

The Vintage Sports



Car Club of America

VSCCA Newsletter, Number 1, January, 2020

Dear VSCCA Members,

2020 brings some exciting developments for our club; some things new and two returning. The developments cover a broad range from membership to events, registration, and communications.

To start, this newsletter is designed to capture the best of our postcards and letter mailings of years past to promote upcoming events. It's the first of four newsletters for 2020 with subsequent ones in March, May and July as well as frequent emails from "VSCCA" and the event chairs, promotional tools available to us via motorsportreg.com, Facebook posts and ads in *Victory Lane*.

Another new VSCCA feature is Family Membership, something that will provide a great value to our members. More detail can be found inside these pages and on vscca.org.

Next is the shift to motorsportreg.com for event registration. While we hope everyone will use it please know that if your preferred method of entry is mailing an entry form and check to the EC you can still do that. More details on using motorsportreg.com will be found on the back of the 2020 event calendar in this newsletter.

We'll start off the year with two Tech events, one on March at GMT Racing and the other in April at the Collings Foundation. Details can be found on the flip side of this page.

For our annual Spring Sprints and Driver's School at Lime Rock we will add an Alfa Romeo feature to honor their 110th anniversary. The Spring Sprints will also see Bob Melhado officially assume his new role of VSCCA Chief Steward and we know that, as always, we will be well cared for.

Two weeks later we will return for the Pre-War Wilbraham Hillclimb after an absence of three years. Again, details for these events can be found inside and much more information on vscca.org.

Next up will be the Empire Cup and Thompson in their usual slots. The third edition of the White Mountain Vintage Grand Prix in Tamworth, NH moves to July 10-11 this year.

We shifted the date so as to avoid having events three weeks in a row; the VSCCA is returning to Pittsburgh with two grids – Pre-War and formula cars and sports racers on July 25-26. Two weeks after Pittsburgh is the venerable Mt. Equinox Hillclimb, hence the desire to not have the WMVGP fall on the weekend between those two events.

2020 looks to be a banner year for Pre-War cars as well with the Wilbraham Hillclimb for Pre-War cars, the Pre-War grid at Pittsburgh, the Dreyfus Cup for Pre-War cars at Mt. Equinox, and, of course, closing out the track season with the Pre-War grid at the Lime Rock Historics and then our Pre-War Celebration at the Fall Finale. Lastly, the 25th running of the Nutmeg Rally will be one you don't want to miss no matter what you drive.

Additionally, our calendar page features several worthy events that, while the club has no stake or role in them, we are happy to help promote them. You'll find, no doubt, many VSCCA friends at them.

We think we have a terrific schedule planned for the 2020 season and we hope you agree. In the meantime we hope you find this newsletter of value and interest.

Best regards,

Mark O'Day
Activities Chairman



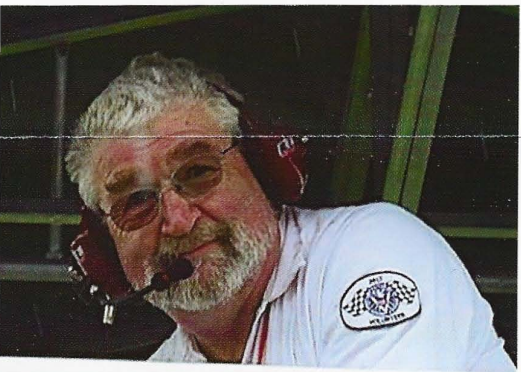
Cars you'll see at V&SCCA events: 1949 MG TC 2218



