ’78 Runoffs Championship for H-Production. It was Wally who signed Steve’s Diploma allowing Steve to go racing! Fast forward about 40 years, to this year’s Turkey Bowl – Hicks quit racing in 1981 and parked his small bore Sprite. He described it as “a great table for many years.” He recently performed a complete restoration and showed up at the Turkey Bowl for his first vintage race. Guess who signed his VRG Novice permit? – Yep, that same Steve Hyatt!

Most of you have probably seen the white ZINK ’68 Z-5 that has “SCOTT” prominently displayed on the body. Lots of history converging with this car these days, This car was raced by the late Bill Scott back in the day. It was built by the legendary car builder from Knoxville TN, Ed Zink. It was formerly owned by Bob Houston, well known FV driver/car owner and VRG Driving Instructor. A few years ago the car was sold to Doug Zink – nephew of the late chassis builder. Doug originally wanted to use the car as a museum type thing to remember his uncle, but after hanging out with Bob Houston and fellow FV driver, Bob O’Connor – Doug started racing at VRG events at Summit Point. Under the tutelage of Houston and O’Connor, the former dirt track racer has become very acclimated with the Zink and spent the weekend dicing with the talented father and son team of Marcus and Charles Jones (also racing ’66 Zinks) Well done, Doug!

One more story from the Formula Vee paddock. Bob O’Connor was back at the track after a four year hiatus and was looking good in his ’72 Zink Z-5. Bob participated in the very first race at Summit Point in October 1969. He started 19th and finished 8th in the Formula Vee Grand Prix that almost didn’t happen when the newly formed International Motorsports Association (IMSA) pulled out days before the event was to take place. The DC Region scrambled at the last minute to put it on with sponsorship from the track, Volkswagen and the South-Atlantic Distributors and it was won by John MaGee, who took home $500 for the honor over the second place finisher, Bill Scott who would later purchase Summit Point and build it into the amazing facility we all love today.

The feature race of the weekend was the Small Bore Festival race on Saturday afternoon. It was won by Joey Bojalad who led wire-to-wire in his beautiful ’63 Elva Mk VII S. I learned that this car has some neat history. Ever hear of that amazing racing movie “GRAND PRIX?” Well, the director of that film,

John Frankenheimer was a former owner of this car and while it wasn't used in the movie – it was used by Frankenheimer to check out locations and camera angles on the course. Pretty cool, indeed!

One more car that I would like to share with you – the 1934 Lagonda Rapier driven by Alan Patterson III of Pittsburgh. As many of you know, his father, the late Alan Patterson II was a co-founder of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix and a long time supporter of the Turkey Bowl. The elder Patterson raced this car on the West coast, including the Monterey Historics for many years. Alan took possession of the Lagonda last October and spent the last year sorting it out so that he could drive it on track. It was a last minute decision to load it up on Thursday evening and head to Summit Point! Alan described it as "nerve racking" first couple of drives with the Wilson Pre-selector box and the unusual placement of the gas pedal – in the center, but it became natural by the end of Saturday. The 86 year-old car performed above expectations and Alan hopes to have it ready for next year's PVGP. He really thanks the VRG and the Turkey Bowl planners for giving him the opportunity to drive it on track for the first time.

One more note – Kudos to coordinators Mike Kelly (Modern Cars) and Bob Connor (Legends) for their efforts that really helped the turnout of the modern cars and the legends this year. The Turkey Bowl has benefitted greatly from the strong support of these groups. They have been a big part of the event from the beginning and it certainly helps the club in a difficult year like this one. It was good to see some

of my SCCA friends like Wayne Nicolette ('73 Lola T-340) and Phil Ackley ('77 BMW 323) participating with the VRG this weekend. I've heard nothing but praise for the VRG from these guys and I hope they come out to play with us at future events.

The Covid restrictions put the "kibosh" on the traditional Saturday evening dinner party – but it could not stop the presentation of the VRG "Tom Turkey" or "Billy Bass" Awards. In a spectacle that looked reminiscent of a scene from the early '80s racing movie "Stroker Ace," A turkey "disguised as Summit Point Motorsports Director Edwin Pardue" presented the awards to the deserving drivers.

Krisjan Berzins was awarded the "Tom the Talking Turkey" award for "killing the parking lot cones" even though he was one of the first trailers entering the paddock! Congrats Krisjan!

Ryan Downey was presented with "Billy the Talking Bass" award for an incident in the carousel – experiencing a mechanical issue, he pulled up to the gate at baker. Thinking he was on fire he got out and pushed the car though the gate to keep the track clear!" Congrats Ryan!

Well, I have more stories and maybe I'll get a chance to tell some of them and crank out a few more photos to entertain you over the winter while we wait for our big go at the 2021 Jefferson 500 in May!

I hope everybody stays healthy and well during these unusual times!

See you at the Track!

Bill Stoler – "The VRG Photo Guy"

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