

## Reminders!

- Register early to **save \$50** on these upcoming Early Bird deadlines:
  - Spring Sprints and Driver's School at Lime Rock – **April 1**
  - Empire Cup at Lime Rock – **April 29**
  - Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix – **April 30**
- New for 2020 is registering for our events via motorsportreg.com. Links to our events and registration are on the events section of the VSCCA website.
- There are no event postcards this year - this is your event reminder!
- The next Newsletter will be in mid-May. The Early Bird registration will have passed for Spring Sprints, Empire Cup and Pittsburgh.
- Is your wheel-to-wheel event Medical Form up to date for 2020? This would be a great time to have it updated. Forms are available at vscca.org.
- Annual Dues notices were mailed in February. If you have not done so please mail your 2020 dues along with any updated contact and car information to Scott Fenley by March 13. A new membership roster will be published this year.



VINTAGE SPORTS  
CAR CLUB  
OF AMERICA, INC.

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VSCCA Newsletter  
March, 2020

## Tech Tip: Sound Limits and Muffling

Like most of you, I was first attracted to racing by the noise and the spectacle. The spectacle remains, but rules on sound levels have changed dramatically. We have lived with sound limits at Lime Rock for our Spring Sprints and Fall Finale for some time and now Tamworth as well. Lime Rock has an 82db limit that is now strictly enforced due to continuing legal pressures. The configuration of the track in a natural bowl is a problem as are the guardrails on the straight; they amplify rather than dissipate the sound. Additionally, atmospheric variations present more variables, specifically temperature, humidity and wind speed.

VSCCA Directors JR Mitchell and Bill Gelles recently met with Skip Barber and Steve Sewell and, for its' part, Lime Rock is committed to developing a consistent and equitable way to do measurements going forward. The more stringent enforcement, however, dictates we take another look at how we reduce sound levels at the circuit.

Our cars in general are more difficult to quiet as most of them are higher revving small displacement motors or big honking V-8s. It's all still a bit of a black art and these days even a new car with stock exhaust can fail the test. For starters, the exhaust system should be in good order with no cracks, holes or voids. A stock iron exhaust manifold is easier to keep quiet but again, most of us have fit tubular headers and free flow exhaust pipes.

For most large displacement lower revving motors, a good quality glasspack or "turbo" muffler at least the same diameter as the rest of the system should suffice. Higher revving motors will require a little more serious solution. We have tried various "Supertrapp" systems with mixed results. The straight plate type will typically be too restricted by the time the noise level is down to acceptable levels. The type with a glasspack and larger plates has been acceptable at times but again is usually too restrictive when legal. The custom stainless mufflers from Coast Fabrication or Burns Stainless usually work, are rebuildable and durable. We have also used "Quiet Power" mufflers and while they are bulky and heavy they work quite well with no noticeable drop in power. A less expensive way has been to acquire used high-performance motorcycle mufflers on line (GSX-R and similar) which on very small high revving motors has been successful. Again, all this is negated if the system as a whole has leaks or loose joints. Using air filters seem to help. I am not sure if high temp coating or header wrap helps but my opinion is they can't hurt. If you are close but not quite there, an exhaust extension with a 90- degree bend pointed down can help diffuse the level of sound. In any event, the era of jamming some steel wool up the exhaust held in with wire is over (it catches fire anyway). As we gain information as to what works, it would be great to share it on the club web site or Facebook page.

JR Mitchell

# The Vintage Sports



# Car Club of America

VSCCA Newsletter, Number 2, March, 2020

Dear VSCCA Members,

Our 2020 season is underway and our new event registration process on motorsportreg.com looks to be working well. Please remember that for our five track events for 2020 we are offering a \$50 Early-Bird registration savings if you register at least one month prior to the event. As you read this in mid-March you have until April 1 to save \$50 on your Spring Sprints registration. By the time you receive the next newsletter in mid-May the Early Bird savings will have expired for The Empire Cup and Thompson. If you plan to register for any of these events please do so now! Remember your credit card will not be charged until the weekend of the event and there is no credit card surcharge. If your car is not ready you have until 10 days before the event to cancel so there is no reason not to enter now and make sure you save the \$50!

It is also worth noting that the Pittsburgh Vintage GP, where the VSCCA will have two grids – Pre-War and Sport Racers & Formula Cars – the Early Bird entry for that event expires on April 30th as the PVGP organizers have their own entry process. There have been some questions about PVGP regulations; please go to the Pittsburgh listing on our events page at vscca.org and click on "Pittsburgh/VSCCA FAQs".

