

Spring/Summer, 2018



Restoring the Spirit to Vintage Racing

Newsletter



Bill Stoler's Snapshot from the 2018 Wild Hare Run at VIR

Finally, it was here! My first racing outing for the year 2018!

After what seemed to be a horribly delayed spring, it was time to head south for the *WILD HARE RUN* at Virginia International Raceway. The event has become one of my favorites, not only because it's held at the gorgeous place we know as VIR, but the chance to get together with the Vintage Driver's Club of America, as well. The VDCA has been described to me by many folks, as a "driver's club" and it is not a surprise that the VDCA and the VRG team up for this event as well as the Jefferson 500 at Summit Point. It's a good match.

As a photographer, it's a treat to shoot many cars that I won't see anywhere else this year and VIR is a photographer's dream, with a plethora of opportunities to chase the light. If you view my images posted on-line, you'll see that I've taken a liking to the shot coming out of Turn 4 (left hook) and into Turn 5. This allows me to capture a number of cars with the iconic red buildings of VIR in the background. I've been shooting for quite some time now and I'm still trying to improve as a photographer and recently, I've been trying to capture images that capture the venue. When I started shooting motorsport, like many, I was "intoxicated with the new-found access" to the track and wanted to "ZOOM in tight" to capture the details of the car, the driver's eyes, gloves and other details! While that is still a cool shot, I've learned that a better shot sometimes, is "wider" and captures the essence of racing by including other cars and some identifying characteristic of the track. As I write this, I recall that I missed the opportunity to shoot "Oak Tree" by one year. (sigh..) My first visit to VIR wasn't until the Spring of 2014, which was right after the big oak tree succumbed during the summer of 2013. Of course, the other iconic shot from VIR is the one of the cars climbing the "Esses." I attempted to capture everyone during a few sessions and you can look for those on my website - www.billstoler.com.

Weather-wise, the weekend was a case of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde!" Friday was a perfect kind of day with blues skies and pleasant temps, but Saturday the weather went downhill in a hurry! Falling temperatures, with rain, winds and eventually some snow overnight, really put a damper on my shooting! As many of you know, I do like shooting in the rain because it gives me some very interesting shots....but Saturday was just too "interesting" for me at times! I did get some "panning" shots in the rain of the Formula Fords from the garage balcony which really captured what Saturday's weather was like. The good news is, the fair skies (albeit, a bit cool) returned on Sunday, and I was thrilled to see that 24 Fords stayed and took the green flag for the Royale Formula Ford Challenge feature race on Sunday! Likewise, a large field of cars raced in the one-hour Enduro, held Sunday morning.

In spite of the challenging weather, the Royale Formula Ford Challenge Series got off to a terrific start. Although the paddock thinned out during



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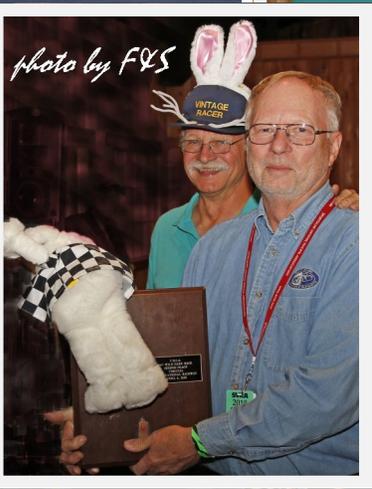
the weekend, 24 Fords stayed and took the green on Sunday for the feature. I think that really says something about the success of that series.

Scott Fairchild continued his winning ways on Sunday, capturing the RFFCS Feature Race on Sunday. John Gaither was the highest finishing FF in the final Group 2-5-7 race on Sunday afternoon. The RFFCS battles at VIR usually include Doug Meis, but Doug experienced transmission problems that took him out of Sunday's races, and Joe Griffen also experienced mechanical gremlins early in the weekend so wasn't able to contest for another series win. The RFFCS Field Champion flag was awarded to Scott Nettleship, who also scored a win on Saturday on a very wet track.

Obviously, the highlight of the weekend is the "Wild Hare Run," an Australian style pursuit race, unlike anything I've ever witnessed at a race track. It's essentially a handicap race that allows each car to compete for the overall win regardless of the class. The "mathematical wizards," Mike Jackson and Doug



Susan Patterson accepts her trophy and cold cash for being our Wild Hare 2018.



Roy Crowninshield receives the "Bunny's Butt" created by Bob Clarke.

