



#338 Thomas Miller, 1958 Mona-Porsche Spyder; #137 Rob Brownlee-Tomasso, 1958 MGA.

VSCCA North Course and Driver's School

Pocono International Raceway, PA

April 12-13, 2014
– story by John Aibel
– photos by Ed Hyman

The VSCCA Spring opener at Pocono International Raceway treated the winter weary event goers to wonderful spring weather. Saturday dawned with a low fog that dissipated soon after sunrise, the weekend was sunny and warm. They were days that were made for racing.

With the indispensable assistance of Joseph DeLucia, John Schieffelin Jr., and track personnel Pat Leone, Starr Lee Warner and the husband and wife team of George and Kelly, the event went off without a hitch. This event was composed of students and three speed related classes – Fast, Faster, and Fastest class.

There were excited veterans and new drivers throughout.

Saturday practice runs were held until late afternoon. Then there were ten lap speed contest held. Saturday night we drank freely, ate heartily, and told tall tales that left us laughing uproariously at Robert Christians restaurant.

On Sunday practiced was again offered in the morning. The afternoon offered 15 lap races for the Fast, Faster and Fastest classes. The Fast class was mostly made up of Pre-War cars and included, 1931 Alfa Romeo Monza, a Hal Sprint Car, and a 1937 Singer Bantam Special to name a few of the more rare cars. The '31 Alfa sounded great as it sped around the track. The Sprint car sounded like a Hot Rod Model A Ford as it motored around the track. The Singer just softly purred around unheard above the roar of higher revving race cars.

Misters Todd and Peter Daniel shared the driving chores of their Jaguar Mark I sedan. Todd had the Jag singing as it swept past the start-finish line with tires screeching, and engine booming.

Stefan Vapaa had the just-out-of-the-barn SAAB Quantum 2 running like a freight train. Lap after lap the reliable two stroke

could be heard just about anywhere in the Pocono Mountains.

John Schieffelin drove his PV544 Volvo from Massachusetts. He drove in both the regular runs and the student instruction then drove back to Massachusetts on Sunday. Our president is a real Sportsman and not only admires the era, but lives it.

The MGA's ran strong in good close racing during the Faster group race. It was great to watch these drivers in formation as they drifted around the corners. Second only to the Saab in the noise department was the beautiful Cooper/Norton of Peter Rehl. One



#205 Michael Mulroney, 1937 Singer Bantam Special.

could count the single cylinder power strokes as Peter motored away from start. The sound increasing in a lineal graph until you could no longer count the engine firing. Some of the other interesting cars in the group included Shaun Hendersons, 1958 Morgan Plus 4. The 1959 Jaguar XK120 in the capable hands of the Jonathan Savage was a show of its own.

The Alfas put on a grand show with the all Giulietta Spider group. They were about the fastest cars of the weekend. Also included in the Fastest Group was the Turner MK1 of Carl



#40 Dan Gardner, 1961 Sunbeam Alpine; #411 Todd Daniel, 1959 Jaguar Mk 1.

VSCCA Welcomes 15 New Drivers

– story by JP Donick

The VSCCA drivers schools go back almost to the earliest days of the VSCCA, certainly by the early to mid-sixties they had become a fixture on the calendar and a tool for introducing new folks to the pleasures of vintage motoring in a competitive wheel-to-wheel environment.

The primary goal is to introduce new drivers to the philosophy that drives vintage racing in the club and to teach them the basics of racing so as to ensure they are safe and are predictable on the track. The VSCCA's racing philosophy is summed up in the words that the club is "institutionally indifferent to who wins a race.

The basis of racing means teaching them the concept of the "line" and helping them to understand its value, not only to their lap times, but also to the safety of the other drivers on the circuit. Extensive car control lessons are not a part of the school but the students are all encouraged to also take advantage of the various professional schools out there who are much better equipped to teach handling and race craft skills.

The instructors are a mixture of professional driving instructors and very experienced VSCCA drivers. The school is conducted each year by the club's chairman



#227 Bradley Price, 1959 Alfa Romeo.

of the driver qualification committee, Charles Bordin. The students are assigned to an instructor's group based to some extent on the types of cars they have brought and sometimes simply on the basis of convenience. There are usually four or five students per instructor so each is assured a fair bit of individual attention.

Over the two days of the event the students interweave driving sessions with class room and bench racing while coming to grips with the task at hand. There are:

- "Follow the leader" sessions with their instructor leading them around to see the line and then taking turns leading the instructor
- Observed sessions with no passing where their instructor watches them in a number of different corners.
- Practice starts behind a pace car.

