



photo by Bill Stoler

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix takes place on a challenging, 23-turn circuit in Schenley Park made up entirely of public roads.

A Weeklong Festival of Vintage Racing

Mark Your Calendars for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

— story by Dan DelBianco

What started as a single day race way back in 1983 has grown into a motorsport festival with two full race weekends and 10 days of parties, parades and car shows. There is something for everybody who appreciates automobiles or enjoys racing them. A growing number of participants are staying in Pittsburgh for all 10 days and many are coming in early to participate in the mid-week events – why not the weather is usually beautiful in July. Visit pvgp.org/calendar for full details.

There is so much to do during this 10-day event that we don't know where to start, so let's just do it in order of the calendar:

PVGP Histories, Pittsburgh International Race Complex, July 6-8

Now in its 15th year, the PVGP Histories have grown into a vintage race event that

stands alone. Pittsburgh International Race Complex is the ideal venue for racing the big thunderous cars that need a big track to test their mettle. This purpose-built track, 40 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, provides the perfect venue for the legends of the 1960s and early 1970s to thunder nearly unbridled through the Pennsylvania countryside – but with plenty of room and safety features to contain the bedlam.

There is an optional Test & Tune on Thursday, July 5, with three full days of racing to follow. Race groups include small, medium and large bore sports cars as well as over 3-litre ground pounders featuring American muscle. Certain to be the fastest group of the weekend are the Modern Historic group of non-vintage eligible production and special cars built after 1973. There is plenty of open wheel competition with Formula Vees, as well. BMW is the featured marque, and there will be two BMW CA Club Racing groups with plenty of 2002s. There will also be a 1-hour BMW enduro on Saturday.

This year, the PVGP also welcomes the B-Sedan Challenge Series. This will be close, competitive racing for small bore sedans that competed from 1966-1979 in SCCA B-Sedan Class

and the IMSA 2.5 Challenge Series. Examples include BMW 2002, Datsun 510/610, Alfa Romeo GT/GTV, Mazda RX2/RX3 Mini and Volvo.



photo by Matthew Little

Downtown Parade.

BMW Annual Oktoberfest, July 6-15

As PVGP's 2018 Marque of the Year, BMW, in conjunction with the BMW CCA, is bringing their 49th annual O'Fest to Pittsburgh for the entirety of the 10-day event.

This is the largest annual celebration of all things BMWs, with thousands of enthusiasts and hundreds of BMWs expected to attend. This BMW motorsport family reunion includes parties, banquets, vendors, track days, autocrosses, rallies, a concours, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the iconic BMW 2002 and more.

More than 100 Bimmers are expected to participate in the two BMW race groups

at the PVGP Histories. O'Fest participants will return to Pitt Race throughout the week for track events, an autocross, car control clinics and other events. O'Fest will also feature a TSD rally, gymkhana, driving tours, receptions and banquets. Participants will also join the Grand Prix during the week for multiple car shows, a concours, a Tune-Up Party and a Jet Center Party before convening at Schenley Park for Race Weekend on July 14-15 where 500 owners will park trackside to watch BMWs participate in the vintage races.

Blacktie & Tailpipes Gala – Fri., July 6

Blacktie & Tailpipes returns to the Fox Chapel Golf Club for their 2018 gala. This formal event is a must for any auto enthusiast, as guests bring out their finest automobiles. This will be the sixth time Fox Chapel has hosted this formal and the first since 2009. The clubhouse has been beautifully remodeled and the front lawn is the perfect setting for the car show. Pittsburgh's hottest band, No Bad Juju, will perform.

Kastner Cup, Sat., July 7

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Histories was chosen as the 2018 venue for the prestigious 16th annual Kastner Cup, an annual award for one Triumph racing competitor in the U.S. The award was founded by R. W. "Kas" Kastner, a well-known production car racer in the 1950s and the winner of the 1959 SCCA Championship in his 1958 TR3A Triumph.

"The Pittsburgh International Race Complex, with its exciting 2.8-mile track with great elevation changes, fast sections and big runoff areas will certainly prove exciting for the 40 Triumph TR's, GT6 and Spitfires being brought together to run this national race," said Jim Dolan, 2018 Kastner Cup event chairman.

Kas Kastner himself is geared up to race in Pittsburgh. "It is an honor to bring together these great cars and their drivers each year,"



The massive International Car Show takes place July 14-15 at the Bob O'Connor Golf Course and runs concurrent to the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in Schenley Park.

Kastner said. "The mix of camaraderie and competition remains as strong today as when we raced these great cars in the '60s and '70s. I am looking forward to another exciting event."

