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Editor Chris Bonk

Cover photo: Todd Jongen

A Message from our President Mike Korneli

WIN A FREE RACE ENTRY!

Hopefully that got your attention. Before I tell you how to win a free race entry to ELVF I'd like to do a mid season recap. Our driver's school is the lifeblood of our club. It will help our club sustain, as older drivers hang up their racing shoes. It had what was described as the best weather ever seen for that event. There was a good sized group of students with \$2000 cars. The times they are a changin', and that's not always bad. We need to adapt to what the next generation of drivers get excited about.

Blackhawk is also in the books. There was a lot of concern a couple of years ago when SVRA decided to do an Indy event. With both a venue and date so close to our Blackhawk event no one knew how it would affect us. The bottom line is not much. Our event is so competitively priced with great track time that I believe that people understand that value. Most people can only do so many high dollar events. Blackhawk continues to be our second most popular event.

Grattan is almost upon us. It's not too late to get ready for our "Summer Party" event. The best part about having new event chairs is the new ideas and enthusiasm. Alex and Liz are working hard to make the event better than ever. This is not your father's Grattan event!

Events don't happen by magic; it takes a lot of hard work by a lot of people. Next time you see a race chair, tech worker, drivers committee, registration workers and all the volunteers that make the events go, make sure you thank them.

Alright, let's talk about a free ELVF entry. In our last issue I talked about the status of our club and the importance of the social aspect of a club. This year is the 30th anniversary for the ELVF. The ELVF is our most popular event. The ELVF banquet has always been one of our clubs biggest social events. It's time to put the events money where my mouth is. Every driver that attends the ELVF banquet will have a chance at a free entry for the 2016 ELVF. There will be two runner up prizes of a free enduro entry for the 2016 ELVF. This year's "Gather on the Green" and banquet will be the best ever.



Tucker J. Madawick

Dice: plural noun, \dīs\

- 1. a small cube that is made of plastic, wood, etc., that has one to six dots on each side, and that is used usually in pairs in various games
- plural also dic·es: a small cubical piece (as of food)
- 3. a close contest between two racing car drivers for position during a race

ay backs are hell. Doug Bruce and I have our licenses the been friends and a customfirst time out and now er of mine for many years, so we are beating on our chests when I decided to go vintage racand talking about how we're going, he had to join me. I was skiping to beat each other at the track. ping around in the pits at Mid Ohio

back in fall of 2007, when I spotted

the yellow Courier, I now have. It

was complete, but hadn't been to a

for me, and with my wife's blessings

I bought it. Took a couple of weeks

helped him decide on the car he

has now, the ex Bill Carrol White

Bua Eye. So off we go to VSCDA

We both made a ton of upgrades on. to our cars mainly in the safety department and some performance track or run in a few years, perfect goodies and went racing. It was enormous fun, meeting new friends

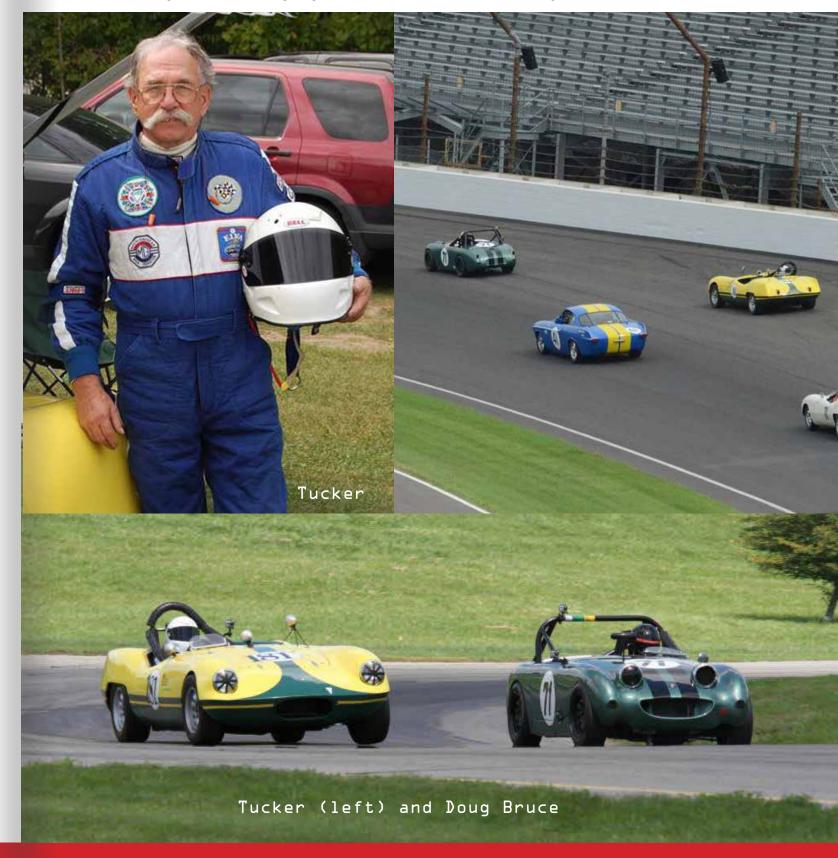
to get it, but I brought it home and "He over cooks immediately called Doug to tell him about my find. Before I could brakes and hang up the phone, he was at my shop looking it over and mumbled to go off something about joining me. The next few days he sent me adds course..." with photos of early Sprites and I

> and going to tracks we'd only heard about. About the third year at Grattan, which both agreed was

drivers our new favorite track, we were pretty even, but I had found a couple of extra horses and about midway through the feature race I passed Doug on main straight in front of the home crowd. Now I've aggravated the customer and started a war which is still going

> Fast forward to the second Indianapolis Invitational Vintage Gran Prix this year, Doug and I are fairly close to each other on the grid. We keep each other in sight, but at the end of the front straight he over cooks the brakes and has to go off course allowing me to get by him, oh boy, oh boy. I keep him behind me for about 3 laps, I see him in my mirrors going from one side to the other and finally does the Hail Mary dive on the outside of the 90 degree left at the end of The Holman straight, I let him go barely

and he beats me to the finish by a couple of car lengths, to take third in class and goes to the podium! If I had known that was the last lap my Courier would have been a couple of feet wider, but it was a clean pass and I had to let him go. We're still laughing about that one, but be careful Doug, I'll have to even the score.



