



Preserving The Vintage Spirit For More Than 60 Years

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## **HONORING THE PAST, CELEBRATING THE FUTURE**

With the 60th anniversary of the Vintage Sports Car Club of America officially over, the VSCCA has entered the seventh decade of existence since its' founding in 1958. No small feat, such an occasion invariably evokes reflection on our past personal experiences, friends, and especially, how to preserve the vintage spirit that helped establish those friendships and made those experiences possible.

VSCCA cars were not part of my generation. My birth coming just a few years prior to the VSCCA post war cutoff of 1959, personal experiences with cars did not start until the muscle years of the early 1970's. The first time I rode in a 100-M Austin-Healey though sealed the deed. Vintage sports cars became a lifelong passion, especially Prewar. One can cerebralise all one wishes about why, but it comes down to the emotional dimension. With fine art, anyone who tries to explain it does not understand it. Art in whatever form, like our VSCCA cars, must be "felt" to be understood.

The old car scene abounds with many choices for the automotive enthusiast. The VSCCA concentrates on Prewar cars, those post war to 1959, all Formula Junior and special exceptions for post 1959 cars up to 1965. To be considered, these post 1959 VSCCA eligible cars must evoke a simpler time, a past of historical significance and even more importantly, that intangible feeling noted earlier. Reviewed and voted on by each and every one of the eleven Board of Directors, approval of these cars always considers these sentiments. It was Cecil Kimber (General Manager of the MG Car company in the 20's and 30's) who said "you just know when a car is right". And so, during the approval process the members of the VSCCA BOD just know when a car is right. The BOD always try to be fair with our fellow club members and friends. And heaven knows we want to approve cars to bolster the ranks, but not at the cost of compromising the very values the VSCCA promulgates.

In an effort to attract participants and keep car clubs in motion, the argument of the “moving year target” makes sound sense for many younger historic car clubs. Yet there is an equally compelling opposing argument for the stagnant cut-off date the VSCCA embodies. By submitting to 25 or 35 or even 40 year moving target backdating, a club will eventually “elbow out” cars of veteran or vintage pedigree. This will assuredly leave these wonderful automobiles and their expert custodians with no place to go, abandoned and left out in the cold. The cars will end up lost to posterity, living through the pages of vintage books or permanently residing in garages and museums, rarely seeing the light of day much less raced.

Given the foregoing, there is only one way forward to the VSCCA’s dilemma of expansion and holding to its’ core values. Speaking from personal experience, whatever their age we must identify those individuals that share the romance of our type of cars, for the romance of our cars knows no age boundaries. We must then help these individuals, as was done with me, come aboard and stay aboard through a culture of mentorship by each and every member of our club; *it takes a village to raise a child*.

The uniqueness of the VSCCA though goes beyond the date of the cars. While we all adore “the dice” and have experienced the “red mist” at one time or another, the VSCCA will always maintain a philosophy where all manner of real vintage cars and drivers can continue to have sporting and respectful fun. We value not only the personal restraint our kind of cars beg, but esteem the varied expertise levels of our friends be it by Hill Climb, Wheel to Wheel or the vital task of marshaling so we remain safe. We aspire to continue “Something for Everyone” for the gentleman (gentlelady) driver of vintage cars in sympathetic company. We are committed to preserving a history that can only endure through using these vintage cars as intended when first created.

Speaking for the boy who sat in that Healey more than 45 years ago, there is personal comfort knowing that the singular spirit and philosophy of a club created 7 decades ago by people long gone and which I never met, has been passed on and endured intact.

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## **WELCOME TO MEMBERS TAKING NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES**

### **William Gelles Jr.**

The BOD welcomes our newest Director-At-Large Bill Gelles. Bill was voted on the BOD this past election and has taken over the seat that long time member Tony Carrol had. After Tony relinquished his position of Secretary held for more than 30 years to Scott Fenley, Tony transitioned to a Director-At-Large. Having held that position for several years, Tony decided it was time to move over. Bill gelles is one of the more senior members of our club and has been a part of the VSCCA for decades and will be a valuable addition to the BOD.

### **Ben Tarlow**

Ben is one of the younger members of our club. He has enthusiastically taken up the mantle of Event Chair for the Spring Sprints.

### **Bradley Price**

A newly created position, Bradley has taken the leadership role for the Exhibition Class.

### **Whit Smith**

Working with your Activities Chair, Whit will be taking over the marketing arm of the VSCCA's Outreach Initiative.

### **Stephen Morici**

Part of the Morici Racing dynasty, Stephen has now become the Event Chair of the Thompson Event.

## FORMS

**VSCCA Standard Event Entry and Tech Inspection Forms** are NO LONGER included with mailings. All standard forms can be downloaded by visiting the VSCCA website. Checks accompanying a VSCCA Entry Form make payable to VSCCA Inc. Events are muffled unless indicated otherwise. Direct questions on events to individual Event Chairs. **Medical Forms** may also be found on the web site. All forms may be found under the Members Only Section. You do not have to be registered on the VSCCA website in order to download VSCCA forms. For those who do not have internet access, please write the Secretary and he will mail forms to you.

**VSCCA DRIVERS SCHOOL QUESTIONS:** Charles Bordin  
[cbordin123@aol.com](mailto:cbordin123@aol.com), 914-968-5700.

### **Technical News:**

**Helmets** -Participants in VSCCA speed events must utilize SA2010 helmets or newer

**Sports racers and rare or unusual cars up to 1965** continue to be accepted by your BOD. Please remember that all post 1959 cars, must be run on approved racing tires only and with original rim width sizes.

