**HGP Newsletter January, 2012**

Like so many folks these days, we have been having a hard time deciding whether to be bullish or bearish for the coming year. The situation has been made more difficult by the particularly intense event schedule in August and September and the basic geographic limitations of desirable venues which happen to be on opposite sides of the country and on consecutive weekends.

We have settled on something old and something new, but both very special; two of the United States’ oldest natural terrain circuits, both with serious history and appeal as well as prestigious vintage racing events – SVRA’s US Vintage Grand Prix at Watkins Glen and the Lime Rock Park Historic Festival.

Historic Grand Prix’s connection to the Glen is long and glorious as well as the circuit being the touchstone for all our race cars. The Lime Rock Historic Festival is new for HGP but an event long treasured among enthusiasts for its unique character and quality. Lime Rock is August 31 thru September 3 and the Glen is the following weekend September 7-9.

These two events hit all the right notes: they are a back to back transportation “two-fer” , incredible events in a beautiful part of the USA, iconic remarkable racetracks with race organizers Murray Smith and Peter McLaughlin who welcome HGP and will honor us with “Main Event” status and appropriate track time.

The Lime Rock Historic Festival is organized by HGP member Murray Smith with circuit owner and former F1 driver Skip Barber. It is a unique event with racing Friday, Saturday and Monday, which works quite well with Labor Day. (A bit of history – Lime Rock is across the street from the village church and the original covenant stipulated no racing on Sundays. Being New England this still applies and thus the Festival has a wonderful….and quiet….concours on Sunday.

This year Murray has trumped himself and will feature honored guest, Sir Stirling Moss as Grand Marshall. The festivities surrounding this occasion will certainly be worth witnessing. Additional information about Sir Stirling will be forthcoming.

HGP visited Lime Rock Park in 2009 with Skip’s Grand Am Weekend on Memorial Day and all the HGP participants gave the circuit and the organization their highest marks. This is one not to miss!

Watkins Glen in September……. What more can you ask for? SVRA’s US Vintage Grand Prix is one of the great events on the calendar and this year we are the featured race. Peter has included garage spaces in the Kendall Tech Center with our entries and Rebecca has organized a host hotel – the Harbor Hotel on Lake Seneca right in the center of the village of Watkins Glen, three minutes to the track and walking distance to everything in the village; This hotel was built in 2008 and it’s a lovely facility. Check out the website at [www.watkinsglenharborhotelcom](http://www.watkinsglenharborhotelcom). The only thing missing is Colin Chapman and Teddy Meyer arguing over some arcane issue with Mauro Forghieri.

Please make your 2012 racing plans around these stellar events, they will be special. For the rest of the year, we are working very hard on a third event which will be exceptional. We cannot say any more at this time, but don’t moth-ball the car just yet!

Finally, an annoying bit of business; Membership fees - the good news here, however, is we have reduced the membership fees to $1,000. With the limited schedule and other factors, we decided to reduce the fees to levels set in 2001! Payment by March 1 would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.

Good Racing and our best wishes,

Rebecca, James + Phil