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By Chris Bonk

Editor's note: This is satire. Profiles are based on a cross section of a population. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Aka "Lighten up Francis."

The Arrive & Driver

Profile: Affluence of some sort is generally a part of the equation. He's a busy guy in his everyday iob, but he loves to get away and be a weekend warrior. His crew is already at the track, set up and waiting to buckle him in after he hurriedly arrives from the local airport just in time to make the grid call. Gregarious in nature, he loves to invite others for wine & cheese back under the big top trailer or share a bottle of the local IPA.

Occupation: Hedge fund manager, Physician.

Motto: "Anything can be fixed

with a check wrench."

Acceptance in the Paddock: cents. Generally well liked, but also envied.

He Drives: Alfa Spyder, Lotus Elan, Jaguar XKE, 90's era Formula One car.

The Affable Brits

Profile: Scottish or English (most locals can't tell the accents apart) they somehow elevate the occasion and give a vintage event a certain legitimacy and authenticity simply because they come from the same island as half the cars on the circuit. They love to chat about Joe Lucas as being "The Prince of

Occupation: Advertising executive, Import Car Mechanic.

Motto: "Green tea by day, red wine by night."

Loved...if only to hear their ac-

He Drives: A Mini, Lotus Europa, Brabham Formula 2.

The Gentlemanly Racer

Profile: He never dive bombs you, always gives you plenty of racing room and when he passes you it's clean as a whistle. He may not be at the sharp end of the grid but he's a solid racer who'd finish higher if he was less "gentleman-

Motto: "No, after you...I insist.." **Acceptance in the Paddock:** Highly respected and loved by all. He Drives: An old front wheel drive Fiat, Formula Vee

The Red Mist Racer aka Mr. Intensity

Profile: He doesn't know what Acceptance in the Paddock: 8/10ths means. He's a Type A personality who wants to win, win, win! He's usually called in at least once a weekend for "a talking to" by the Chief Steward in regards to aggressive driving, or going 4 wheels off multiple times.

Occupation: Aftermarket car warranty sales, Litigator.

Motto: "Outta my way!"

Acceptance in the Paddock: Generally despised and the subject of much gossip in the paddock. "Did you hear he went off at Turn 1 and nearly collected the Driver's Committee Chairperson?" He Drives: A Boss 302 Mustang, early 70's Corvette.

Old School Former Pro Racer

Profile: He still drives like it's his profession. He's very fond of late braking dive bombs...because he can. He has a tendency for sticking his nose here and there and loves to intimidate. He doesn't mind making contact or closing the door on you.

Occupation: Retired racer



Motto: "Rubbin' is racing!" **Acceptance in the Paddock:** Admired for his ability for his age, but everybody wishes he would retire.....from all forms of racing. He Drives: A 60's Volvo, a Sport Racer, Triumph Spitfire Fastback.

Lifetime Racing Enthusiast

Profile: This is probably the most common racing profile type. The Enthusiast has been a fan of road racing his entire life and he now has the time and the financial means to play in the sport of his idols. A mid-packer, he's slowly getting better each season as he gains experience and is able to afford better equipment. Though he has mechanical ability he generally looks to others for advice and assistance in car prep and repair. Occupation: Small business owner, Middle management in a

Motto: "A good dice is like a win!"

Fortune 500 company.

Acceptance in the Paddock: Being this is the most common vintage racing type his acceptance is based mostly on his personality and not his driving style.

He Drives: A Datsun 510, a Bug Eye Sprite, a Formula Vee, a BMW 2002.

The Narcissist

Profile: He has the painted helmet, the fire-suit from a real Formula One or IndyCar team, the Alpine Stars accessories. Always has an attractive companion of the opposite sex around and is somewhat of a raconteur in regaling those who'll listen about his amazing adventures. He's generally a decent racer, but for the meantime he's more "Show" than "Go".



Occupation: Artist

Motto: "If you can't be fast at least look fast."

Acceptance in the Paddock: Generally well liked, though a few think he's a pompous ass.

He Drives: A Datsun 240Z, Alfa Romeo GTV, any type of Porsche.

Mr. Clueless

Profile: He's been ground forever, but it still seems like he doesn't know the racing line, isn't aware of who's around him and basically parks it in the corners.

Occupation: UTF (Unemployed Trust Funder)

Motto: "Say what?"

Acceptance in the Paddock:

Thought he may be liked personally, nobody wants to be stuck behind him on the track.

He Drives: A Formula Ford, Lotus Super Seven.

Happy Go-Lucky Guy

Profile: He's at every event,

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though he's also generally at the back of the grid. An all-around nice guy who everybody enjoys having a beer with back at the paddock after the race.

Occupation: Retired electrician Motto: "Just havin' fun!" **Acceptance in the Paddock:** Respected and always welcomed. **He Drives:** A MGB, Austin

Healy, Ford Cortina

The Fastidious Perfectionist

Profile: His car is immaculate. All the screw-heads line up on the engine. He cares more about buffing the car then his grid position. His paddock is meticulous and he has every tool known to man.

