



VOL. II No. 1

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

AUGUST 1957

CHARLIE LARUS TAKES GYMKHANA HONORS

For the second time, Willon Lawn was the scene of a very successful VMSC Gymkhana. This year it was planned by Allen Fine and Bill Harding and July 7th was the date. 44 participants careened through the dizzy serpentine course.

Bob Walker gave the crowd a thrill by giving them a brief glimpse of the bottom side of his 4CV, but most fortunately it came back down on all fours.

Best over all time of the day went to Charlie Larus in his MGA, with an amazing 1 minute and 8 seconds. 2nd in under 1600 class was Hero Driver Fred Johnson in his "550" Porsche and 3rd in that class was George Patteson also in an MGA.

First in over 1600 was old #37, Ed Wright, with Wade Norton 2nd in the Jaguar and John Kessler 3rd in his Triumph.

First, second and third Index of Performance honors went to Bob Walker, Allan Rennie and Ronnie Owen, in that order.

We're for more events like this one!

"LETTER TO THE EDITOR"

This letter was written to the Picture Editor of the News Leader by Dick Crawford, the photographer who gave our Gymkhana such good publicity:

Dear Mr. Gould:

This here picture assignment you give me today on the precision driving sports meet at Willow Lawn was just about the screwiest thing I ever seen. First of all, there was a bunch of fellows out there with Frank Buck hats on littering up the place with the biggest tin cans in the whole world. They must have put out a thousand of them. Then these other people would line up in these little-bitty cars that looked like somebody had put them through a sausage machine. They were sort of long and squatty. Then all of a sudden somebody would holler "go" and the wheels on these here cars would start a spinnin and about 2 seconds later they really would go. Now some of these people musta got some mighty high scores. They looked like to me that they hit every blessed one of them cans those Frank Buck people put out. Some of the other drivers warn't too good cause they didn't hit a single one. I know I could'a done bettern that. And you know the prettiest thing of all was the beautiful music the tires made when these here fellers would turn the wheels. Sounded like the dawgs a-howlin at the moon back home on the farm. One of the fellers had the cutest little old Hamster I ever did see. He said Rosie was the VMSC Mascot, whatever that means. His name was Allan Rennie, the man I mean, not the Hamster, so I took his picture. The Hamster, I mean. That's his little red-headed girl on his shoulder. The girl, I mean, not the man. Her name is Carolyn. I don't think she liked him

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS:

- : '56 Jag XK140 MC, Overdrive
- : '56 Corvette, 2 tops
- : '54 Jag Mk VII Saloon
- : '53 MG-TD
- : '56 Austin-Healey, 7000 miles

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very much. The Hamster I mean, not the man. Now you got me all confused. Next time you better send a reporter.

Your country cousin

Dick Crawford

(writ on Typewriter)

**ARMSTRONG & PETTIT BEAT DUST, HEAT,
FINE & HARDING TO WIN 3rd ANNUAL PATHFINDER**

Many Pathfinders wondered if Lewis and Walker were actually refering to Ephesus Church, Virginia--or an ancient city in West Asia Minor, as they congregated in the shade trying to discover who goofed. Becoming worried at check point #2 Jack sent Mary Byrd in search of the pack but only a very few of the starters ever saw him due to a missing direction on the instruction sheet.

After lunch at Coles Point the fun began again with even faster speeds and dustier roads with check points coming thick and fast. The heat, dust, and pressure of the rally made both driver and navigator drier and thirstier but a contemplated "Coke Break" would certainly have cost the winners the rally. However, Armstrong and Pettit who broke their 1957 winning streak with the Lo Co Rally were again too much for the "Snowflake Porsche" of Fine and Harding who could do no better than first in the under 1600 class.

It was a rough one requiring the best from the driver, the car, and the Stephens Calculators. There were no questions or gimmicks, only directions and high average speeds to maintain.

It was a strange looking crowd which descended on the Restaurant at the Grey's Point Ferry finish, where rally participants were easily distinguishable by their Dusty Tan cars with matching drivers and navigators.

After drinking all the iced tea in sight, the very fine silver trophies were awarded as follows.

