

Race Wrap-up *from The President*

The 19th Annual Mike Stephens Classic is now in the books.

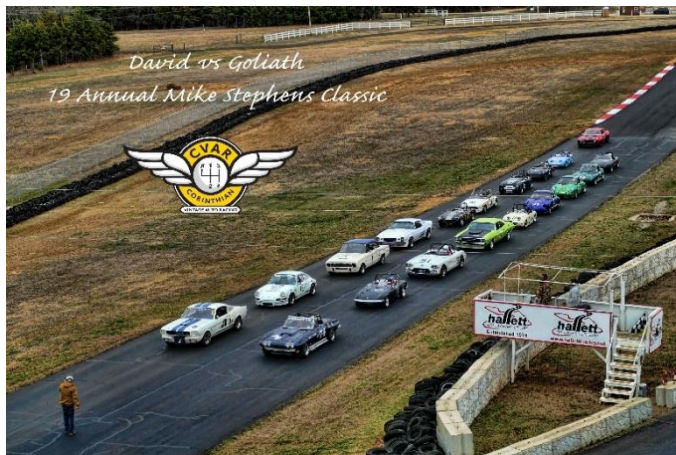
Wow! What a weekend.

Friday brought 50 mph winds, dust, and fires in the area. Power outages forced the cancelation of our pizza dinner plans, but that was only a minor annoyance as compared to what some of our local Marshals suffered with at least one losing their home in the flames. Even with the wind and fires, CVAR and Hallett operations did an outstanding job managing the issues throughout the day resulting in no cancelled sessions.



We all owe a huge THANK YOU to the workers and Marshals who stayed with us to the bitter end of the day in the wind and dust. GREAT JOB!

Saturday and Sunday turned into almost perfect racing weather, with cool dry air and light winds from the north. It seemed that while the new pavement was still a bit green with little to no rubber being laid down before CVAR's arrival, everyone seemed to be very pleased with the



level of grip in most places and having many of the bumps smoothed out. Some new Track records were recorded throughout the weekend. Another observation by most was the almost perfect tire wear. Gone were the big chunks and rolls of rubber globs, to be replaced with smooth, even tire wear. Kudos to Scott and Jennifer Stephens for continuing their Track improvements. I was told by Scott to expect more

improvements in the coming year for our return in October.

The Saturday David & Goliath race, a first for CVAR, where we invited all the Closed Wheel classes to participate, seemed to go off smoothly and was a treat for both participants and spectators with a good number of inter-class races that don't normally happen. There was only one minor "rubbing" incident between a Group 1 and Group 7 car, with the aggressive driver being sanctioned appropriately. Overall, given the positive feedback, you can expect this to be something we repeat in the future.

The Formula Vee annual Mike Stephens Classic Feature also had good participation in this predictably fun and competitive Group. I understand that the weekend was particularly tough on some of the Vees, with a few broken cars and blown engines. The Barron Race team also tried out the new paddock area "outside the tunnel" and from what I was told, it's a great spot to have a party!

Doc Bundy joined us in his blue #124 Lotus 23b and had a good time running with Group 6. He is making hints that he might join us again at Houston. Group 6 also had a new Member with a Toyota WSR sports racer, which is a new car to CVAR.



I was happy to see the increased turnout in Group 1 for Hallett. In recent years, we have been averaging 6-8 cars in Group 1 at Hallett. This race we doubled that entry with 16 cars! This is awesome! Of note, 4 of these cars were a result of our recent rule change conversations. We also had the pleasure of including Mike Stephens old Jag in the

group which was totally fitting given this was the 19th Annual Mike Stephens Classic.

Between these new cars and several new Group 2 and 7 cars, we are seeing some momentum on our efforts to attract new members and fill our grids. The total entry for Hallett was 87. While I don't have the final financial number from the weekend as I write this, I'm confident in telling everyone that we did not lose money and likely made up for a little of the losses we had at our first NOLA event in February.

From what I observed, the Saturday night party was a great social gathering for all those that attended. A lot of BBQ and beverages were consumed and I both observed and experienced

lots of great fellowship. I will continue to remind everyone that we are a “Social Club” which races old cars. Being a Member of CVAR and participating in our events means more than just “racing”. It means it’s a chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and build lasting memories. Don’t take any of that for granted, as time goes faster than our cars.

For our next event at MSR Houston, we are focusing on giving everyone as much track time as possible. There are no Feature races or Schools, so we will focus on Member Track Time. I am currently looking at the schedule again and you can expect some adjustments focused on making every minute of Track Time available to our Members. CVAR’s goal is to give you the best value for your racing dollars, both on the track and in the paddock. So, don’t wait to sign up...sign up now! I am expecting a big turn out and a great weekend. We already have some great food being planned and some special “twists and guests” for the weekend. So...Sign up! You don’t want to miss our Return to MSRH!

You can register for MSRH [here](#).

Cheers and see you at the Track.

Steve Coleman

CVAR President 2025-26

Photo credits: All photos by Tim Turner



32nd Marvelous May Races
April 25 - 27, 2025 MSR Houston
Angleton, TX

“The Return to MSRH”

TONS of TRACK TIME
see schedule for details

2024 Championship Awards
Charity Auction



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Survey Results

Here are the results from our Event Satisfaction Survey for the March 14-16th Mike Stephens Classic at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit: (42 of 87 participants responded)

Ratings: 1-10, with 10 being the best.

Pre-Race Registration and Communication: 9.2

Operations (schedule/flagging/driver's meetings/etc): 9.6

Track and Facilities: 9.6

Feature Races: 9.3

Saturday Evening Party: 9.5

Did you like the Sunday "Backwards" test session: 86% said YES.

A sample of 3 things participants said we got right:

1. "Combining Group 2 & 7"
2. "D&G race was a blast to watch"
3. "The texts and grid calls were great"

A sample of 3 things participants said we could improve on:

1. "Line up Grid facing downhill instead of uphill"
2. "Driver's meetings were too early"
3. "Next time, let's not crank up the wind and wildfires to 11"

If you enjoyed the sights, sounds, and excitement this weekend, consider stepping into a bigger role next time. Our events run on the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers just like you—whether it's helping on grid, working corners, or supporting timing and scoring.

No prior experience needed—just a passion for vintage racing and a willingness to jump in. It's a great way to learn more and be part of the CVAR crew.

Take a look at [CVAR's volunteer opportunities](#) for more information.