Occupation: Retired Accountant **Motto:** "If it doesn't make the car go faster, chrome it."

Acceptance in the Paddock: Corvette, Super Vee. Well received and popular when you are looking for just that right The Ride Mooch tool to borrow.

He Drives: A Lister, Pre War

The Industry Guy

Profile: He owns an auto repair shop and this is his living. Breaking down a motor over night is it's suggest to a car owner that said own adventure. He's generally a owner might want a co-driver for beer type of guy that will be the the enduro. first to lend a hand when you are Occupation: Collective barin trouble though they tend to be gaining mediator.

wouldn't have done it like that. el." That's your problem."

Occupation: Mechanic, Race Must have friends in the paddock Prep Shop Owner.

Motto: "We've got time to fix it." Acceptance in the Paddock: away from being hated. This is the second largest type of **He Drives:** Somebody else's car. racer at vintage events, so unless he's an opinionated jerk, he's well

He Drives: A Camero, 60's era



Profile: He sold his car due to budgetary constraints (in other words, the significant other put their foot down on the hobby), but is still part of the community and comes to every event with a gear bag in tow in hopes that he can

critical of other people's work. "I Motto: "Have helmet. Will trav-

Acceptance in the Paddock:

prior to attempting to mooch rides. They are always one incident

Former SCCA Driver

Profile: He spent years and tons of money developing his car in SCCA competition with the hopes of winning a national title and going Pro. In vintage he mostly complains about the "era correct" rules and how much better SCCA is.

Occupation: Personal Injury Attorney, Race Prep Shop Owner Motto: "Era correct my ass. This

is a safety upgrade, not a performance upgrade!"

Acceptance in the Paddock: Tolerated.

He Drives: 80's era Corvette or Z car.

The Jaded Bastard

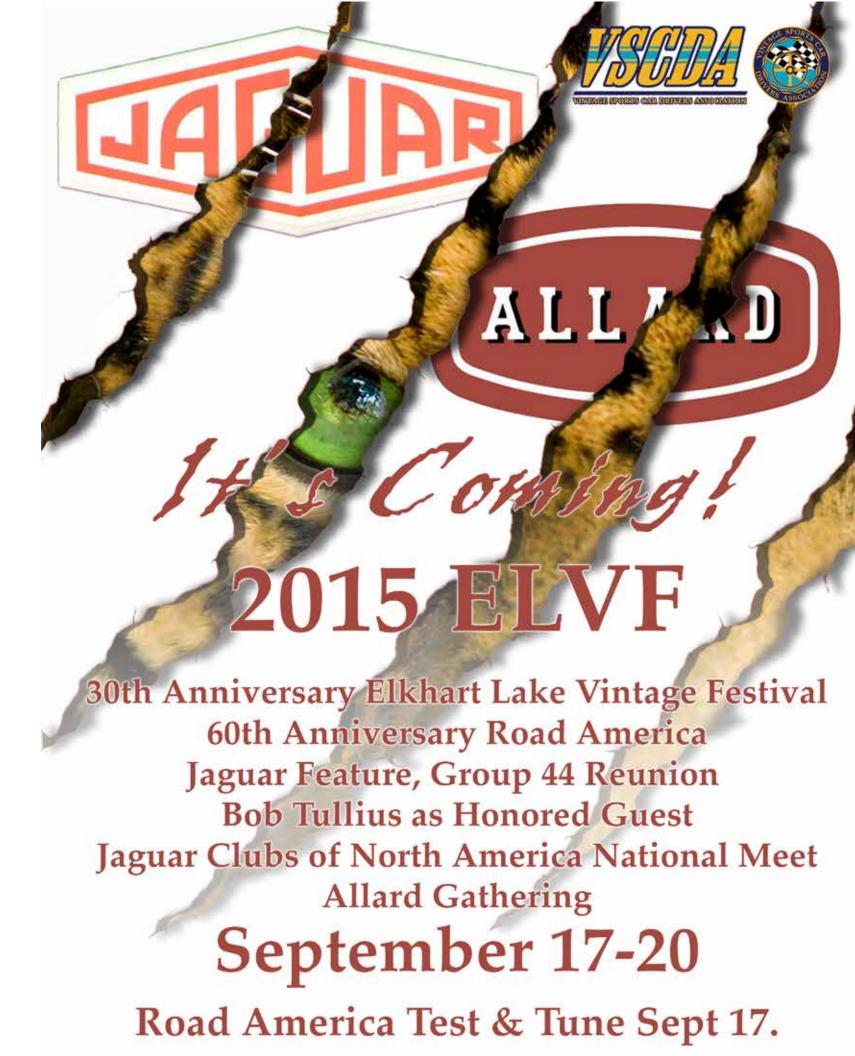
Profile: Been there, done that, seen it all. A Jackie Gleason type character that is quite wealthy and seems non-plussed about everything. Generally a "one-upper" in exchanging experiences. The only thing that can render him speechless is a lap at Indy during the Oval Experience at a vintage event.

Occupation: Retired Captain of Industry.

Motto: "That ain't nothin'!" **Acceptance in the Paddock:** Not many friends...Just paid lack-

He Drives: Early 20th Century Indy Car, D Type Jaguar.







Vintage Vee Race Report by Jeffery Tschiltsch

The Formula Vee sprint race was the final event on Saturday. The skies had grown dark but everyone was sure the rain would hold off, and it did, right until the cars started off on the formation lap.

