



Watkins Glen
Vintage Festival Tour
September 10 -13, 2015

Newsletter Issue 1 15.06.16

This is the first in a series of informative newsletters to keep you up to date and prepare you for this unique adventure. Before the tour begins, a multi-page booklet will be printed with everything you need, and perhaps things you don't need. It will be distributed free to all participants, and will form the basis of a little booklet you can keep as a souvenir. After the run is over, pictures and a report on the tour will be added to the booklet which will become part of the Club's archive

The booklet will include background information on racing at Watkins Glen; a day by day itinerary; highly detailed maps; turn by turn directions; restaurant menus; information on museums; a list of participants and their cars and other things that will be added as things evolve or come to mind.

This issue deals mostly with the things you need to know or do before we embark on this adventure, and includes the list of participants as it now stands. It also includes some basics

- Your car and its equipment. Because the event in Watkins Glen celebrates Mazda, specifically . sporting Mazdas, this TMC tour was open to RX7 and RX8s. Only Miatas have been entered and at this time the tour is closed with a standby that we are hoping will join us. We would like the cars participating in the Tour de Marque be identified as Trillium cars, so we need to have our antenna flags deployed. If you haven't got a Trillium flag, please let me know. The other thing that is important is that you have a working CB. If you don't have a CB installed, let me know. You and your partner need a passport.
- Tour dates: The tour starts on Thursday September 10 because events at the Watkins Glen Festival start early on Friday September 11, and we need time to get there
- Tour start. It was decided early in the planning stages to start the tour at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum rather than have people drive from wherever they live to a place in the GTA and leave from there. It saves time, driving on congested roads and gets people thinking about what cars and driving was like in the good old days. Since we all have to go through the border crossing, it's easier to have this behind us before we start. It also provides the opportunity to adjust your time to start the tour by either opting in or out of the Pierce Arrow Museum tour and lunch at Chef's.
- Being there. Some of us will arrive on Wednesday September 9 to ensure that we arrive at the start of our trip's the optional guided tour of the Buffalo Transportation Museum, To do this we can take advantage of the hospitality of the:

Holiday Inn: Buffalo-Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue , Buffalo, NY 14202 , United States
1 877 660 8550 (Reservations)
1-716-8862121 (Front Desk)
www.holidayinn.com/Buffalo

This hotel, researched by Arthur Donin, has free underground parking and is conveniently located about 7 minutes north of the Museum and is an easy drive from the Fort Erie bridge. The room price when I booked was \$112.

The following is the first day's itinerary, just to let you know what's in store

- Park your Miata in the Buffalo Pierce Arrow Transportation Museum parking lot before 1:30 PM. This is where the adventure begins.

The Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum
263 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo NY
(716) 853-0084

- 10:00 Guided tour of the Buffalo Pierce Arrow Transportation Museum by the museum's proprietor, Jim Sandoro. The tour includes the Frank Lloyd Wright gasoline station, slated for construction in Buffalo in the early '30s, but never built because it was too expensive; \$1,200. Now a full sized replica has been constructed in this museum which is soon to be the largest museum (in square feet of display area) of its kind in the world. Participation in this is voluntary and cost \$20.00 per person. Please let me know if you want to join us.
- 11:00. The museum opens for those that want to just walk around and look. Participation is voluntary. Cost is \$10.00 per person. To facilitate entry and save time, tickets for both the guided tour and the walk about will be purchased before the event. Just let me know if you're in
- 12:30 Meet for lunch at The Chef's Restaurant. The "French Connection" room has been reserved for the exclusive use of the Trillium Miata Club. A menu will be provided in your booklet.
- 13:30 Depart for the road trip to Watkins Glen. Large scale highly detailed maps will be provided as well as turn by turn directions with distances marked in Kilos and Miles. If you are not at the departure point by the start time, your booklet will get you there, or you could even use a GPS device. If you're not planning on joining the group at the Buffalo Transportation Museum, please let me know
- 15:00 Arrive at the MacDonalds restaurant near Danville's airport. This is a rest stop with all that that implies. It is also time to put away the first map and get out the second one.
- 15:30 Continue on to Watkins Glen. Follow the car in front of you or if you're on your own consult your map and turn by turn directions.. Less travelled roads for the most part with scenery improving as we get closer to our destination.
- 17:00 Arrive at The Glen Motor Inn, Watkins Glen. Check in and have a rest, or whatever before your evening repast.
- 19:00 Dine at the Glen Motor Inn's Montage Grill. A menu will be provided before departure.