Each of the track sessions is followed by a discussion or bench racing session

where the lessons of the driving portion are digested and the philosophy of the club is reinforced.

At the end of the school there is a practice race for students and those who have been judged to have passed are allowed to take part in the final races of the weekend with the experienced drivers. Drivers deemed not quite ready are encouraged to take another school with the club and also to consider a trip to Skip Barber or a similar establishment.

In the VSCCA Drivers School at Pocono there were fifteen successful candidates who have joined the ranks of VSCCA drivers: Simon Aldridge, Michael Ballo, Patrick Brennan, Mike Clifford, Ben (John) Feng, Adolfo Masari, Andrew Mastin, Rick (Frederic) Mc Curdy, Thomas Miller, Paul Presante, Bradley Price, Mike Richmond, Julia Savage, Clarke Taylor, and David Zavetsky.

Schwab and the 1959 Lotus Elite owned and driven by Chris Cogswell.

Many unusual specials were present for the event. As mentioned we had the Quantum, a beautifully prepared Devin bodied Triumph, a Porsche Mona special, and the Hal Sprinter, and of course the Singer. It truly was a good showing of very interesting cars.

By afternoon on Sunday the students had finished their instructions and were cleared to run in the last races of the weekend. All the students did a good job the whole weekend

– Congratulations to All! There was some very interesting cars as part of the school. The Thomas Miller 1958 Mona Porsche Spyder got a lot of looks and nods during the weekend. Simon Aldridge spent time talking about his 1957 Jaguar MK1. There was a large group of MG of various models coming up in the hands of student. We look forward to welcoming many of the students and cars to future VSCCA events.

The weekend as a whole ran very smooth and without incident. The only delay was when a

Sunbeam Tiger dropped some oil on the track. The track personnel went out immediately and put down oil dry. The Sunbeam was removed, and we were back on schedule by the time the next group of cars were ready to go on track. That is service that the people of the Pocono Race Track provided all weekend long. Thanks to Pocono International Raceway staff on behalf of the VSCCA.

This was the first speed event of the season, and if it is any indication of the fun to be had, it should be a banner year!

STUDENTS

DRIVER/CAR

S. Aldridge/1957 Jaguar Mk 1
M. Ballo/Porsche 911
P. Brennan/1947 MG TC
M. Clifford/1959 MGA
J. Feng
F. McCurdy/1967 Sunbeam Tiger
T. Miller/1958 Mona-Porsche Spyder
B. Price/1959 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
Spider Veloce
M. Richmond/1956 Austin Healey 100-4
J. Savage/1959 MGA
C. Taylor/1967 MGB GT
D. Zavetsky/2013 BMW 535M

ENTRANTS LIST

DRIVER/CAR

J. Amarosa/1959 Triumph TR-3



#240 Jon Goodman,
1958 Alfa Romeo.

R. Brownlee-Tomasso/1958 MGA
R. Cassin/1956 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
Spider
C. Cogswell/1959 Lotus Elite
T. Daniel/1959 Jaguar Mk 1
P. Daniel/1959 Jaguar Mk 1
F. Fischer/1966 Ginetta G4
C. Fragomeni/1959 MGA

J. Fuller/1956 Morgan +4
D. Gardner/1961 Sunbeam Alpine
D. George/1959 Devin Triumph
J. Goodman/1958 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
S. Henderson/1958 Morgan +4
A. Hess/1973 MGB
E. Hyman/1956 Porsche 356A
J. Juhas/1957 MGA
E. Logan/1964 Formcar
R. Maloumian/1957 Corvette
R. Mirabile/1959 Lotus 18
J. Moreau/1959 MGA
M. Mulrone/1937 Singer Bantam Special
R. Neves/1956 Austin Healey 100-4
C. Pitt/1964 Elva Mk 7s
E. Potter/1959 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
P. Rehl/1957 Cooper/Norton Mk XI
B. Rudin/1932 Alfa Romeo Monza



#612 Joseph Fuller,
1956 Morgan +4.

J. Sanders/1953 MG TD
J. Savage/1959 Jaguar XK120
J. Savage/1959 MGA
J. Schiefflin/1965 Volvo PV544
C. Schwab/1959 Turner Mk 1
H. Sroka/1967 Autodynamics Mk IV
S. Vapaa/1959 Saab Quantum 2
D. Vermeil/1936 Hal Sprint Car