Walnut Street Invitational Car Show, Mon., July 9

Race Week car show events start out with a low-key invitational car show in a high fashion shopping district nestled on Shadyside's charming Walnut Street, with 150 rare, classic and exotic cars offering a small preview to the PVGP International Car Show later in

the week. This popular, long-running show features some of the region's finest and most unique vehicles. Cars are carefully selected by invitation only, so this promises to include show cars rarely seen at other car shows and cruises.

Waterfront Car Cruise, Tue., July 10

The Car Cruise has grown in popularity every year since it was moved to the Waterfront in 2001. Located a few miles from Schenley Park, it's a perfect warm-up for the vintage races on the upcoming weekend. Around



photo by Matthew Little

Waterfront Car Cruise.

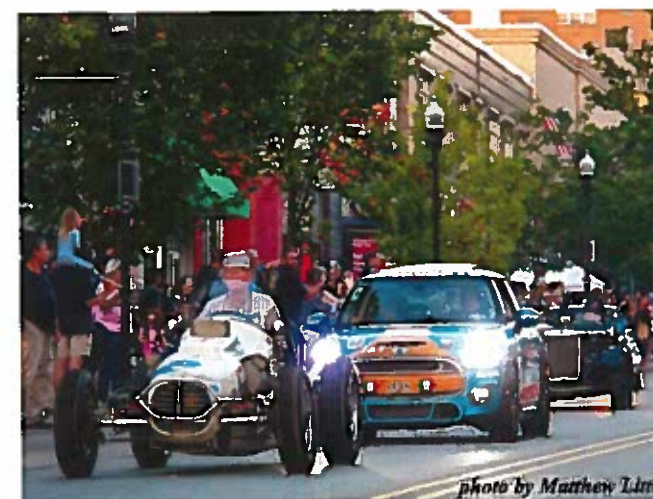


photo by Matthew Little

Forbes Avenue of Speed.



photo by Bill Stoler

BMW will be the featured marque for this year's Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix



photo by Jim Weslager

The PVGP Historics take place July 6-8 at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex.

650 cars will be on display for the annual cruise at the Waterfront in Homestead. The car show takes place from 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in the parking lot along Waterfront Drive next to Steak & Shake.

Downtown Parade and Car Display, Wed., July 11

Several of downtown Pittsburgh's most prominent addresses open their plazas to help promote the upcoming car show. The Grand Prix hosts a parade and three distinct car displays. The parade starts across the river at Station Square, where cars stage and parade into the golden triangle.

Tune-Up Party, Wed., July 11

Wednesday night is time to get tuned-up for the weekend's races. The Grand Prix's Tune-Up Party at PNC Park spills out onto the sidewalks, onto Federal Street and runs across the entire Roberto Clemente Bridge towards downtown, with race and show cars on display.

Countryside Tour, Thu., July 12

Conceived and created for classic Sports and GT cars, the tour will depart from the

lovely and historic town of Ligonier and follow a delightful collection of scenic, twisting, lightly-travelled back roads through Pennsylvania's beautiful Laurel Highlands. Lunch is served in the Coventry Inn, an English Pub where participants are treated to the finest food in the kingdom.

Passport to Elegance Jet Center Party, Thu., July 12

This first-class soiree, held in the 18,000 sq.ft. hangar of the Voyager Jet Center at the Allegheny County Airport, combines everything the discerning partygoer is looking for in a charity event. Mingle with the best amongst rare and exotic vintage cars and airplanes while enjoying internationally inspired culinary delights, wine pairings, and live local music in a unique environment.

Former Indianapolis 500 winning racer Bobby Rahal was one of the special guests at the inaugural Passport

to Elegance party in 2017, and was more than impressed by the collection inside the hangar. "I love the beauty of vintage cars, especially ones from the '50s and '60s," Rahal said. "This event easily rivals the one out in California's Monterey Bay."

Forbes Avenue of Speed, Fri., July 13

Friday night's Forbes Avenue of Speed Race Car Parade & Display in nearby Squirrel Hill is a great opportunity for enthusiasts to meet the drivers and see the race cars up close. Vintage racers will parade from the paddock, through Squirrel Hill, and then park along Forbes Avenue for a unique car show. Racers leave the paddock in parade formation from the starting grid at 6:15 p.m., just after the driver's meeting concludes. Racers are encouraged to make the trip, support vehicles are also allowed so long as they don't park among the race cars lining Forbes Avenue. The event runs from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. As



photo by Matthew Little

Blacktie & Tailpipe.

part of this event, PVGP holds a free private reception inside Orr's Jewelers on Forbes Avenue for racers and crew.

Schenley Park Vintage Racing, July 14-15

If you haven't experienced vintage street racing, this signature event of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix should be on your bucket list. This is vintage racing on public streets,

returning to the origins of sports car road racing from the 1940s and 1950s at Watkins Glen and Elkhart Lake.