Peter Ross first raced TC 8892 at Silverstone in his native England in 1963. In 1970 Peter and his wife Rachel emigrated to Canada on a short term work assignment and after they decided to stay shipped their three TCs to Canada. TC 8892 had had a hard life as a daily driver and racer and along with Rachel's TC which she had owned since before meeting Peter, both were dismantled for restoration leaving TC 2218 as the only MG running. Another work transfer moved them to Massachusetts where they have been for over 40 years. Peter eventually built up TC 2218 as a vintage racer and ran that in many VSCCA events up to 2004. In 2005 Mark O'Day acquired TC 2218 and Peter set about restoring TC 8892 and raced their MG PA in the meantime. The beautifully restored TC 8892 made its reappearance on the tracks in 2008 and has been a regular since then, often seen

lapping in the company of the look-alike TC 2218 – not surprising in appearance or lap times since they were both built by Peter. In 2012, adding to the three aforementioned MGs campaigned by Peter they added an ex-ARCA 1932 MG J2 that has joined us whenever there is a special focus on pre-war cars at VSCCA events. If there is a car and owner combination active in VSCCA events today that has a longer competition history together than the 56 years Peter Ross and TC 8892 have enjoyed, we'd like to know about it. By the way, Rachel's TC is now fully restored to enjoy on more leisurely touring trips.

Course Marshall Profile: Jim Bottomley



Course Marshals are the unheralded backbone of VSCCA events. Simply stated, without them, we could not do what we love to do on tracks and hills. Jim Bottomley is the VSCCA's Chief Course Marshal. Jim, who built homes and now is a woodworker, started marshalling events in 1995, drawn by the excitement of the vintage cars he loves. While that lure persists it has grown to something more – the camaraderie with his fellow marshals and entrants has become every bit as important to him. Jim is an occasional entrant as well with one of his three MGAs in the Preservation class and at Mt. Equinox, while serving as a Marshal, and accompanied by his companion Mandy who sadly passed away recently. His beautiful MGA 1500 must be one of the most used cars in the club too; he has put over 120,000 miles on it including a coast to coast and back jaunt! If he could add one more to his garage it would be a certain red Aston Martin DB4 GT we see on occasion. While the VSCCA is Jim's focus as a marshal

he has also marshalled at the 12-Hours of Sebring and SCCA events. From his advantageous perch observing us, and having track experience as well, Jim suggests one thing we could all benefit from is moving our heads more to be more observant of our surroundings whilst on track – of the flag stations in particular! Jim lives in Poughkeepsie and has two children and six grandchildren. Next time you see Jim after track time raise a pint to him or, better yet, buy him one! We are in good hands.

Safety Update: Harnesses



Safety harnesses have one of two specifications – FIA and SFI. Due to safety issues the VSCCA strongly advises safety harness purchases be FIA specification. SFI specification harnesses will still be accepted. FIA harnesses perform better, are made of better material, and have an expiration date five (5) years from the date of manufacture versus two (2) years for SFI approved harnesses. Following the 2020 season expiration dates on the belts will be strictly enforced. If you anticipate entering the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix at Schenley Park you are reminded to check the safety rules for that event to avoid problems at scrutineering there. Go to pvgp.org for more information.

Upcoming VSCCA Events



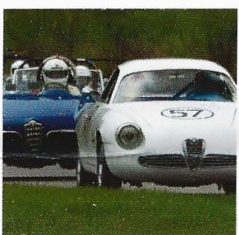
Southern Tech at GMT Racing, Newtown CT Saturday, March 14

The season approaches and we have some great talks planned at GMT Racing. If you are a do it your-selfer you'll want to hear JR Mitchells talk on pre-season prep and on trailers. And Joe Curto, the master of carburetors, is planning on joining us for an informative session on the ins and outs of those devilish devices on which so much our track time depends. All this, lunch and a look around the great selection of cars in the GMT shop. For more information contact JR Mitchell at gmtracing@aol.com or call 203-270-8441



Northern Tech at the Collings Foundation, Stowe, MA, Saturday, April 18

The VSCCA will visit the renowned Collings Foundation in Stowe, MA. We'll meet in their hangar where they house a collection of vintage warbirds, race cars and micro cars. At 11 we'll have a presentation on wire wheel tuning and maintenance by the doyen of wire wheels, Fred Belanger, followed by a buffet lunch at 12. After lunch we'll tour the vintage car museum and the brand new American Heritage Museum which has one of the finest collections of armored vehicles in the world with a focus on WWII. For more information contact Event Chair Peter Ross at boltonmg@comcast.net or call 978-831-8424



Spring Sprints & Driver's School Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, Lime Rock Park, Save \$50 by entering by April 1!