The light sprinkles quickly turned into a full-fledged downpour halfway through the first lap. Even though the entire field clearly gave the first wet race of the season the respect it deserved, the first car went off track between turns 4 and 5 and then several more either spun or went off exiting turn five, all on the first lap. Some cars dove straight into the pits and the end of that lap but most continued to tough it out. Lap times averaged over 30 seconds slower than the qualifying times from earlier in the day. After three laps the race was red flagged due to lightning. The top three finishers were Garrett Van Camp, Mitch Beiser and Chuck Buysee.

The rain race completely shuffled the grid for the Bill Milner Memorial Sunday feature race as some of the

top qualifiers in the dry struggled to turn a quick lap in the wet race. The weather was the complete opposite of the day before, there was a 20 minute delay on the grid in the baking sun as oil was cleared off the track from the previous race. When the race eventually started the field got away clean although there was a huge cloud of oil-dry dust that for the challengers had to navigate as the lead cars churned it up at turn 3D.

Some of the cars starting at the back of the pack due to their poor wet lap times had great drives: Steve Lockwood started 25th and worked his way up to 13th, Ricky del Rosario finished 4th from a grid position of 13th, and Bill Griffith worked his way up from 14th to finish 6th. Others had a harder time: Mitch Beiser started second but slowly fell through the field to finish 8th, and Mike Rogers finished 9th after starting from the 4th spot on the grid.

When it was all said and done Garrett Van Camp took the checker for the win, followed by Chuck Buysse in second and John Kennelly in third, who charged through the field starting from 7th. As usual Black-



hawk provided entertaining race action all weekend in the Formula Vee class.

Trans Am B-Sedan Report by Steve Bonk

The Blackhawk Classic is always Trans Am B Sedan group favorite, but for some reason the grid was light. Some of us did the Friday practice day to get some rust off and get back in the swing of things. That didn't work out that well for some of us. Lol!. Barb Nevoral blew up her engine in

quite well (with Dan Meller doing driving duties) People were won- leave and pull my sick motor on dering if we had a Paddle Shift Saturday. I am sorry I can't give tranny in the car while he was a more detailed report. Last years blasting off practice laps, but we Trans Am Champion, Ike Keenoticed a little water being pushed ler took first place. Terry Stahly, into the overflow bottle. "Hmm, wheeled his Alfa home in 2nd. Mark did we re-torque that head And a rookie to the series, Greg gasket?" That would be a no. Don Meyers, moved his Mazda into Eichelberger was there practicing 3rd place. Scott Hanson took 4th. with his Datsun 510 also. Don a Jeff Babcock, and Joe Brabender Previous Blackhawk race winner brought home there Volvos right and Trans Am B sedan Champ behind Scott. was having his own head gasket issues. So by Friday that was 3 drivers for your support. cars missing from the grid.

a big way. My car was running for taking over handing out the medals for the race. I decided to

Thanks to all the Sponsors, and

The next VSCDA Trans Am B se-I want to thank Dean Champeau dan race is at Grattan in August.









Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan XXIX VSCDA'S Summer Party By Alex Rorke

ast year's "Grand Prix Au Grat-group in the Midwest. The friend-which has drawn rave reviews for tan" was another successful celebration of VSCDA vintage as strong as the racing on the racing. Start planning now for a spectacular weekend of international racing at the roller coaster Grattan Raceway Track in Grattan, MI. Three days of close racing, camaraderie and loads of track time track! are waiting for you! We are hon-Wiers will be our Grand Marshall. Experience one of the very best natural terrain tracks in North America, multiple times each day, in big fields with a variety of cars.

What more could you ask for? How about a party! Our Grattan weekend features: A Minimum of Jeff Porasik of Wells Fargo **Advisors LLC Enduro!** For closed wheel cars up to 3 liters. The Annual VSCDA/VARAC **Can-Am Festival Challenge!** Our Canadian G70 friends are returning to run a series of special "Can Am Festival Challenge" races. We call on all eligible domestic G70 cars to come and defend our national colors! VARAC Chair, Del Bruce, promises even more guests from Canada will be joining us. The Trans Am B-Sedan Race **Series.** This class of under 2.5 liter sedans was popular with both amateur and pro racers "in the day". Noted for their light-weight and exceptional handling, these cars are quite popular today and compete in their own growing race series within VSCDA. The Sprid**get Race Series.** VSCDA has the strongest and fastest growing vintage Sprite and Midget racing

ships formed in the paddock are the last 3 years!

The Vintage Vee Race Series. Close, hard-fought races take place in the Formula Vee

\$20.00 contribution (100% to this a great way to raise money big smiles! If you would like to vol-VSCDÁ office: vscda@vscda.org. and beer on the golf cart as it travels through the paddock to the next course of the dinner! Friday and Saturday's dinners feature local microbrewery beer. Of course, we will again feature the cuisine of Cannonsburg Grist Mill,

New: Badgers VS Spartans and Wolverines Challenge. To challenge Wisconsin's VSCDA members to make the trip around group, with over 30 cars on the the Lake, encourage the largest turnout possible from hometown racers in Michigan and celebrate ored that Wounded Warrior Chris Giving Back--Rides for Grattan's party atmosphere, a new **Wounded Warriors!** For a prize will be awarded through the **Badgers VS Spartans and** charity), this hugely successful Wolverines Challenge. Based program offers quests a 2 lap entirely on voting and observalunchtime ride on Sunday in a tions from all at the track and the race entrant's race car (driven event chair's subjective and imby that racer) at 6/10th speed, perfect judgment, a case of good on a closed track. Not only is wine will be awarded to Michigan (and its racers) or Wisconsin Three Track Sessions Per Day. **The** for Wounded Warriors, both the (and its racers) based on whichguest and driver come back with ever state provides the most support for the weekend. The second unteer your car, please contact the place state's racers will share a case of the cheapest case of beer Two Great Evening Parties! Fri- Alex can find in Michigan. Some day night features the "Paddock" palates might consider the beer to **Crawl**" progressive dinner where be the first place prize...Yes, atthe racers themselves are the en- tendees from Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, tertainment—just follow the wine Kentucky, Indiana, Toronto and anywhere else are encouraged to

> These are only the highlights of a weekend focused on having a very good time. Our goal is to make the entire weekend your favorite summer party.