We have a couple of updates. For the Northern Tech at the Collings Foundation April 18 we have a change of speakers and now Rob Medynski of British Vacuum Unit will be joining us to speak on distributors, something I am sure we can all benefit from. For the Thompson event as you may know we are trying to garner enough entries to host an open-wheel grid. To date we have 13 committed and need to get to 20 by March 31 to move forward with this. If you want to enter an open-wheel grid at Thompson please contact Steve Morici ASAP (details inside).

A reminder that for our Spring Sprints event we will have our annual Drivers School. If you know anyone that is contemplating vintage racing, whether or not they are a member, please encourage them to sign up for the school.

They do not need a VSCCA-eligible car to partake. With professional instructors it is a great introduction to vintage racing or a refresher for those away from the sport for some time. Please have anyone you have in mind get in touch with Charles Bordin or Ben Tarlow.

With the 2020 season upon us I'd like to ask you if you could help out our club in a couple of additional ways. One, enter your planned events now – for others to see a strong entry helps build entries. Two, encourage your friends to enter and remind them of the new motorsportreg process and the Early Bird savings of \$50 if you register one month before our track events. Our members are the best way to promote participation in our events and your help would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Mark O'Day  
Activities Chairman



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## Upcoming V&CCA Events



### Northern Tech at the Collings Foundation Saturday, April 14 Stowe, MA

The VSCCA will visit the renowned Collings Foundation in Stowe, MA. We'll meet in their hangar where they house a collection of vintage warbirds, race cars and micro cars. At 11 we'll have a presentation on distributors by Rob Medynski of British Vacuum Unit, followed by a buffet lunch at 12. After lunch we'll tour the vintage car museum and the brand new American Heritage Museum which has one of the finest collections of armored vehicles in the world with a focus on WWII. For more information contact Event Chair Peter Ross at [boltonmg@comcast.net](mailto:boltonmg@comcast.net) or call 978-831-8424



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### Spring Sprints & Driver's School Friday - Saturday, May 1-2, Lime Rock Park, CT Save \$50 by entering by April 1!

Kick off your track season by celebrating Alfa Romeo's 110th anniversary with the VSCCA's Spring Sprints and Driver's School. You don't need an Alfa to enter, just any VSCCA eligible car and School entrants can run just about anything in the school track sessions. If you don't have an Alfa, don't worry, you'll get all the usual track time at this two-day event. This is a muffled event. For more information on the Spring Sprints please contact Event Chair Ben Tarlow at [info@midcenturymotoring.com](mailto:info@midcenturymotoring.com) or call 914-402-5799. For more information on the School please contact Charles Bordin at [cbordin123@aol.com](mailto:cbordin123@aol.com) or call 914-968-5700



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### The Wilbraham Hill Climb Saturday, May 16, Wilbraham, MA

The Wilbraham Hill Climb is a re-enactment of the 1908 historic climb up Monson Mountain Road. Open to Pre-War cars, MG TCs, HRGs. Also select Post-War "Preservation" or "Exhibition" type cars as space allows. This event is a town wide celebration in the spirit of the good old days and as such with an additional brass era auto show on town green, food vendors, band and much more. For more information please contact Event Chair George Holman at [gholmanjr@fmkeefe.com](mailto:gholmanjr@fmkeefe.com) or call 413-781-0530



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### The Empire Cup Friday - Saturday, May 29-30, Lime Rock Park, CT Save \$50 by entering by April 29!

The Empire Cup will again be celebrating the Sports Racers of the 1950's and 1960's by offering a dedicated grid in this traditional VSCCA event. Two full days of racing, plenty of unmuffled track time (at least 7 track sessions over the 2 days). This event does have timing and scoring using Transponders. You can enter both your VSCCA car and a later closed wheel 1960's - 70s race car. There is a Friday evening cookout at the track for everyone. For more information please contact Event Chair Charles Bordin at [cbordin123@aol.com](mailto:cbordin123@aol.com) or call 914-968-5700.