Kick off your track season by celebrating Alfa Romeo's 110th anniversary with the VSCCA's Spring Sprints and Driver's School. You don't need an Alfa to enter, just any VSCCA eligible car and School entrants can run just about anything in the school track sessions. If you don't have an Alfa, don't worry, you'll get all the usual track time at this two-day event. This is a muffled event. For more information on the Spring Sprints please contact Event Chair Ben Tarlow at info@midcenturymotoring.com or call 914-402-5799. For more information on the school please contact Charles Bordin at cbordin123@aol.com or call 914-968-5700



The Wilbraham Hill Climb Saturday, May 16, Wilbraham, MA

The Wilbraham Hill Climb is a re-enactment of the 1908 historic climb up Monson Mountain Road. Open to Pre-War cars, MG TCs, HRGs. Also select Post-War "Preservation" or "Exhibition" type cars as space allows. This event is a town wide celebration in the spirit of the good old days and as such with an additional brass era auto show on town green, food vendors, band and much more. For more information please contact Event Chair George Holman at gholmanjr@finkeefe.com or call 413-781-0530



The Empire Cup Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, Lime Rock Park Save \$50 by entering by April 29!

The Empire Cup will again be celebrating the Sports Racers of the 1950's and 1960's by offering a dedicated grid in this traditional VSCCA event. Two full days of racing, plenty of unmuffled track time (at least 7 track sessions over the 2 days). This event does have timing and scoring using transponders. You can enter both your VSCCA car and a later closed wheel 1960's - 70s race car. There is a Friday evening cookout at the track for everyone. For more information please contact Event Chair Charles Bordin at cbordin123@aol.com or call 914-968-5700.

For more information on these and our other events please go to vscca.org



VSCCA 2020 Event Calendar

Event	Event Date	Early Bird Entry deadline <i>SAVE \$50!</i>	Location
Southern Tech session at GMT Racing	March 14	None	Newtown, CT
Northern Tech session at The Collings Foundation	April 18	None	Stowe, MA
Spring Sprints & Drivers School	May 1-2	April 1	Lime Rock Park
Wilbraham Hill Climb	May 16	None	Wilbraham, MA
Empire Cup	May 29-30	April 29	Lime Rock Park
Thompson Vintage Motorsports Festival	June 10-13	May 10	Thompson, CT
White Mountain Vintage Grand Prix	July 10-11	June 10	Tamworth, NH
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix	July 25-16	May 1	Pittsburgh, PA
Mt. Equinox Hill Climb	August 8-9	None	Arlington, VT
Lime Rock Historic Festival 38	September 4-7	June 15*	Lime Rock Park
Sunday in the Park Concours	September 6	None	Lime Rock Park
Fall Finale, A Pre-War Celebration	October 2-3	September 2	Lime Rock Park
25th Nutmeg Rally	October 24	None	Hudson Valley area
VSCCA Annual General Meeting	November 7	None	Salisbury, CT
Righetti Holiday Lunch	TBD	None	West Point, NY
Boston Holiday Lunch	December 13	None	Boston, MA

*Save \$100 with the Early Bird entry for the Lime Rock Historic Festival

Other events of interest to VSCCA members

Event	Dates	Charity	Location
2020 Vintage Charity Tour	June 26-28	Connecticut Hospice & Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research	Berkshires and Southern Vermont
Vintage Racing Stable Dinner & Concours	August 2-3	Boys & Girls Club of NH	Sanbornton, NH
Spadaro Memorial Drive	Late July/Early Aug TBA	Sloane Kettering Memorial Hospital	New York area
Radnor Hunt Rally and Concours	Sept 11-13	Thorncroft Equestrian Center & Boy Scouts	Edgemont, PA

VSCCA 2020 Event Registration

For our 2020 events the VSCCA has moved online registration for all events to motorsportsreg.com (MSR). MSR is easy to use and provides for many features and tools any club cannot realistically develop on their own. For those of you who prefer to mail in an entry and check you may still do so although we hope you will register and pay online; doing so makes the Event Chair's job considerably easier.