> If this sounds like your kind of event, we want you! Make plans to be at Grattan August 14-16, 2015 next summer! Register at VSCDA.org.



Vintage Grand Prix Au Graftan XXIX



The Vintage Grand Prix Au Grattan Experience!

by Tim Ridout

you asked, as it is one

That is the Grattan expethey like how I write and my pasrience? Well I am glad sion for the event, so here it goes.

vintage road racing. Let me tell you coming to VSCDA at Grattan is all about it. This year's event chair for the friends you haven't seen in a Grattan is Alex Rorke who asked while. Something about this event me to write an article telling peo- brings a lot of folks together and lenge. Most drivers love it, espeple what it is like to be involved one of the best things is when you with VSCDA's Summer Party, as recognize people and think "man Here are some quotes from those I have been covering Grattan for I've known them a long time, why close to twenty years. Apparently I remember their little one tugging their thoughts.

at shirt tails or holding their hands over their ears but always smiling, watching mom or dad race and of the best times one can have in The first thing one will notice when now look at them, they are racing

> Racing at Grattan can be a chalcially those with small bore cars. that have raced at Grattan and

a 1961 Bugeye "I love the rush between T4 and T5 as you approach the jump, full throttle, then you top the hill and see T5 is right there and you know you have to wait until the car comes down on the suspension before you quickly brake and look for your turn in mark and carefully turn the wheels to the right and head toward the quick tight left hander they call 5A. It is a feeling of excellence when you get it right and the car glides The drivers I spoke with all highthrough T5 and T5A and puts you off camber T6!"

drives a Bugeye. "That is my favorite track! As a new racer 8 years ago I thought I would never like racing someplace so "busy". That has all changed. Grattan was built for the small bore racer. Turn one is fantastic. When you walk the track you can really see just how much uphill grade you get. That allows you to carry more as you use less brake. It is my turn to pass those with larger engines as I catch them braking much earlier than they should."

different point of view as he is not fond of the track. As an explanation he says "I would probably have enjoyed racing there more if I had started out in Karts or Formula Vees or Formula Fords instead of a Reynard F3000. However the event was great"

Next up is Burt Levy's take. "Grattan is a real old school roller coaster of a track that is very dif-

pression of which is an off camber lefthander, you also have to watch opportunity for an exit re-pass as your speed between four and five they skate by on their way into the as there is a jump that when you huge paved no-man's land on the come down it goes into a blind right hander. The esses are low speed but flow nicely to build speed for the bowl". Burt also said that he really likes the event as it is great club weekend with a lot of sion at the second apex followed track time.

lighted the track interplay leading in the right position for the up hill to the jump and left, right s-turn combo, including Scot Forman. He Next is Doug Bruce who also mentioned that Grattan is a natural terrain track, unlike anything being built today. It resembles a back country road! He then elaborated on what happens after the left/right turns following the jump: your foot down.." Immediately you are in the Monza Bowl, a 130 degree turn to the left. I call it the toilet bowl as you get pull in three directions at once event and every year they encour-(accelerating, cornering hard and speed than you might think thru it dropping down into it) making me want to vomit—every lap.

"kinked" straight in which the nized by Jeff Porasik. Jeff orga-A friend of mine, Rick Schans has camber again changes at the kink nized the Wounded Warrior rides corner exit. This leads to the infamous "bus stop" corner which is right hand 140 degree hair- this year is \$10,000. At Grattan, pin with a 3 foot drop right at drivers will take spectators for rides the apex. Under steer is a very in their racing cars during a spepolite term for the tire shredding cial touring session to help raise experience of getting this corner funds for Wounded Warriors. The anything less than perfect. Best VSCDA web site will have inforline is a very late turn in from ex- mation on how you can volunteer treme drivers left but that leaves your race car to help raise funds. a big opening for other racers to A good friend of mine Chris Witry passing on an inside line. Of ers and a Wounded Warrior himferent and fun in any car but small course, this guarantees they'll be self will be the Grand Marshal for bore cars handle the track better. sliding directly across your path as the event! Also the feel of coming uphill to they lose all traction and forward

First up is Don Kelly who drives turn three and feeling the com- bite dropping over the apex, giving the "patient" driver the perfect driver's left exit. The "bus stop" is followed by another short uphill chute to a right- left s-turn combo with a huge dip at the first apex, and a muffler crushing compresby an off camber exit back onto the main straight.

> If you have more than a couple laps at Grattan and you are not having fun, you are either scared stiff or have no pulse."

A final comment from Ron Soave "The secret to Grattan is, when you hear everyone else lift, put

Every year the VSCDA picks a very worthwhile charity for the age those that benefit from these charities to come out and enjoy the festivities. This year we are once again proud to support the This combo is followed by a Wounded Warrior Project orgafor charity at several races last year and raised \$8000. The goal

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gather info for this arti- case of really cheap beer, know- having a good time from the rac-VARAC (Vintage Automobile Rac- event at GingerMan and there is bench racing! ing Association of Canada) to dis- already some interest sparkling cuss this year's event and what it is about. One person was heard A final quote from Scott Fohrman, like driving at Grattan. Everyone saying "what about Ohio State?" I agreed that racing at Grattan is think that suggestion was ignored. Grattan look forward to having like being on a roller coaster ride LOL!

