



VSCCA Newsletter, Number 8, July, 2021

Dear VSCCA Members,

The season seems to have just begun, and here we are at the last events newsletter for 2021. We have had fantastic turn-outs for Spring Sprints and the Empire Cup, Thompson saw a revival of what had been a waning event for us, and the turnout would have been better had it not been six days after the Empire Cup. As for our WMVGP at Tamworth, Elsa drenched us Friday although a number did venture out; the track drains very well. But we still need more entries. Thoughts and feedback are welcome.

On to what promises to be a fantastic last leg of our 2021 season. After a year on the sidelines Mt. Equinox is back for 2021. There is still time to enter this fabled event.

For the Lime Rock Historics, this is one you will not want to miss. You can still enter, but, if not you'll want to be on the hillside to witness the best exclusively PreWar grid seen in the US in many a year. Five Bugattis, four Alfas, an ERA, and many other exquisite PreWar machines - 23 at last count.

For our Fall Finale we will again feature PreWar cars and hope to have enough to have an exclusive grid. If we get 20 PreWar cars (made prior to 1941) we will maintain a grid for them. Under that and we will need to fill in with appropriate cars. Also, on Friday evening we will have a raffle for two-digit numbers - 9, 35, 66 and 73 will be available along with a couple of others.

The Castle Hill PreWar Hill Climb continues to be in planning stages. Being a spectator event there are lots of details we don't normally deal with and we should be able to announce details soon - emails will follow.

The 25th Nutmeg Rally, on Saturday, October 23 promises to be one of the best ever. Take in the glory of the Hudson Valley in late October followed by a dinner cruise on the river in what

is sure to be a special event.

We will close out the season with an in-person AGM and then our holiday dinners. We will not be sending postcards for those, just emails. More details to come via emails. Please see important information about emails on page 3.

We will target having our 2022 calendar available by the AGM.

It is reasonable to assume we will have our late winter-early spring tech sessions again. Certainly, we can expect the four Lime Rock events and Mt Equinox to be in their usual slots. We are doing our best to have Thompson a week or two later in June. As for Tamworth, we are looking at ideas to gain the numbers we need to sustain this great track for us. Let's hope Castle Hill is a big success for the Trustees of Reservations and we are invited back.

With this, the final events newsletter for the season, I'd like to thank the following for their

contributions to this, the second season of these event newsletters. My wife, Deb Weil O'Day for her terrific photos (and painstaking technical support!), Lynn Arnold for her eagle-eyed proofreading, Mark Sherman who has provided excellent photos, ongoing web support while coordinating the various emails, Mark Lefferts for his illuminating tech articles, Peter Greenfield for writing the interesting history of his Alfa, Alex Saidel, Dan Leonard and John Romano for volunteering profiles of their cars. And, especially, for the six Marshals - Jim Bottomley, Bob Melhado, Des Faulkner, Bob Webber, Mark Ragsdale and Kate Liba - who have been willing to be profiled over the past two years, thank you! We know being in the limelight is not their thing, but it is well deserved. We cannot do this without you!

Best regards,

Mark O'Day
Activities Chairman



Upcoming V&SCCA Events



© Michael DiPleco

Mt Equinox Hill Climb Saturday - Sunday, August 7-8, Arlington, VT

The quintessential VSCCA event, a must if you have not done it! Enter one or both days. With the lower portion repaved along with the switchbacks higher up it will be a smoother ride than in many a year. The balance of the event is proceeding as always with a reception Friday night and dinner Saturday with appropriate modifications. For more information, please contact Event Chair Scott Fenley at 215-901-4324 or at fenleyts@yahoo.com



© Deb Weil-O'Day

Lime Rock Historic Festival 39: Thursday – Monday, September 3-6, Lime Rock Park, CT

