



**NORTH AMERICAN
CLASSIC MG MAGAZINE**

ISSUE 96

DEC. 2020



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Driving for charity



The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, the nation's largest vintage street race with 10 days of racing, car shows, parties, parades and motorsport events, was cancelled this year because of the pandemic.

The cancellation was a loss to the hundreds of racers who compete there each year and the hundreds of thousands of spectators on hand to watch. It also threatened to jeopardize the charities that the PVGP has supported since its first event -- the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and Merakey Allegheny Valley School.

But quick thinking PVGP organizers didn't allow that to happen.

"Our racers got the program off the starting line in first gear when 16 racers who had already paid their 2020 race entry fees generously donated them to the PVGP for our charities in May," said Dan DelBianco, PVGP executive director and longtime MG enthusiast.

Along with those donations, the staff at the Nelson Ledges Road Course staged a "Test & Tune" to benefit the PVGP.

The Allegheny Region Porsche Club held parade laps on the day of the PVGP through Schenley Park, the site of each year's PVGP. They also held several driving tours to help raise money for the charities.

While the PVGP's Walnut Street Car Show was officially canceled, a dozen cars showed up that night to park on Walnut Street and met informally. And more than 30 people sent donations for the charities.

The Pittsburgh-area Mercedes-Benz Club raised money from its members and also sponsored a road tour to Moraine State Park.

The Rolls Royce & Bentley Clubs were involved in a number of events, including a house party, car show and auction. The Rolls Royce Club also raised money through its "Little Miss Cookie Squad," which sold cookies for donations.

The Greater Pittsburgh Mustang



Club held an Orange Belt Tour around the city to raise money, while the Marque of the Year Corvettes group staged a Corvette Club Caravan Challenge.

The Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club held several fundraising events to raise money while two Countryside Tours for Motorbikes were held.

The ALFISTI Alfa Romeo Club held an "Over the River Tour," the West Penn Miata Club held a rally and the Three Rivers Region Model A Restorers Club held a Red Belt Tour.

The Western PA Triumph Club staged a Tour while the PVGP held a Fall Car Show at Pitt Race Complex.

But donations didn't end there. The Greater Pittsburgh MG Club made a sizeable donation, "taking us over the \$60,000 mark," DelBianco said.

"We applaud our racers, volunteers, car club partners and participants who are making incredible efforts to raise funds for our charities this year. From staging events to donating their 2020 registration fees, the response has been overwhelming."

"I'm so proud of everyone for organizing and participating in these wonderful events." DelBianco said. ○

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