**Roll Bar Coverings** are mandatory on all exposed roll bars. Roll bar padding must be approved padding according to the SFI 45.1 specification.

## Event News

### **2019 VSCCA Event Registration Policy**

Your Event Chairs have direct access to their respective events on the back end of the website. Visit the VSCCA website for up to the minute information or changes in the status of their events.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR EVENTS ON THE VSCCA WEBSITE, NOT VIA PAPER FORMS! This assists our hard working and selfless volunteer Event Chairs  
Please help make their life easier.

**Early Bird** Registration - Registration prior to 10 days before the event. Reduced price

**Regular** Registration - Registration within 10 days of the event.

**Cancellations - Up to 10 days prior to the date of the event** - full refund and no penalty.

**Cancellation Within 10 days of the date of the event** - credit towards a future 2019 VSCCA event for bonafide circumstances (family death, severe illness). Car or weather are not acceptable reasons and there will be no credit granted for these circumstances.

## **FOCUS GRIDS**

While all VSCCA vintage cars are of course welcome at our events, the VSCCA has earmarked the following W2W outings for a particular class of car. There will be exclusive, GUARANTEED grids for the following classes:

**The Empire Cup** - *The Iconic Sports Racer*

**Thompsons Vintage Grand Prix** - *The Vanderbilt Formula Junior Challenge*

**The Fall Finale** - *The Prewar Celebration*

**The Saratoga Auto Museum's** very successful exhibition "60 Years of Vintage Sports Cars in America" will end on Sunday March 24th. If you have not had an opportunity to see this great exhibit, time is running short so hurry. The SAM did a phenomenal job of showcasing cars from VSCCA members.

**The 2019 Southern Tech Session is on April 12 and 13**, this year is held in conjunction with the New England MGT Register's Kimber Festival at the Simeone Museum. Visit the NEMGTR website to register. This will be a spectacular event with many are MGs present. Our own Dr. Simeone will be a guest speaker along with VSCCA MG protagonist Peter Ross.

LRP will again host the VSCCA Driver's School at the **Spring Sprints** May 3rd through the 4th. Contact Charles Bordin if you know potential members wishing to participate in the school. Remember, a VSCCA eligible car is not necessary for the school.

**The Empire Cup** (May 31st- June 1st). Apart from having the best chance of ideal weather, there is a significant amount of track time at this event. The Empire Cup is always well attended so early registration should always be considered. This event now attracts Sports Racers from all over the East Coast, from various VMC clubs. as well as Canada.

**The Hershey Grand Ascent** (Friday June 7th through Sunday June 8th). While the Grand Ascent, held on the grounds of the magnificent Hotel Hershey, chimes in as a lightweight as hill climbs go, (7/10th's of a mile and an elevation change of 200 feet), the historic "Ascent" is deceiving by any standard. The changes in elevation, although gradual, lulls one into a false sense that this is an easy course to negotiate and nothing could be further from the truth. Lightning fast straights are abruptly followed by characteristically acute, slightly off camber and narrowing turns requiring delicate car control. The subtle lighting caused by the grand old growth trees gracefully lining the road also makes it challenging to gauge when to make your corrections. This is an exciting course even for the hill climb experts amongst us. The presence of a return path also adds to the enjoyment of the driver in that one does not have to wait at the top prior to returning for another go. As a result of outstanding viewing vantage points throughout the course, this is a popular spectator event which adds a vein of excitement that few

hill climbs can ever hope to emulate. Timed runs with professional digital timing boards, will begin on Friday and last into Saturday.

Top off The Grand Ascent with a Pebble Beach level concours on Sunday, *The Elegance at Hershey*, and next year you will likely find your family prodding you to go and race; Imagine that! Apart from all the dinners, lunches and Sunday brunch being included in your entry fee for you and one guest (additional meal tickets available at a modest cost), this venue represents an excellent value. The fact that this weekend is a benefit for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation adds nobility.

The **Thompsons** event, held on June 20, 21 and 22, will be run this year in conjunction with VRG. Formula Junior is the focus grid and we expect a good showing with many FJ racers already committing. A limited number of garages have been allocated to the VSCCA (can fit two smaller vehicles in one space). They are available on a first come first serve basis.

**The 2nd Annual White Mountain Vintage Grand Prix** has been moved to August 2nd and August 3rd at Club Motorsport in Tamworth, New Hampshire. Last years attendees were absolutely thrilled with this track and we expect a good turnout. If you did not make it last year, then please register now. Do not miss this great venue.

The **Mt. Equinox Hill Climb** is attracting a wider group of enthusiasts. The road continues to improve, and the times continue to get shorter. This is the crowned jewel of the VSCCA. If you have never done it, you owe it to yourself to try. Most drivers who come to this event come back year after year. Due to the location, Mount Equinox also is one of the more attractive events for significant others.

On the Labor Day weekend (August 30th through September 2nd), the VSCCA will again be the sanctioning body for **The Lime Rock Park Historic Festival**. This year, the focus will be Italian thoroughbreds. Skip, Murray, JR Mitchell, Bill Gelles, Charles Bordin and Ernie Steubesand have always done an incredible job for one of North America's finest vintage racing events. It is vital that all VSCCA members, especially Prewar, support the Lime Rock Park Historic Festival.

**The Fall Finale on September 27 and 28** has taken on the aura of a mini Historic Festival. The weather is quintessential New England at this time of year. The Boy Scouts will again be there this year. The inclusion of the Preservation class, the exhibition class and of course Prewar cars is a sight to see. You can bring your Prewar car for Exhibition ( non competitive) or Preservation (mildly competitive ) at this event. Remember all Prewar cars that participate in the Historic Festival can enter the Fall Finale with a \$100 discount.