The above is pretty well cast in concrete. What follows is what's in store for the second day, September 11, in Watkins Glen as far as I know at this time.

- .Most of us are registered for the Tour de Marque. More on this later
- 9:00 For those not on the Tour de Marque, there's the re-enactment of the scrutineering or technical inspection at Smalley's Garage on Franklin Street. A map of Watkins Glen with all the important sites marked will be provided in the booklet.
- 10:00 Concours d'elgance in the parking lot across from the Court House (start finish line). The location will be marked on the map.
- The rest of the day? Just play it by ear; enjoy looking at cars. Further details will be provided. For most of us the whole day will be taken with the Tour de Marque
- 19:00 Make your way to Seneca Lodge where hundreds of car enthusiasts will enjoy the bar and dine in rustic surroundings. Although we could not make reservations for our part of 37 they can accommodate us. If we all arrive at about the same time, they might be able to push some tables together.
- 21:00 Or about that time, a spectacular fire works display at the entrance to the park is a great way to finish our first full day.

The following post by Casey Creaner was copied from www.googlegroup.com/stonebridgedrivers verbatim. It deals with only one of the events planned for Saturday. If you want to participate in this, register as directed by them but let me know.

The Grand Prix Festival is still working on nailing down some of the details for the "Menu" of things to do for the rest of the GPF Weekend.

Here is one that is not only nailed down, but is also securely bolted.

The Glen Region SCCA is putting on a special Autocross (Solo Event) at Watkins Glen International on Saturday September 12th.

This special Autocross will feature two distinctly different autocross courses. One course (that some may refer to as the “bunny slope”) will be a very easy course that will be designed with the first timers in mind. The other course will be a very challenging course and the event chair and course designer for that event assures me that it will be a very interesting course. He has shared his design with me, but in an effort to not spoil the surprise, I am keeping it a secret. Let’s just say that as soon as you see it, you will say, wow, what a great idea for an autocross course design.

If you are a veteran autocrosser, you will want to run on the regular course although the easy course will also be available to you. And if you are a newbie, you can also run on whichever course you want.

Here is how the whole thing will work. The event will be limited to 80 drivers. I say drivers instead of cars because you can have multiple drivers in the same car if you want. We like to share at Glen Region. The cars and drivers will be broken down into 3 or more Run Groups. (Maybe broken down isn’t the greatest term for some of you British car folks.) Anyway, each Run Group will be assigned a time to run, a time to work, and a time to rest. Yes all drivers must work in some fashion, whether it is helping out in the timing and scoring van or out on course chasing cones that try to get away.

When your Run Group is running, you can get in line and take your runs on the regular course, or you can go run on the Easy Course. By the way, the regular more challenging course will have electronic timing and at the end of the day they will be awarding trophies and points and such. While the easy course will be a much more relaxed atmosphere with stop watch timing and no trophies or points awarded.

So when your run group is running you can take your place and run the regular course or go over and run the easy course. You can even run both courses as long as you only run the regular course when your run group is running and it is your turn in line.

When your Run Group is working, you must take your place and fulfill your work assignment.

When your Run Group is resting (free time) you can rest or you are welcome to go run on the Easy Course regardless of what you did when your Run Group was running. Lots of options for lots of quality seat time.

Bring your helmet if you have one and if you don’t, they will have some loners on hand. You will want to put some more air in your tires and be able to empty your car of any possible flying objects.

On-Line Registration is mandatory for this event and space is limited to the first 80 drivers. The price is \$35 for SCCA members of any region and \$45 for non-members. No fee will be collected during your on-line registration process although I will warn you that the automated registration will keep asking for money, but it won’t actually accept any money, so don’t worry about that part.

To sign up go to <http://www.glen-scca.org/solo/schedule.asp> and then find the 9/12/15 event and click on the word “Register”. You will pay your fee on-site on the day of the event.

At this special event you will not only get to keep up with the car ahead of you but you will get a chance to see if you can keep up with me.

See you there,

Casey

There will be more things going on organized by the Glen Festival on Saturday and Sunday. We or some of our group could organize something independently. This is open. Sunday starts with a speaker at breakfast at the Glen Motor Inn. I don't know who it will be. There is also a plan for a walk on Franklin Street to explore and discuss the drivers immortalized by plaques on the sidewalk. I'm sure other things are planned by the Festival Group. I would like to explore the Glen Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport on the way home before dinner.