(this also was alluded to on the front cover of Vintage Spirit by Chris Bonk who puts out the VSC-DA's newsletter/magazine) that has twists and off camber turns, hills and bursts of high speed, especially on the front straight. talked Del how about much the folks from VARAC enjoyed the

event and the challenge of racing lenge a bigger event!

Alex also talked about how the need. current Grattan model was put in place by previous chairs Chris We have said what it is like to race Grattan Experience is all about, McGrath and Scott Fohrman, but here and some of the other things August 14th through the 16th there will be some new twists, that go on but the real deal about 2015. like the tongue-in-cheek compe- the Au Grattan Experience is the tition with the Wisconsin Badger people and the camaraderie, as folks vs. the MSU/U. of M. folks. folks will bend over backwards The winner will get a case of nice to help each other out, then race wine and the loser will receive a your socks off. This event is about

cle there was a conference ing some of these folks they probing to the after race activities like call between me, Alex, Jeff ably wouldn't mind losing! Alex the banquet to the paddock crawl and Del Bruce, the President of brought this up at the Spring Brake to the late night wrenching and

> "The fun of it is, those who love a beer at the end of the day with

the person raced you real hard against."

So in conclusion, join VSCDA's Summer Party this August. Racers and spectators are all part of the celebration. Where else can you get outrageous amounts of time on an exhilaratina

track, a real Can-Am Challenge, on this track. He said they are ex- Over the last several years there the Trans-Am B Sedan Series, a paddock crawl, Sprite Midget Series and state vs. state competition over poor beer, while supporting the men and women who have

> Please join me and see for yourself what the Vintage Grand Prix Au





pecting an even bigger VARAC has been a paddock crawl similar contingent this year, hopefully to a pub crawl and we even have around fifteen cars, which will Dean Chapeau again accepting make this year's Can-Am Chal- the "awesome responsibility" of providing the official beer cart given so much for our freedom? transporting libations to those in

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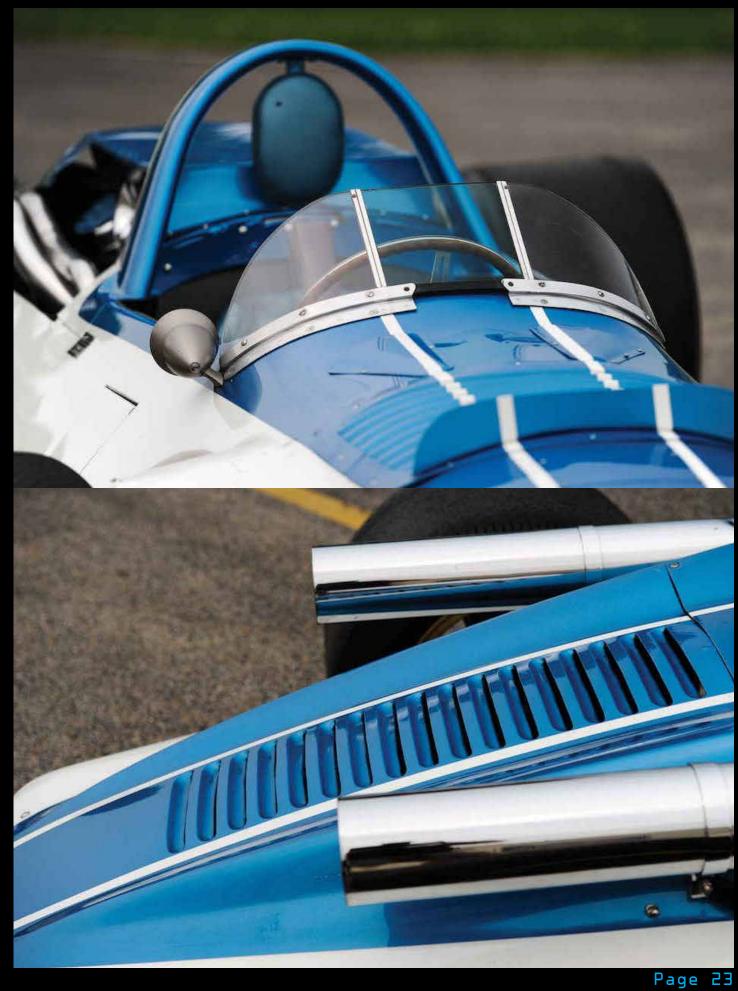