More than 150 vintage racers gather at Schenley Park each July to test their skills and entertain the crowd. The Schenley Park circuit is considered by many drivers to be among the most challenging race courses worldwide. The 2.33-mile circuit has 23 turns, haybales, manhole covers, phone poles and stone walls. The nature of this challenging course limits the size and age of race cars that can participate. Race groups include Pre-War, MGT Series, Preservation Class, and Vintage Sports Cars up to 1975.

There are practice/warm-up sessions each morning. Qualifying races take place on Saturday afternoon with the Featured Races on Sunday afternoon. Top finishers and Best Drive are recognized in the Hofbrauhaus Winner's Circle - everybody walks away with a cold mini keg.

Racers paddock beneath 100-year-old oaks on the hill overlooking the start-finish line.

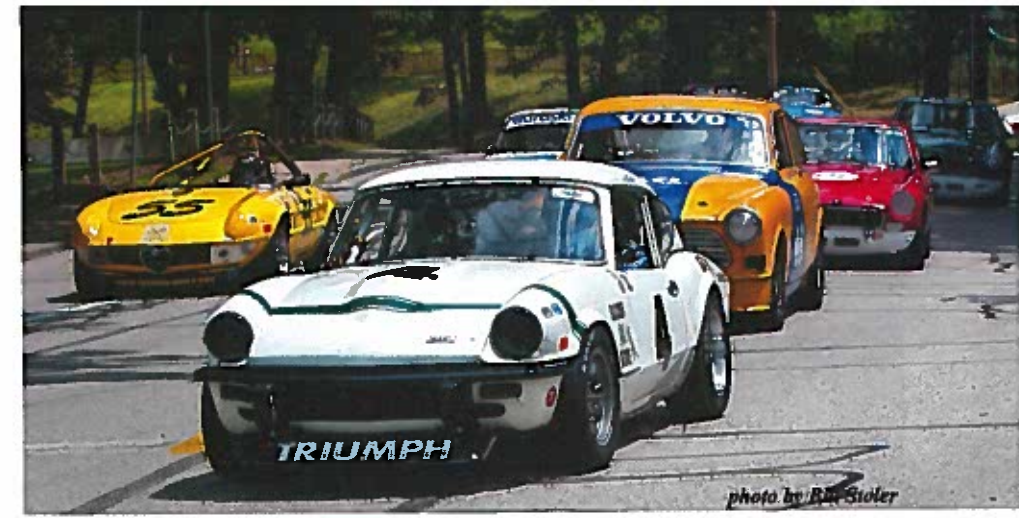


photo by Bill Stoler

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is a throwback to the street racing traditions of early American sports car racing.

undertaking lead by dedicated volunteers, who then take it all down on Sunday night.

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is grateful to all the drivers and appreciates those who return to race year after year. To acknowledge

their contributions, PVGP has created a great way to recognize them - its called the "Legends of Schenley Park" - honoring racers that have competed for 15 or more years. Drivers who have competed in 15 races or more will be presented with a commemorative patch at 5:30 p.m. on Fri., July 13, at Schenley Park as part of the driver's meeting. So far, 51 racers have qualified.



photo by Kevin Varrato

Pre-Wars are always popular at Schenley Park.

Streets are blocked off with jersey barriers and metal fencing, while the golf course is lined with snow fence by volunteers. Hay bales are placed against the stone walls and over top of street drains and a race course is created. P.A. speakers are wired and installed and every single piece of equipment needed to race is brought in for the weekend. It's a mammoth

International Car Show, July 14-15

The best place to watch the races is from the 456-acre Bob O'Connor Golf Course, which is also the site for the International Car Show, with over 3,000 vehicles on display. These car shows are mainly supported by local car clubs but are also open to the public.

Specialty shows can be found everywhere. Cortile is the PVGP's Italian car show, with all Italian cars, all makes and ages, are welcome. Each year, Cortile selects a marque or model to highlight for the annual event based upon factors such as historical significance, unique local interest, brand resurgence, etc., and this year's "Proietttore Macchina" will be Rivolta.

BMW's designation at PVGP's Marque of the Year means that BMW will be featured both on the track and on the showgrounds, with 500 BMW owners parking trackside to watch BMWs participate in the vintage races and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the iconic BMW 2002 with a Saturday afternoon race. Owners have an opportunity to take a parade lap and are looking to set a world record for the longest 2002 parade.

In addition to the car shows, there are dozens of sponsor tents, new car displays, a village full of vendors and plenty of food and refreshments. There is plenty of activity for fans to get involved. There are track rides in the Minis between races all weekend. The BMW Ring Taxi drifts around the track, entertaining riders and fans. A crowd of 200,000 are expected to attend. There is no admission charge, but we encourage donations to benefit our charities.



photo by Matthew Little

Walnut St. Car Show.



photo by Michael Sanata

As part of the PVGP festivities, the Kastner Cup for Triumphs takes place July 7 at Pitt Race.

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