As time goes by we will know more and there will be newsletters issued. If you have any ideas, suggestions or criticisms let me know. It's your tour, and your input is welcome, although not all will be adopted. In any case, discussion will be incorporated in future newsletters .

Meanwhile, here are the registered participants listed alphabetically by first name. These folks have taken advantage of this one time opportunity to visit the Watkins Glen's Vintage Festival when the featured marque is Miata.

Arthur Donin, Sandra
Dennis Allard, Dona
Gary Helmer, Marilyn
Holly Walker, Jim
Larry Whitney, Joan
Michael Greene, Mickey
Ron Shenfield, Tillie Shuster

Carol Burrows
Don Muir, Cheryl
Gary Svoboda, Leah
John Iannone, Cheryl
Matt Adam, Joanne
Pat Smith, Debby Jamieson
Rose Stipanitz,

Dale Smith
Ed Preston,, Donna
Gerry Robbins, Lorraine
Kirk Benson, Pauline
Michael Darragh
Paul Whittaker, Carol Ketchum



Watkins Glen
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Newsletter Issue 2 15.07.22

This is the second in a series of newsletters provided to keep you up to date and prepare you for this unique adventure. The Festival is still evolving so not everything that is planned is fully developed. I will pass information on as it becomes available. Some of the things I speak to may not come to fruition, and other things may occur that come as a complete surprise. At the time of writing there are 91 Mazdas registered for the Tour de Marque

There are really three aspects to this tour which are independent but effect each other:

- 1) The Trillium Miata Club

This is the trip to Watkins Glen which includes the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum and lunch at Chef's Restaurant, both optional. It includes diner at the Montage Grill on Thursday evening on arrival at the Glen Motor Inn, and diner on Friday night at Seneca Lodge. All this is described in Issue 1 which you should already have. For those that want to participate in the guided tour of the museum, staying in Buffalo the evening prior to the tour start should be considered. The following is recommended.

Holiday Inn: Buffalo-Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue , Buffalo, NY 14202 , United States
1 877 660 8550 (Reservations)
1-716-8862121 (Front Desk)
www.holidayinn.com/Buffalo

- 2) The Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival

Technical Inspection Re-enactment

For those not participating in the Tour de Marque, the re-enactment of technical inspection as it was originally done for racing cars beginning in 1948 by Flossie Smalley at Smalley's Garage will be continued. Same building, same family business.

There will be several cars on display, a tour of the garage displaying memorabilia and the organizers hope that Otto Linton, the last of the original race drivers will be there to reminisce about his time racing at the Glen and those that have passed. He will be there with his son Roger. They have great stories to tell.

So far the plans are for Denny will be bringing his father Denver Cornett's original 1947 MG, still with its original engine and still running well but not driven as hard any more. Vic Franzese (our host at the Glen Motor Inn) plans to bring his Aston Martin. Vic is famous for his beautiful gold and black MacLaren Can-Am car the he drives at the SVRA races. Also, Rick Hughey plans to bring his Formula Vee out. Rick has quite a Formula 1 history that he is willing to talk about.

It will start at 9:30 on Friday 15.09.11 and go basically till about 11:00 or whenever the crowd clears and the people involved get tired of talking cars with each other.

If you are involved in the Stone Bridge Drivers event, drop into Smalley's after you park your car. Check out what's in there. It's not a museum but there is a lot of vintage racing stuff to see. It's just a place with an incredible racing history in many forms of auto racing. A must see place for motor heads. They garage will be open for visitors to tour and talk to the Smalley family until 5:00 PM. They would like to close down and be out of there by 6:00 PM.

Concours d'Elegance

After the re-enactment at Smalley's, walk north about a block and cross the street to take in the cars on display. This eclectic display of antique, classics and sports cars is a judged event and has been something I've enjoyed. For example there's a mid '30s Marmon that the present owner rode in to the first Watkins Glen race in 1948. There are also exotics as well as the more common sports roadsters of the '60s.

Posters

If you are interested in posters to commemorate your visit to the Glen Vintage Festival, visit <http://grandprixfestival.com/Posters.html>

The Wonderful Waterfall Tour

This is now ready for you to sign up <http://www.grandprixfestival.com/waterfall.html> One exciting change is that the Wonderful Waterfall Tour will not be discriminating based on the number of wheels on your vehicle. That means that even 2 wheeled and 3 wheeled vehicles can participate in this great event. (No 18 wheelers please.) Click on that link to see the details.