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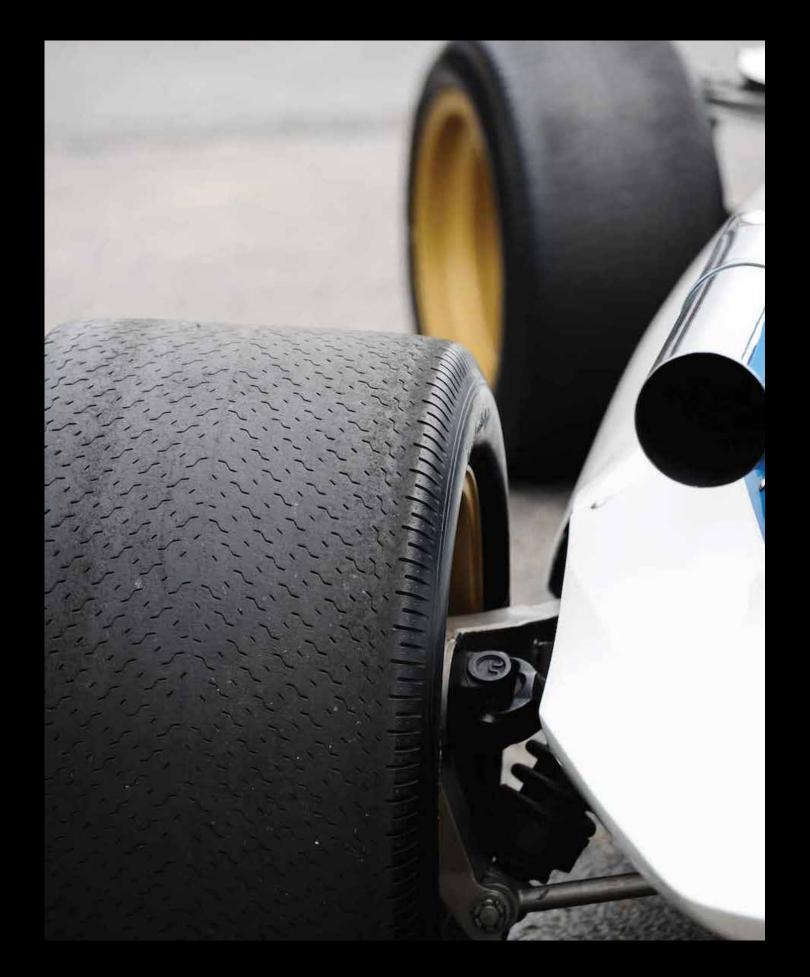
In the American automotive landscape, there aren't many vehicles more influential and iconic than the Corvette. Even fewer can claim to be the direct progenitor of the modern Corvette and Zora Arkus-Duntov's personal Corvette engineering test bed—just one can, to be exact. That car is the Chevrolet CERV I, and it's for sale. If you've got \$2 million, this piece of automotive history can be all yours. If you don't have that kind of cash, feast your eyes on the stuff of legend below.

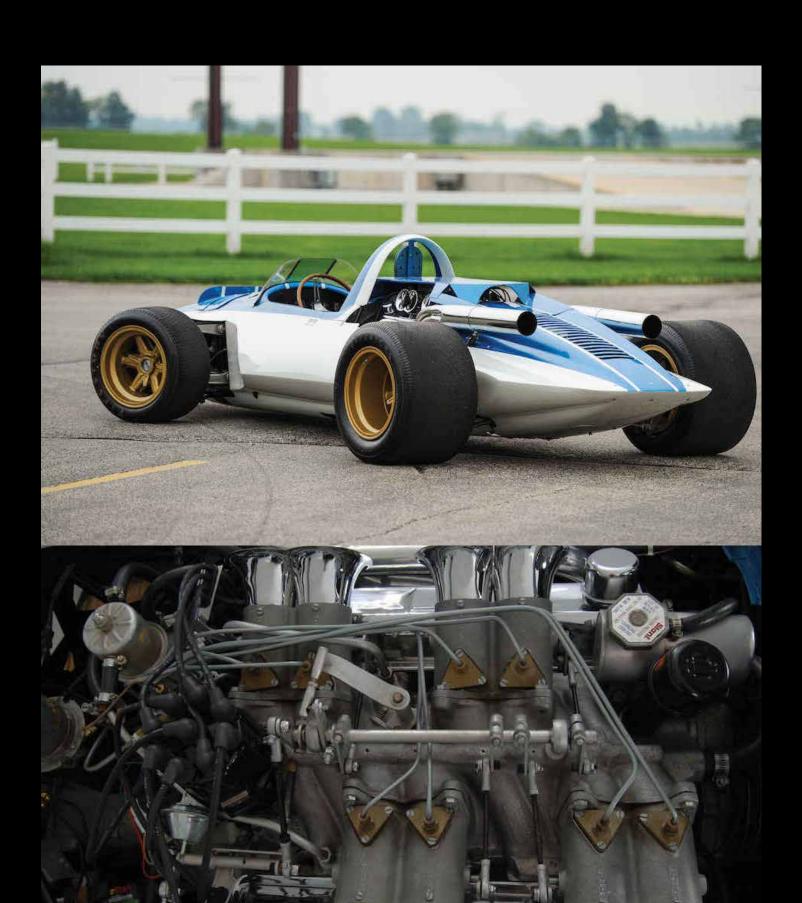
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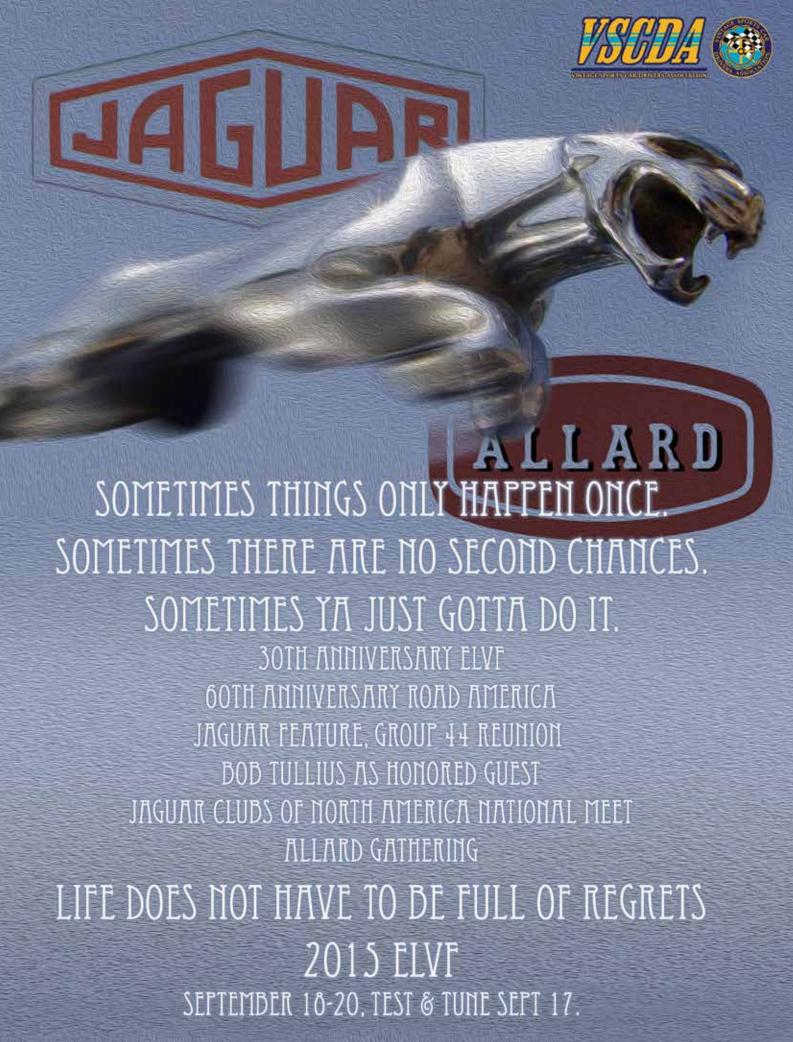
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Convertibles 10 10 Grand or Less

