

Rolex Vintage Festival

Steve Earle's stewardship of the Rolex Vintage Festival at Lime Rock Park has come to an end. Under Steve's guidance this event was transformed from an essentially northeast regional weekend into an internationally known happening.

Beginning in September 2009, Skip Barber and Murray Smith will assume the challenge of continuing the weekend. The Steve Earle "show" will be a hard act to follow.

As many of our members remember, for 17 years Charlie Gibson and the VSCCA ran the event along with the Lime Rock Park management. Our Club has been asked by Skip and Murray to again help in the planning and organization of this Labor Day Weekend event. At a recent meeting, attended by VSCCA representatives John Schieffelin, Jerry Greaves, J. R. Mitchell, me and other interested parties from the Vintage/Historic racing community, we talked about the past strengths and weaknesses of the event and what we as participants would like to see going forward.

We agreed that it was important to encourage a less formal "vintage" feeling that was fostered by Charlie's way of running things, without sacrificing the efficiency needed to run a large event with a busy schedule. We want the event to continue to attract the fabulous cars that Steve Earle was able to bring out. Historically, VSCCA members have been the backbone of this event, being responsible for over half of the cars participating every single year. While this percentage has remained pretty constant, total entries fell off the past few years. Going forward, the class structure of the event will have room for all VSCCA cars and drivers that wish to participate.

A second meeting was held on January 6, 2009 between the VSCCA committee and the Lime Rock Festival representatives. The VSCCA was named as the sanctioning club for the Vintage Festival. Preliminary plans entail featuring individual VSCCA open wheel, enclosed wheel and handicap races.

In order for the VSCCA membership to show their continuing support for the 2009 Labor Day Weekend event, I urge you to email or write to Skip Barber or Murray Smith with your intention to be part of the weekend of racing. Please include information about your vintage racing car as well as your affiliation with the VSCCA.

Skip Barber can be emailed at skip@limerock.com. Murray Smith can be emailed at murray.smith@ctspeed.com. You can also simply send an email to vintagefestival@limerock.com.

Bill Gelles
VSCCA/Vintage Festival Liaison Committee Member