The Wonderful Waterfall Tour is part of the menu of events taking place during Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen Weekend. This new driving tour can be taken at your own pace and will introduce you to a number of Finger Lakes Waterfalls – some of which most people never see! The Two- or Three-Wheel Wonderful Waterfall Tour will take motorcycles and three-wheelers on a similar tour; starting Point will be announced.

The auto tour begins at Watkins Glen State Park's South Entrance [GPS co-ordinates: Latitude 42.375896, Longitude -76.871078], across from Seneca Lodge on NYS Route 419 (road opposite Mr. Chicken off NYS Route 14, in the Village of Watkins Glen) – registration between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 12, 2015. This is where you will meet your fellow travellers, hear a little introduction to the event, and receive your driving route and *Park Access Pass*.

The drive will take you to four – count 'em – four – N. Y. State Parks to view a great selection of waterfalls and natural water "features". En route, you will stop at and/or view falls along the way. Driving time, with stops to check out easily accessed falls is about three (3) hours; if you choose to get out and walk in to some of the others, elapsed time is as long as you are enjoying yourselves. Of course, if you decide to skip a few, or cut your day short, you can always return - they aren't going anywhere!

While much of the tour takes place on relatively lightly travelled state and local (paved) roads, some of the hidden gems will take you into the City of Ithaca. Traffic there can be busy and confusing, but the directions will be as clear as possible, with as many tips as can be provided to help you navigate!

The route brings everyone back to another Watkins Glen State Park viewing location. There are many places to stop for lunch or a snack along the way; while the Festival organizers don't promote any in particular, some easily accessed possibilities will be noted and information provided at registration.

Preregistration is necessary; please [download and complete this registration form](#) and send, with \$25.00 per vehicle fee to: Watkins Glen Promotions, P. O. Box 332, Watkins Glen, NY 14891. Please provide e-mail contact, if available, in order to share updates with you as they develop.

Questions about the tour can be directed to Terrie Sautter at alfagirl56@gmail.com or 607-243-7845. Sign up now before it fills. Terrie is the co-ordinator of the Wonderful Waterfall Tour, and her events always fill early, so don't delay.

Other events still in the planning stages.

The Festival still has a number of weekend menu events that they are working on finalizing such as a special Sunday Brunch at the famous Glen Motor Inn (with a guest speaker, yet to be identified), followed by a walking tour of the Village of Watkins Glen from a motoring perspective. They are also still working out the details of the Glen theatre showing our kind of movies and also Beer Trail, Wine Trail, and possibly Museum Trail offerings. The Museum trail could include the Corning Glass Museum and / or The Glen Curtiss and Boat Museums in Hammondsport. Also there's the special Can-Am Celebration at the International Motor Racing Research Centre <http://www.racingarchives.org/index.php>

- 3) Watkins Glen Finger Lakes Attractions

If there isn't enough for you to do with events organized by the Festival, there's lots of things to do. I can't list them all. You could sail. You could walk through the park. Visit wineries, talk to Miata owners from all over the place. Check out various web-sites and plan ahead or just go with the flow and see what happens.

I've probably left out some important fact or information that you should have about the tour, the destination, and activities that you can participate in. Meanwhile I close this issue with great news; Liz Burns is joining us bringing the total number of cars to 21. Three groups of Lucky 7! I volunteered Liz to be Super Sweep, and she graciously accepted the challenge.

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Watkins Glen
Vintage Festival Tour
September 10 -13, 2015

Newsletter Issue 3 15.08.17

This is the third in the series of newsletters provided to keep you up to date and prepare you for the Watkins Glen Vintage Festival Tour. I had hoped that all the events at the Festival would be tied down by now, but some things are still evolving. So what's new?

When I first spoke about the tour, I said we would use paper maps and printed step-by-step directions for the tour. Some of us may. Those that prefer to use a GPS device of some sort or another now have the option of doing so. Don Muir, a registered Glen adventurer, took it upon himself to develop two GPX files that follow the route laid out on paper. I tried them out on my Samsung Galaxy Tab 0.7 plus and they work. I have attached them to the e-mail along with this, and posted them to the web-site in case they're needed en-route. Thank you Don.