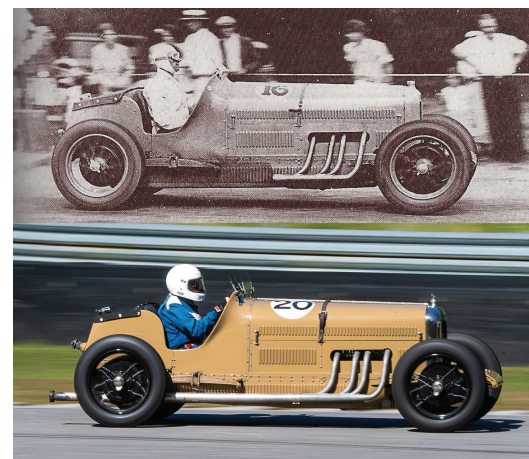
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### Thompson Vintage Motorsport Festival Thursday - Saturday June 11-13, Thompson, CT Save \$50 by entering by May 11

The 7th annual Thompson event will take place at Thompson Speedway in the beautiful "quiet corner" of Connecticut. As with last year the VSCCA and the VRG will be sanctioning the event this year. There will be one VSCCA all-comers grid for all VSCCA eligible cars. If we get at least 20 VSCCA-eligible open-wheel entrees by March 31 we will also have a grid for them. For more information on the Thompson event please contact Event Chair Steve Morici at [moricimotorsportswest@yahoo.com](mailto:moricimotorsportswest@yahoo.com) or call Steve in California (PST time!) at 760-249-1112.

For more information on these and our other events please go to [vscca.org](http://vscca.org)

## Cars you'll see at V&CCA events: Ford-Amilcar



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The "Ford Amilcar" campaigned by Tom Ellsworth with us for over 20 years is a classic tale of a car that has led many lives; some known, some not. It began as an Amilcar M, a sedan made in France as early as 1928. It's known history starts when George Rand of ARCA renown (Automobile Racing Club of America, the pre-WWII progenitor of the SCCA) found it as a wreck and built it up as an ARCA race car at the famous Zumbach's Garage in New York, initially with a Ford Model A engine and gearbox and later a Model B with a Ford three-speed 'box. The mechanical brakes were replaced with Lockheed hydraulics and a steel body fabricated with lines clearly borrowed from the Amilcar M on the front end. The dash was adorned with an array of gauges more evocative of something you'd fly. Although it had many DNFs from 1935-1939 Rand took 2nd at the Mt. Washington Hill Climb in 1938 (and it will be returning this year). At the time the block had a bad oil leak so the sump was filled with soap flakes which allowed him to race and drive it home to NYC! After the war it became a street car of sorts and was even driven

across the country and then disappeared until the mid-'70s when it became a classic barn-find. Club president Sandy Leith was able to verify its identity. It was resuscitated and ran with the VSCCA from time to time until Tom acquired it in the '90s, complete with a red, white and blue stars and stripes paint job! Tom undertook a full restoration taking it back to its ARCA heydays and has raced it ever since. As you can see today it appears identical to how it was over 80 years ago.

## Course Marshal Profile: Desiree Faulkner



For years Desiree Faulkner had been spectating at VSCCA and other events and looked at the Marshals and often pondered "how do you get to do that?" Her husband Joe sought to find out. Question answered, she got her start marshaling with the VSCCA at the Lime Rock Historics in 2011 with Jim Bottomley as her mentor, and she has been with us ever since. Joe followed suit and with that they became one of the few marshaling couples. If you have ever had reason to email Desiree you'll know her email moniker is "race betty", the latter Joe's nickname for her, the former evidence of her passion for what she does. Like almost all of us there was something in her youth that started her on this path; in Desiree's case it was riding with her two brothers in the back of a family Triumph TR-2 whilst her parents occupied the seats. A family of five riding in a TR2 - fond memories of simpler times! Today a good friend still owns the car that fueled her interest. Over the years Desiree took on more responsibilities with the marshaling corps and today she is the one who makes sure the corners, grid and pits are staffed for VSCCA weekends by the terrific group of volunteers who look out for us. It is a role that takes far more work than the 9-5 track time that meets the eye of our entrants. A piece of advice from someone who watches us so closely? Know your flags! Desiree and Joe live in New Hartford, CT and when they are not marshaling they provide landscape design build and horticulture services; yes, they work together off track too. The VSCCA is fortunate to have a such a dedicated couple looking after us on hill and track.

## Remaining V&CCA 2020 Calendar

- **White Mountain Vintage Grand Prix**  
July 10-11, Club Motorsports, Tamworth, NH
- **Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix**  
July 25-26, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA
- **Mt. Equinox Hill Climb**  
August 8-9, Arlington, VT
- **Lime Rock Historic Festival 38**  
September 4-7, Lime Rock, CT
- **Sunday in the Park Concours**  
September 6, Lime Rock, CT
- **Fall Finale, A Pre-War Celebration**  
October 2-3, Lime Rock, CT
- **25th Nutmeg Rally**  
October 24, Hudson Valley area
- **VSCCA Annual General Meeting**  
November 7, Salisbury, CT
- **Righetti Holiday Brunch**  
Date TBA, West Point, NY
- **Boston Holiday Lunch**  
December 13, Boston, MA