Meis work all afternoon on Friday to "crunch the numbers" (qualifying times) to come up with "the complex algorithm" that determines the starting order and most importantly, the duration of the "Wild Hare Run!" The racing cars are released at specified intervals based on qualifying times, starting with the slowest car first and the fastest car last. After the final car is released, the race directors/official scorers head to the scoring tower to keep track of this unusual race, featuring cars from all nine race groups. Theoretically, this should result in all the cars finishing at the same time! That is, if every driver ran his/her qualifying time and lost no time passing cars. Historically speaking, it is rare that the first car to be released is still leading at the finish. Equally rare is to have a huge group of cars cross the finish line at the same time.

This year's winner was Susan Patterson in her beautiful blue Cobra. At the Saturday night VDCA dinner, Susan was awarded the traditional Wild Hare Run trophy, an oversized bunny and a first time cash prize of 1-trillion dollars! For a number of years, an additional accolade has been "created and awarded" by Bob Clarke who donated a special animated "Bunny's Butt" trophy for the second-place finisher. That went to Roy Crowninshield who drove a 1980 Crossle 40F Club Ford in the Wild Hare Run.

It was another successful weekend for the racers of VDCA and VRG at that wonderful race track at VIR.

Bill Stoler
- The VRG "Photo Guy"



VDCA's Hurricane in Savannah



September 7-9, 2018 -- YES, a three-day event!

VINTAGE PRE-REGISTRATION EVENT ENTRY

Enter on MotorsportReg.com or use this form to mail in your entry

—Please fill out one entry for each car or driver entered—

Driver name: _____

Owner/Entrant: _____

*Co-driver -- must submit a separate entry form for tech sheet. No additional charge, but membership and driver credentials required

Car Make/Model: _____

Address: _____

Year: _____ Color: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Displacement: _____ Class: _____

Day Phone: _____

Tires. Manuf: _____ Type: _____

Eve Phone: _____

Front size: Wheel Width: _____

Cell: _____

Rear size: Wheel Width: _____

E-mail: _____

Transponder # (required): _____

VDCA Member #: _____ Ex. _____

Please submit a car registration form if not sent before. Forms available by mail/fax or web at www.vintagedrive.com

—you must be a VDCA member to enter the vintage portion—

Car number requested: list three

Emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____

At track? Yes No

Please check all that apply

VDCA Membership/renewal \$ 75 ()

3-day Vintage race entry \$350 ()

-no additional charge for Enduro-
(at-track entry will be \$450)

Second car/second group \$200 ()
submit a separate form for car info

Extra crew (2 included with entry) ea \$ 30 ()

Amount due: _____

Check # _____

Received by: _____

—New Member Applicants only—

Please include copies of your credentials with entry

Competition license issued by: _____

License number: _____ EX. _____

Medical Expiration: _____

You must still present license and current medical
at Registration

Mail entry and payment to:

Vintage Drivers Club of America
13505 Running Water Rd
West Palm Beach, FL 33418-7933

For information, contact:

Mike Jackson, Race Director
561-622-7554
vdca@earthlink.net
FAX # 561-228-0552

List crew (2 free); minors under 12, no charge

1. _____ 3. _____ (\$30)

2. _____ 4. _____ (\$30)



A Note from Your Race Director

Notice that we have expanded the Sept race at Roebing Road to three days for the first time. We hope that will attract more of you to enter than we have seen in the past. With the exception of the time last year, we had to cancel due to an approaching hurricane, the weather has usually been very nice. Lightning doesn't strike in the same place twice, right?

For this weekend VDCA is also thrilled to host the Formula Vee Birthday Party celebrating 55 years of the existence of the class. We hope to have a nice turnout of both vintage FVs as well as current SCCA cars of that class. They will be running in separate groups from our Vintage entrants. On display for the weekend will be the very first FV ever built. The Nardi has a hand built aluminum body and is still owned by the family that commissioned it back in the early 1960s.

Those of you who go way back in small bore vintage racing likely know Fred Lieb and his Turner that he bought new in 1958 and continued to race well into this century. Sadly, Fred passed away a couple of weeks ago. I think we should all wear our suspenders in his honor at least once this summer.

Hope to see you in Savannah.

2018

Our Hurricane in Savannah
Featuring
the F-V 55th Birthday
Party
Roebing Road
Sept 7-9

Veterans Day Historics
Road Atlanta
Nov 10-11

The Season Finale
Roebing Road
Dec 7-9

Reach us at
561-622-7554
VDCA@earthlink.net
Vintagedrive.com