Most of the following is redundant because it was covered in the first two Newsletters. The main purpose of this is to get your commitment to attend the optional events; events that require tickets or a count for restaurant reservations, and to find out if you're staying at the Holiday Inn Buffalo-Downtown. This might be useful for getting together for dinner or something.

Again, I'm going over the three aspects to this tour which are independent but effect each other:

- 1) The Trillium Miata Club Tour. For those that don't want the fuss of crossing the border on Thursday morning, we recommend the following for Wednesday night:

Holiday Inn: Buffalo-Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue , Buffalo, NY 14202 , United States
1 877 660 8550 (Reservations)
1-716-8862121 (Front Desk)
www.holidayinn.com/Buffalo

The tour starts at on Thursday September 10 1:30 PM at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum parking lot after lunch at Chef's Restaurant. Both the Museum and the lunch are optional.

Examine old cars at:

The Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum
263 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo NY
(716) 853-0084

Enjoy lunch at:

Chef's Restaurant, ("French Connection" Room reserved)
291 Seneca Street, Buffalo NY
(716) 854-0692

The tour is in two stages, each about an hour and a half long. The first takes us to Danville where we stop for a break; coffee or whatever. The second stage takes us to the Glen Motor Inn, our accommodation at Watkins Glen.

We gather for diner at the Montage Grill on Thursday evening on arrival at the Glen Motor Inn, and diner on Friday night we go to Seneca Lodge. A buffet salad, then sit down and order a great meal surrounded by hundreds of motor heads. There's a working nickelodeon that works, for only a nickel. A great bar, rustic facilities, good food and great service. That pretty much wraps it up for the Trillium Tour.

- 2) The Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival. This is a summary of the most important events. Some happen at the same time, so you can't participate in everything. More detail on these events can be found in the first two issues of this newsletter.

Friday

- Technical Inspection re-enactment, Smalley's Garage
- Stone Bridge Drivers Chateau Lafayette Reneau Winery Tour de Marque. Registration is required. Information will be mailed to registrants by the Watkins Glen organizers.
- Concours d'Elegance. The Concours usually has some elegant, sporty classics and a few old cars. The Urba Centurion registered this year is not the usual fair for Concours events. Even if you don't go to the Concours, you will probably see it driving around town.
- "Greased Lightning" (1977) the story of NASCAR's Wendell Scott w/Richard Pryor, 7:00 PM at the Glen Theatre
- Fireworks at the lower entrance / parking lot, Watkins Glen State Park

Saturday

- Wonderful Waterfall Tour. This starts at the south entrance of Watkins Glen State Park across from Seneca Lodge with registration between 8:30 and 9:00 AM . Pre registration is required
- SCCA sanctioned Autocross at the WGI paddock area
- "Winning - the racing life of Paul Newman" (1969) w/Paul Newman, 7:00 PM at the Glen Theatre

Sunday

- Glen Motor Inn: Brunch with a guest speaker
- Walk of Fame
- "Le Mans" with Steven McQueen (1971) 5:00 PM at the Glen Theatre

I was told about plans for museum tours, which include interesting drives to museums such as the Glen Curtiss and Classic Boat museums in Hammondsport (what kind of sport is Hammond?); the Corning Glass Museum and other tours. I don't know whether these would be held on Friday, Saturday or Sunday or maybe repeated each day or if they indeed will ever come to fruition. Beer Trail and Wine Trails have also been contemplated but considering these are driving events



This is an Urba Centurion, a strange looking home built car that is really economical. It achieved better than 250 mpg at a recent event held at Watkins Glen and cruises at 70 Mph! It is registered for, and can be seen at the concours. A Kubota 3 cyl diesel engine powers the car that was built from plans first published by Mechanix Illustrated in February 1982. Plans are still available from <http://www.rqriley.com/cent.html>

- 3) Watkins Glen Finger Lakes Attractions

If there isn't enough for you to do with events organized by the Festival, there's lots of things to do. I can't list them all. You could sail. You could walk through the park. Visit wineries, and there are a lot of these, talk to Miata owners from all over the place. Check out various web-sites and plan ahead or just go with the flow and see what happens.

Most of this stuff has been pretty well dealt with in the first two issues of this newsletters with the only really new info on the Festival is about the movies on offer. "Le Mans" you can pick up on U-Tube and watch at home on your computer or smart TV any time. I don't know about the other movies, but I don't think I'm going to be going to a movie. I'll wait until I can't use my Miata and am forced to stay indoors to keep from freezing.