What this means to you and your club is:

- Easy for Entrants to use (many of our members have used it and have accounts set up).
- Easy for the VSCCA's Web Master, Treasurer, Activity Chair, and Event Chairs to use
- Event participation and financials will be easier to track.
- Online Customer Service 9AM-9PM EST Monday through Friday.
- Ongoing development of tools and capabilities. Many possibilities to help ECs market and promote events.
- Seamless integration into our VSCCA website (with an entry link embedded on our event page).
- Owned by a good-sized, financially sound business, Hagerty, who plans to invest in it.
- Available to members and guests alike to easily register. We can place controls to red flag any ineligible entries
- Clubs that use MSR see an average of 3.8% increase in events entries and realize an enhanced bottom line!

When you enter online:

- Visa, MasterCard and Discover accepted.
- When you use your credit card for an event entry your card will not be charged until the first day of the event. You can enter all of your 2020 planned events now!
- Unlike our previous process with PayPal there will be no incremental charge to you when you use your credit card. If you enter online please do so with your credit card as it makes the EC's job easier.
- ~~If you enter an event with your credit card details and find you cannot make it you can cancel your entry without any financial consequences to you or the club as long as you cancel your entry 10 days before the event (Note: this is in accordance with the longstanding VSCCA cancellation policy)~~

To get started with MSR there are a variety of instructional videos developed for the VSCCA and webpages. What you see below are the instructional links that will be posted on the vscca.org website. All you need to do is go to vscca.org, click on the link and watch the video or read the instructions provided. When you register online for an event you access the registration link embedded on that particular event's page on vscca.org page. It really is quite easy.

Instructional videos:

- Video Tutorial for VSCCA Members new to MSR
- Video Tutorial for VSCCA Members with MSR accounts, registering for VSCCA events

Written Step-by-Step Instructions to go along with the videos:

- How to create an MSR account & add VSCCA to your profile
- How to update an existing account (user name, password, name, address, etc)
- How to update or change my vehicle saved on MSR
- How to delete a vehicle
- How to make sure you successfully registered for an event
- There will also be a link to an online help catalog
- For any account setup or entry questions that can't be answered above, MSR is happy to help! You can contact them at msrhelp@motorsportreg.com



New for 2020: Family Membership!



The VSCCA Board has approved a new Family Membership plan for 2020. Family members will receive full membership benefits with the club, including voting rights, with one exception; to the lower costs for family members there will be only one mailing per household of the club bulletin, newsletter, calendar and other mailings. Details for enrolling in the family membership will be included

in the January mailing of the with the 2020 dues notice. For household members who are currently club members, your Family Membership dues for the whole household will be \$130, a savings of at least \$70!

If another member of the household wishes to join the club, they can apply for membership as a family member at any time throughout the year. Their new member application fee includes their membership fee for the balance of the year and is \$50, a \$70 savings over the standard \$130, and they will receive a grill badge with their membership. Once they have become a club member under the family membership, their future annual dues will be covered by the \$130 family membership.

An unlimited number of family members may join under a single family membership provided all members live in the same household, at the same mailing address. For more details, and an application, please go to the membership section of the club website vscca.org



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VSCCA Newsletter
January, 2020

Tech Tip: Protecting your trailer



The November issue of *Victory Lane* had a terrific article written by a poor fellow who, on a long two-day tow to a race, came out of his low budget-hotel in the morning only to find his entire rig gone – tow car, enclosed trailer and race car. It is well worth a read and we have posted it on the VSCCA website. I'll pose some key questions for you here. Suppose you found yourself in the same situation, whether at home or more notably on the road. Would you have immediate access to good photos for your tow car and/or trailer to show police and to post on social media? Your race car, most likely, but your tow car and trailer? How about VIN numbers and license plate? They are probably in the glove box of your tow car and a file drawer at home but if you are on the road and whole rig disappears do you have that information with you to provide the police immediately?

If you really want to go the extra step for peace of mind there are now matchbox-size GPS tracking devices that you can hide in your trailer that will notify your cell phone if any movement is detected. Then you can always chain the tandem wheels of trailer together... Stopping short of that, from anywhere from no cost to a small investment, you can be better prepared should you ever find yourself in the shoes of the unfortunate vintage racer from Oregon.