2021 will see the Lime Rock Historic Festival back in all its glory for edition 39 of this great event. A fantastic PreWar grid with over 23 true PreWar cars, including an ERA! Porsche will be the featured marque. New for 2021 will be a one-hour enduro on Monday afternoon. The special guest will be Stefan Johansson who drove in Formula One and also won the 24 hours of Le Mans. You can enter the event this year via a link on vscca.org and use your motorsportreg account or you may write specifically to Jeanette at Historics@limerock.com. For questions please contact Jeanette or EC Bill Gelles at billgellesjr@aol.com



© Deb Weil-O'Day

Fall Finale: A PreWar Celebration, Friday-Saturday, October 1-2, Lime Rock Park, CT

A great way to end your track season will be the Fall Finale where we celebrate PreWar cars. Any PreWar car that is entered into the Lime Rock Historic Festival – and there are 23 of them! – will get a \$100 discount on entry for this event. If you enter a car in another Fall Finale class your PreWar entry, made prior to 1941, will be free! We will award the PreWar Celebration Cup donated by our friends at Victory Lane. All of our usual entries are welcome, of course, so come and enjoy the glory of the fall colors in the Berkshires. For more information please contact Event Chairs Roger Morse and Lynn Arnold at 518-461-7106 or rgmorse@morse-associates.com. Roger and Lynn will be assisted by Whit Smith.



© Deb Weil-O'Day

Castle Hill PreWar Hill Climb, Saturday- Sunday, October 16-17, Ipswich, MA

A return of one of our favorite events on Sunday the 17th, 40 PreWar cars will have the chance to make their way up the same course we ran for eight in the late 1990s. Starting below the Inn we go by the Casino, wind our way through the Italiante Gardens and finish in the courtyard where we can enjoy sweeping views of the Atlantic over the Grand Allee! The Hill Climb will be preceded on Saturday with a Rally, a visit to Paul Russell's shop, and a dinner. For more information please contact event co-chairs Tom Ellsworth at pfkbos@msn.com or 978-768-7000 or Steve Silverstein at milano164@ymail.com or 774-232-2990.



© Deb Weil-O'Day

The 25th Nutmeg Rally, Saturday, October 23, Hudson Valley, New York

The 25th Edition of this event promises to be a special one. The colors of the Hudson Valley should still be in their splendor as you wind your way through the hills and valleys. The day will be capped off by dinner on the river. For more information please contact Rallymaster Jim Donick at 845-635-2373 or whimsey1@earthlink.net.

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

Upcoming V&CCA Events

Annual General Meeting, Saturday, November 6 (tentative), Venue TBA

While the date and venue for our AGM is to be determined, it will be held. We will send out an email no later than September 30 to announce details. At this meeting we will share club updates and announcements, get a preview of the 2022 calendar and have an opportunity to have your thoughts and opinions heard.

Holiday Luncheons, Saturday, December 5 in West Point, NY and Saturday, December 12 in Boston

As always, we will wrap our season with Holiday luncheons in Boston at the Chart House and West Point at the Thayer Hotel. We will send out emails in the fall with more details. Please contact Boston EC Steve Silverstein at milano164@gmail.com or 774-232-2990 and West Point EC Joan Harmer at joan@harmersinternational.com or 914-962-2652.

Cars you'll see at V&CCA events: Aston Martin DB3S 113



© Nicholas Drinker

The Aston Martin DB3S, chassis #113, of John Romano is one of the jewels that frequent the VSCCA paddocks, exquisite in its form and details, whether you are looking at it on track or as a glimpse under the bonnet will show. 113 originally started life as a fixed head coupe in 1954. The factory built two fixed head DB3S' for LeMans; both crashed due to instability, apparently due to the coupe design, and were rebuilt as open cars. Nonetheless Aston Martin went on to build three more coupes of which 113 is one of three customer cars. Sir Max Aitkin, an accomplished WWII pilot of Hurricanes and son of Lord Beaverbrook, was 113s first owner. Along the way, before John acquired it, it was rebuilt with a roadster body although the coupe body has remained with the car. The other two customer cars retain their coupe bodies. For many years the car was owned by the late Colonel Earle Kelton, who was a long time VSCCA member. Earle acquired it while in Military Flight School in Alabama and it served as his daily driver - by 1966 the car had 65,000 miles on the odometer! He reported that it's 3-litre motor was very docile and he even frequently drove it in New York City. John describes the car as near bulletproof and a joy to drive, light and nimble, perfect for the shorter tracks we have in New England. For a more detailed read on this car see the April, 1966 edition of *Road & Track* or the Fall 2010, #28 issue of *Vantage*.