(VMSC Positions)

- 1 Armstrong & Pettit
- 2 Fine & Harding
- 3 Finnegan & F. Norton
- 4 W. Norton & Gallant
- 5 Fitch & Maher
- 6 Batcheller & Payne
- 7 D. Rucker & M. Rucker
- 8 Patteson & Winslow
- 9 Cook & Cook
- 10 Cranshaw & Owens
- 11 Bradshaw & Baggett
- 12 T. Rennie & A. Rennie
- 13 Simcsak & Simcsak

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- 14 Wright & Donger
- 15 Bob & Marge Mayo
- 16 Ed & Trink Jett
- 17 Applowhite & Applowhite
- 18 Clark & Clark
- 19 Branner & Kessler

Class awards were:

- 1st over 1600 Armstrong & Pettit
- 2nd over 1600 Finnegan & F. Norton
- 3rd over 1600 W. Norton & K. Gallant

1st under 1600 Fine & Harding

- 2nd under 1600 L. Schlor & A. Schlor in a Speedster from D. C.
- 3rd under 1600 H. Gordon & I. Gordon in an MGA also from D. C. way.

(Mighty pleased to see these "out-of-towners" showing up for our rallies.)

"PICNIC"

without Kim Novac and William Holden

The time: 4 P.M., July 27th

The place: Hanover Wayside

30 VMSC members and guests showed up for an evening of eating, drinking and merry-making. Sandwiches, hot dogs, fried chicken and a keg of beer were dug into by the hungry VMSCers and shortly after the beginning of festivities, a tremendous thunderstorm literally tried to put a dampener on things.

But VMSC was not to be outdone by the weather. The keg of beer and people were hustled beneath the shelter. The keg was soon emptied and the party adjourned to the Mayo's where more refreshments were obtained and we understand that Charlie Larus wound up sleeping between the Mayo house and his MG. Charlie, you could catch cold. Speaking of "Charlies", anybody seen Armstrong, lately?

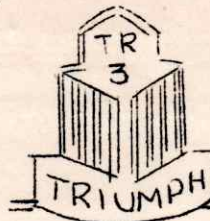
This was a most enjoyable event, ably arranged by Bob and Marge Mayo and Charlie Armstrong. When's the next one?

VMSC PARTICIPATES IN OUT-OF-TOWN Rallies

After the VMSC picnic on the 27th, Wade and Frances Norton proceeded to Washington, D. C. to run in the 2nd Annual SCCA Beach Rallye. It seems they had about the best time of the day until the last leg when Frances mistakenly put down a "2" instead of a 1 and one thing led to another.... The results of that rallye were not official, but Keith Gallant was also on hand and is reported to have come in 5th over-all...out of 47 cars.

Suzanne Branner and John Kessler took the TR to Roanoke and took on Roanoke's Old Dominion Sport Car Club on their Mountain Lake Rallye. At the starting line in Salem, Va., Ed and Chuck Jett and Halda showed up and when the rallye results were read that night at Mountain Lake, Branner and Kessler were first place and Ed and Chuck were second.

If any other VMSC members are running out-of-town events we'd like to hear about it..give us a call at 6-8142.



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COMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING: August 15th, 7:30 P.M.,
Branch House, Monument Ave. at Davis.
August 11 was the announced date
for a VMSC hillclimb, but with no avail-
able hill within a reasonable distance
of Richmond, it seems impossible to stage
such an event.

However, August will not go wanting
for activity. Jack Finnegan and Bill
Pettit promise an evening of fun follow-
ing the August meeting on the 15th.

(See announcement, last page.)

Other events for the year, subject to change, are:

Sept. 14-15	Autocade	J. Lewis & R. Walker
Sept. 19	Regular Meeting	T. Rennie & L. Baggett
Sept. 28	All Night Rallye	Payne & Batcheller
Oct. 13	Gymkhana	Wright & McClintic
Oct. 17	Regular Meeting	D. Rucker & E. Jett
Oct. 31	Halloween Rallye	Remick & Kessler
Nov. 9-10	Old Dominion Rallye	
Nov. 21	Regular Meeting	F. Johnson & Larus
Nov. 24	Turkey Rallye	B. Moore & Gallant
Dec. 15	Christmas Rallye	McClintic & Remick
Dec. 19	Regular Meeting	Payne & Bowers

JAY ROSE GIVES NEWSPAPER REPORTER CLOSE LOOK AT DANVILLE RACEWAY...

