

Thursday evening was our traditional MGVR "Meet and Greet" party at MGVR Central where our gang and friends gathered to rekindle old friendships and begin new ones. I counted around 80 revelers who enjoyed pot luck finger foods and burgers, dogs and sausages courtesy MGVR and Chef for Weekend Bill Moncrief. Shifty Six Racing provided a keg of Hockley Amber Ale which proved to be the beverage of choice as the keg was finished as the party wound down!

Friday track schedule included practice and qualifying sessions but due to on-track mishaps track time was limited. The MGs were split between Vintage Big Bore (MGBs) Group 4 and Vintage Small Bore (MGA, Midget, T Series) where I raced. Many of us anticipated the after-track festivities that featured VARAC's version of the traditional Paddock Crawl where entrants and crew traveled the paddock visiting food and Steam Whistle Beer stations. The wings were better than ever this year and the Subway sandwiches are a personal favorite.

Saturday's on-track sessions included one qualifying and one race session per group and the all-important MG-Triumph Challenge Race. Once again on-track mishaps limited track time punctuated by a fatality in the F 5000 Group Race. I cannot possibly share with the reader the mood in the paddock after the incident. My heart goes out to the racer's wife and family-

Saturday evening's off-track activities revolve around VARAC's Banquet, where MGVR presented annual awards to deserving MG Vintage Racers. Here are the awards and this year's recipients-

The VARAC Lifetime Membership Award acknowledges the contribution and loyalty of certain members by presenting them with the coveted "Lifetime Membership Award. This award recognizes individuals who have exhibited "The Spirit of Vintage Racing" through their involvement with and contribution to VARAC and vintage racing over an extended period of time and may include drivers with a long term history in vintage racing and especially with VARAC. Also eligible are workers and crew members who have significantly contributed efforts on behalf of VARAC. This year VARAC recognized MG Vintage Racer Frank Mount for his significant contributions to VARAC and vintage racing!

The Tommy Hoan T Cup is awarded to the first T Series racer to cross the finish line in the All MG (or MG/Triumph Challenge) race. Due to scheduling problems and cancelled races we awarded the trophy based on the first Group 2 race. This year's winner was Steve Konsin.

The John Targett "Doff of the Cap" Trophy is awarded annually to the 4 cylinder MGB racer who honors the MGB racing tradition by preparing his race car to traditional standards. This year's award winner was Phil Cooper.

The Bill Parish "Master of Speed Deception" Award is given annually to the MG Vintage Racer who has fun with his fellow competitors and exemplifies 'speed deception' in his on and off-track manner. This year's winner was Mark Sherman.

The MG Vintage Racers Spirit Award 'The Big Copper Bucket' is awarded annually by vote of his/her peers to the MG Vintage Racer who most exemplifies the Spirit of MG Vintage Racing. This year's award winner was Brian McKie. Presenting the trophy was last year's winner Mark Brandow.

Sunday's on-track activity is always unusual as groups become smaller due to attrition (plenty of that among Triumphs, not quite as much among MGs) and early departures. I reporter participated in Group

2's first session and then packed up to leave. Group 2 was relatively untouched by big mishaps up to Sunday's first race, when two MGs met at Turn 3 and essentially ended our session early.

I wish to thank everyone who made this year's MGVR Focus Event a success, including VARAC's Dave Good, Event Chair Ted Michalos, and the VARAC volunteers whose year long planning culminates in one of the largest vintage race events in North America. Thanks to the corner workers and race control volunteers who do their best under some trying circumstances. Thanks to Shifty Six Racing for their help with Thursday's party. Thanks to my MGVR staff (Larry Smith, Dan and Jane Leonard, Chris and Cheryl Kintner, Dave Smith, Greg Prehodka and new Treasurer Eric Russell) who help me throughout the year with MGVR stuff. Thanks also to my crew members Jim Warren and Bill Moncrief who assisted with all things MGVR Central throughout the weekend. Many thanks to the MG Vintage racers and crew who participated in this year's Focus Event!

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