

THE VINTAGE AND HISTORIC RACING NEWS MAGAZINE

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SEPTEMBER 2003 - VOLUME 18, NO. 9
\$4 USA / \$5 CANADA



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SPECIALS AT



VIR GOLD CUP

VIR Gold Cup



Virginia Int'l Raceway, VA June 6-8, 2003

photo: Pietrowicz

Bill Sadler with his 1959 Sadler Mk III and other specials.

-by Andy Reid

This year's Gold Cup Historic races at VIR motto was "Reviving the Vintage Spirit" and it lived up to that goal. The annual event featured Road Racing Specials with Bill Sadler as it's honored guest, who also brought one of his specials. It also was the site of the MG Vintage Racers focus event (see the detailed report on the next page).

There were many unique, rare and wonderful cars, with a few of the standouts being the red supercharged MG L2 single seater belonging to George Chilberg, an awesome red Bocar Stiletto (which looked like it belonged in an episode of Speed Racer) driven by Dudley Cunningham and the Sadler MkIII, driven by Bill Sadler himself. Another car that bears mentioning is the wonderfully sorted blue and white '64 Ford Falcon,

owned and driven by British journalist Julian Balme. The period detail work on his car is flawless. I felt like I was transported back in time when I saw it.

Group A - Sixty cars, five production classes, small cars big action! When it was over early due to oil at turn one the small Lotus 7 of Bill Bartlett stood tall. Class winners included track owner Hevey Siegel in his Elva Courier in A3. Italian pride was upheld by the Fiat 124 finishing second, well driven by Tim Butler.

Group B for fourteen Formula Cars saw Bob Goeldner in the rapid BT29 take class B4 ahead of the Brabham of Asa Candler and the Chevron of Travis Engen. The F-Jr crowd favorite was the Jones Lotus 18 with its great F-Jr sound.

Group C with fifty three production and Sports Racing cars ended with a podium of MGAs. Henry

Moore in first, Mark Palmer in second, and Bill Bartlett in third.

The **V8 Thunder Race** featured 24 cars with a great race between the Camaro of Pat Ryan and the Boss 302 Mustang driven by Dale Phelon. The lead changed back and forth between the two until the last lap when Phelon held off Ryan to win the race with Phelon second and Jerry Richards driving a perfect race and finishing third in his '72 MGB/gt V8 ahead of cars such as 2 Shelby Mustangs, a 289 Shelby Cobra and a Lister Chevy.

One of the most popular race events had to be the **Road Racing Specials** feature race. The race had a field of 22 cars including Bocar's, Lister's, an Allard, and Bill Sadler's Mk. III. The race was a lot of fun to watch and provided a rare opportunity to see some of these very rare cars on the track at speed. The featured event lost its honored guest participation when Bill Sadler's car broke in morning warm-up. John Harden driving one of Brian Lister's creations powered by a Chevy topped the field. The past national champion Echidna-Chevy of Steve Steers was second. The Devin SS was one of the most sophisticated front engine cars of 1959 with de Dion rear axle, all disc brakes, tube frame but in period it arrived late and suffered from underdevelopment. Not so here, as the example driven by Doug Karon finished third.

Group E for thirty nine Formula and Sports Racers was topped at the finish by Bobby Brown's rapid Chevron B27. Dave Handy tried hard in the Ralt but settled for 2nd. The field was enlivened by Jim Freeman's '67 Can-Am but it was no match for the fine smaller but dozen year younger cars ahead of it.

Group D was a repeat of the specials race with the same drivers same cars finishing in order: John Harden, Steve Steers and Doug Karon.

Group F for twenty seven fast Trans Am, sedan and big Production cars was almost a replay of the American Thunder Car feature but this time at the chequer it was again Phelon followed by Ryan but in third was the well driven Camaro of Frank Grimaldi.

A great event which gets better each year. If you have yet to go to the Gold Cup you should plan on attending next year.

Marque of Friendship: A Spectator's View

-by Andy Reid

Newsletter, club, race sanctioning body? MG Vintage Racers is all of three.. If you are a vintage racer driving a MG, chances are you are likely a subscriber. MG Vintage Racers achieved an extraordinary feat at this years Gold Cup by fielding a 77 car group of MGs for a special MG

only race. It was the biggest all MG race in the history of motorsports and possibly one of the biggest single Marque races as well.

The race was terrific to watch, although it did happen in a virtual downpour of rain. However, this did not seem to discourage the participants. All looked to be having a truly great time plus spectators got to see some terrific on track duels.

That evening, following their race, the MGVR group held a dinner with prizes for drivers, and

awards given to the race winners, plus the Spirit award.

This year the award was presented to George Chilberg, whom I had the opportunity to spend some time with. He is a kind and interesting man, who in addition to having the terrific supercharged MG L2 also collects Millers. The dinner was a nice way to wrap up the events and embodied the tradition of MG being the "marque of friendship".

photo: D. Chadwick



Seventy-seven MG racers went to VIR for a historic record weekend.

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2013 Gold Cup
Historic Races
Presented By: Berry Hill Mansion Marriott