By: Hagerty



1969-80 MGB: The MGB was around seemingly forever, just shy of 20 years actually. After British Leyland absorbed British Motor Corporation, development all but ceased (beyond that which was necessary to keep it legally sold in the U.S.). The early cars are beyond budget, but the post-BMC



cars are still cheap. The earlier time, simply by virtue of the fact cars are the better ones for the most part; all lost a carburetor after 1974 and gained the less attractive rubber bumpers midway through that model year. Still on a sunny Sunday, any B isn't without its charms.

1985 Buick Riviera: The 1980s Buick Riviera and Cadillac Eldorado were the first officially sanctioned GM convertibles that were produced since the full-size Cadillac Eldorado went out of production after the 1976 model year. The Riv was handsome in the extreme and luxurious, befitting its status as one of the most expensive cars GM offered in the mid-1980s



1985 Cadillac Eldorado: Along with its twin, the Riviera, the new, smaller Eldo made a very attractive convertible. In a time of look-alike GM cars, both stood out from each other and from virtually anything else on the road at the

that the top went down, though the Eldorado was decidedly more formal and angular than the Riv.



1985 Toyota Celica: Unlike Datsun, which had produced a series of little roadsters in the 1960s known as the Fairlady, Toyota had little experience making convertibles, so it came as no surprise that it enlisted the help of American Sunroof Corporation to chop the top on its pretty rear-wheel-drive Celica. ASC did a fantastic job of it, matching Toyota's famously rigid quality-control standards. Today, first-year Celica convertibles are rare and interesting cars.



It's hard to believe, but early Miatas are now 25 years old. Can the Race of Champions series. Its 305 tired "chick car" rhetoric -- these are drivers' cars in the extreme. With nimble, tossable handling that gets the most out of the chassis and the willing little twincam four, these are incredibly durable cars that are capable of racking up 250,000-plus miles all but trouble-free.



1985 Ford Mustang GT: The Fox body Mustang had been around since 1978, but it wasn't until about 1985 that things really began to get interesting. Redesigned, better breathing cylinder heads pushed the 5.0-liter V-8's horsepower rating up to around 200 for the first time since the early 1970s. The Fox body Mustang and the next car on the list brought affordable V-8 performance back to the masses.



1988 Chevrolet Camaro IROC Z/28: Chevy's answer to that has yet to really find an au-

Z/28, named for the International cubic-inch engine also started to make real horsepower again by the late 1980s. Combined with the very pretty third-generation Camaro body, nice ones remain bargain priced for now.



1981-85 **Mercedes-Benz 380SL:** he 380SL might be among the least powerful of the classic R107-series SLs, but horsepower isn't really the reason you buy one of these stylish drop tops; rock-solid build quality and blue chip elegance are. Just make sure that yours has had the all-important timing chain updates.



1987-93 BMW 325i/318i: BMW E30s are rapidly gaining in popularity. The all-wheel-drive 325ix, the 325is coupe and the M3 have all been discovered by audiences ranging from high-end collectors to drifters and those looking for a winter beater. Oddly enough, it's the lovely convertible

1990 Mazda MX-5 Miata: the Mustang GT was the new IROC dience. Nice ones with a manual transmission are still well under 10 grand.



1982 Alfa Romeo Spider **Veloce:** Alfa's venerable Spider had been around since 1966 but it wasn't really until 1982 that most of the eccentricities had been exorcised from the car -- 1982 was the first year that the car came with the same Bosch electronic fuel injection that the Germans had been using for about 10 years, displacing the SPICA mechanical injection that Alfa had used in the U.S. to meet emission regulations. And 1982 is also the only year that you could get the Bosch injection in simpler non-rubber, spoilered Spider Veloce.



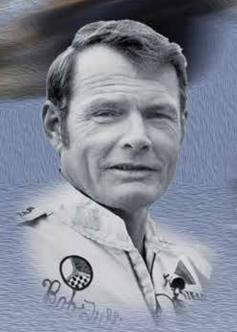


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