E-Mail Housekeeping

Emails have become our primary means of communicating VSCCA News event information, updates and news. It has come to our attention, however, that certain mail servers (Yahoo and Verizon, for example) sometimes direct our outgoing emails into members' spam, or junk mail, folders. This includes email coming from webmaster@vscca.org (the sender appears as "VSCCA") and autopilot@motorsportreg.com (the sender appears as the Event Chairs name). We are investigating this but so far, we have not been able to identify a cause or a solution.

Typically, we try to send emails from webmaster@vscca.com at 6 PM Sundays, since we found that we get the best response at that time. When we have urgent news, we will send email asap. Emails from Event Chairs with event-specific urgent news and information are sent as needed.

Please take a look in your JUNK or SPAM folder to see if there are any emails from the club or Event Chairs. If you find any, you should identify them as NOT SPAM, or "safe" as suggested by your email provider. We suggest you do this periodically to make sure you are getting all the important news. (This may also save you from missing out on other important emails.)

We don't plan many emails for August but September will be busy so you can expect the Early Bird warnings for the Fall Finale, among others. (If you don't receive them, please send an email to webmaster@vscca.org to let us know.)

Tech Tip: Tech Sheets

by Mark Lefferts



VINTAGE SPORTS
CAR CLUB
OF AMERICA, INC.
39 Woodland Drive,
New Britain, PA 18901



In this article, I want to cover basic and specific race prep check lists. As you all know, the VSCCA has the “TECHNICAL INSPECTION SHEET” available to down-load from our website. In a perfect world, each entrant (or their mechanic) would go through the inspection sheet and check all the boxes as the car was being race prepped. Based on what our team sees in the tech line at the track, it would be safe to say that this isn’t happening with every entrant. If you are race prepping your own car, this inspection sheet is the last line of defense prior to going through our tech line and putting your car on the track. Approximately 25% of the tech inspection sheets that are handed to me in our tech line in the paddock don’t have any markings under the “ENTRANT OK” column.

Most of the cars that come through our tech line are really well prepared, including many that are taken care of by their owners. I’d really like to get all the cars brought up to the same standards and believe it’s an important and realistic goal. The VSCCA tech sheet provides a well

thought out list of items to be checked. What I’ve been doing for decades is to make up a specific list for each car that I take to the track, as there are so many variables. I break the inspection list into sections and each winds up being about 3-4 pages. The headings for each section look something like this:

- Wheels & Tires – Braking system – Clutch system – Fuel system
- Exhaust system – Steering – Suspension – Engine – Drive-line
- Cooling system – Electrical system – Safety equipment

I use a highlighter to mark the items that I’ve checked, this way if you are interrupted you know just where you left off. There’s no rocket science involved here, it’s a simple system that works and it will keep you and your car safer, something that we all want.

Editor’s Note: While we can always change the plugs, adjust the timing or other boilerplate prep work the weekend before the next event the best time to go through the checklist for items that might need repair is *immediately after* the event you just ran. As this writer has discovered, finding a broken spoke or a loose wheel bearing the weekend before an event leads to a frantic, few days of prep or possible cancellation of your entry. Additionally, it’s always a good idea to keep spares for those types of fixes on hand.

Safety First!



VSCCA Newsletter
July 2021