Our attention recently was called to an article in the Halifax, Virginia, "Record Advertiser" (a newspaper, that is) featuring a lengthy and informative write-up of the Virginia International Raceway. There was a big aerial photo of the track, and beneath that was a picture of a man in a sport cap looking under the bonnet of an Alfa. Closer examination revealed that this individual was our own Jay Rose.

It seems that Jay took the reporter for a quick trip around the track. "As the car hit the first curve, the reporter dug desperately for a non-existent safety belt."

It was a nice write-up, Jay, and I wish we had room here to reprint it.

CLUTCH CHATTER

Joe and Caroline Crenshaw have just chalked up 11 years of marital bliss. For that reason alone we will forgive them for missing the picnic! Congratulations!

Remick, Wright, McClintic, Nunn, Larus, Rose and a number of other Richmonders have been making regular visits to Danville (we wonder if they're getting paid for packing down the new pavement!)....Sign seen on back of trailer tractor: "If your brakes fail, wave as you go under."

Margo Fry, Editor of Miami Sports Car Club "Torque-of-the-Town" mailed us \$3.00 on the MGA...wants to exchange monthly publications with us.

...we'd like to acknowledge that much of the excellent film shown at the June meet-
ing was furnished by Carroll Toeppfer...and nobody told us! Many thanks to Carroll.



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Best of luck to Pete & Carroll Toepffer on their journey to Europe this summer. Pete's trying for a BMW 507!

The "S" turn at Danville already has acquired a name--"Bowers' Bend" or perhaps "Nunn's Fun".

Charlie Larus has found that chewing gum will not plug a gas tank hole but that old fashioned Octagon soap works like a charm.

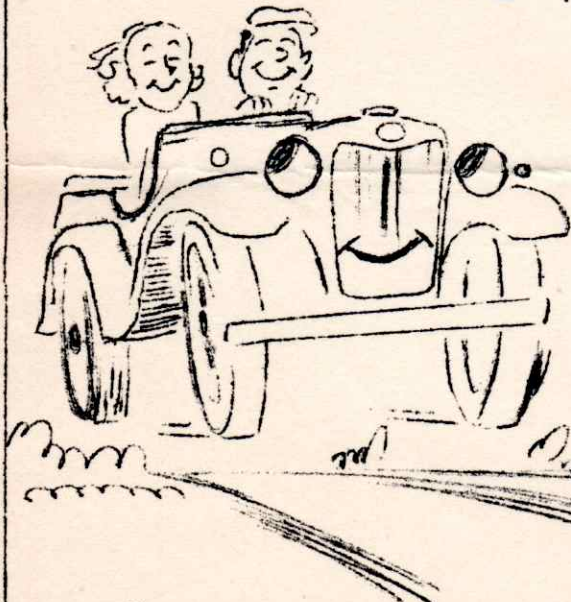
TOP 30 - 1957 Point Standings

1	Bill Harding	787.5	16	Tom Pendleton	397
2	Jack Lewis	735.5	17	Suzanne Branner	383
3	Mary Byrd Tignor	728.5	18	Allan Rennie	371
4	Allen Fine	702.5	19	Jack Finnegan	291
5	George Patteson	646	20	Keith Gallant	284.5
6	Len Winslow	621.5	21	Caroline Crenshaw	258.5
7	Kay Weaver	551	22	Joe Crenshaw	248.5
8	Frances Norton	526	23	Judy Baylor	238
9	Bob Walker	518	24	Ed Remick	233.5
10	Charlie Armstrong	442	25	Doug Rucker	232.5
11	Wade Norton	426	26	Stan Clarke	230
	(Tie) Bob Cook	426	27	Charlie Larus	222
12	Marge Mayo	423	28	Los Baggett	216.5
13	John Kessler	421	29	Harold Applewhite	212
14	Bill Pettit	413.5	30	Tom Rennie	211
15	Bob Mayo	400			

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• AUGUST 15th following
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