



ROMPING AND REMEMBERING: THE PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX





Imagine stepping back in time to those glorious days of road racing when cars built by Alfa Romeo, Lotus, Porsche and, of course, MG dominated the makeshift courses of the day, with drivers navigating through hay bales and fences, and wide-eyed spectators standing and sitting a stone's throw away.

Fortunately, imagining wasn't necessary at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix as racers screamed through Schenley Park in downtown Pittsburgh in July for the 39th anniversary of this glorious historic racing festival.

World renowned, PVGP is the nation's only vintage race staged on public roads – 2.3 miles of public roads to be precise, smack dab in the middle of Schenley Park, which sits in the center of bustling downtown Pittsburgh.

But the Schenley Park event is really the second installment of the PVGP. Beginning in 2004, the PVGP launched another weekend of racing at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum, PA, primarily for American muscle cars and big-bore racers that are too fast for Schenley Park.

This year's PVGP/PIR event was held one week before the Schenley Park race, but didn't take any excitement away from the races in the park, which typically attract tens of thousands of spectators.

Adding to the challenge, the course is surrounded in many places by huge, intimidating stone walls. Along with bruising turns and multiple elevation changes, the asphalt is higher in the center of the roadway as opposed to the edges providing even more challenge to race drivers.

While many historic race car drivers refuse to compete in the event, others relish the demands it places on drivers and cars. Along with racing, the Schenley Park event also is an opportunity to show and tell.

Along with a British Car Show, which attracts hundreds of cars, there are shows by other marques, providing spectators with ample opportunity to compare design and styling.

Since 1983, the PVGP has donated more than \$6 million to the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Valley School. Each year, more than 1,200 people volunteer their time to help with the event. ○

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A yellow vintage MG roadster is shown from a front-three-quarter view. It has a black grille, round headlights, and wire wheels.

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