What I need you to do now is complete the attached questionnaire and get it back to me so that I can arrange for tickets and reservations.



Watkins Glen
Vintage Festival Tour
September 10 -13, 2015

Newsletter Issue 4 15.08.19

This is the fourth and probably the last in this series. I didn't think that I would be writing so soon but what I was waiting for arrived in the mail yesterday. This led to downloads from <http://grandprixfestival.com/weekend2015.html>. Everything we needed to know about the Festival events is now known (except for the weather, what will actually happen, etc.) If you don't like the weather or anything else, it's not me, it's Phil. Just so you'll know.

Perhaps I don't really need to send this out because those of you who registered for the Tour de Marque will have received what I received yesterday, or you will receive it soon; i.e., confirmation of registration and details of the *Chateau Lafayette Reneau Tour de Marque*. You already have the *Drivers Rules Acknowledgement* that I sent earlier this week, which was also enclosed in the envelope.

I decided to send this out today because there are two events on Sunday September 13 that you may want to take in. Both of these require reservations. These may be attract a lot of participants so booking ahead will ensure you have a spot. One of these is the Brunch with a guest speaker and the other is the walk-off-all-that-brunch which includes a lot of stuff about the Glen's racing history.

I plan to attend the Brunch; (I have to eat don't I? I like to be entertained at the same time). I have been talking to organizers and there are some very interesting people going to speak at this event. However, they are reluctant to release names in their press release at this time. I'm also inclined to go on the walk as well as enjoy the brunch. One must work off but I don't have to tell you that. Look at the details of these on page 4, including how to reserve for both of these events..

As you can see there's lots to do over the weekend and by Sunday afternoon, most of us will be wandering home. I would like to visit Hammondsport's *Glen Curtiss Museum* on the way home. If enough of you are interested I could arrange for tickets in advance. Let me know. If I don't hear from you I'll assume you don't want to visit this museum. I know many of you have to go to w#\$k on Monday morning and we all have to deal with border crossing (except for Nexus subscribers who I'm sure will get through a lot faster than the rest of us). I'm not suggesting you will be exhausted after this weekend. Your step will be light and your batteries recharged after all the fun!

Many of you have responded to the questionnaire that was part of the last newsletter. I have been compiling the data, gathering information about individual choices for the tour's start but still haven't received responses from all of you but look forward to hearing from you soon.

The next thing you will receive from me will be printed. Hard copies of everything you will need (and more) all in an easy to use format that includes turn by turn directions, large scale maps, a list of participants and other stuff that I haven't thought off or hasn't been suggested to me yet.

September 11, 2015 Grand Prix Festival in Watkins Glen, NY,



2015 Weekend Events Menu



Friday Only:

Smalley's Garage

The site of the annual Tech Inspection Reenactment will be open all day. Stop by and experience racing history with tours and memorabilia viewing. And don't miss meeting the special guests at the 9:30am reenactment - Otto Linton and Denver Cornett III.

Saturday Only:

Wonderful Waterfall Tour

A rallye style tour of some of the most famous and some of the most obscure waterfalls in the Finger Lakes region. [Preregistration only.](#)

Glen Region SCCA Autocross at WGI:

Real autocross featuring two different courses. One course will be specifically designed for novices and first timers while the other course will be a very challenging course designed to satisfy the veterans of the sport. Preregistration only. [Click here to sign up.](#)

[The International Motor Racing Research Center](#), a Grand Prix Festival partner, is presenting a daylong program on Can-Am racing. Former Can-Am racer Oscar Koveleski and Jack Deren, chief mechanic for Koveleski's Team Auto World McLaren, will be the program's headliners.

Sunday Only:

Sunday Brunch and Walking Tour

The [Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce](#) is excited to announce a partnership with the [Glen Motor Inn](#) to present two new additions to the slate of activities for Grand Prix Festival weekend! The first is a brunch at the Glen Motor Inn (3380 State Route 14, Watkins Glen) on Sunday, September 13 from 10:30am to 11:30am. Enjoy the chance to visit with historic racing legends including Otto Linton over a delicious brunch and a champagne toast.

Reservations are required.

The second event is an historic walking tour in which you can "**Retrace the Race**" in downtown

Watkins Glen with knowledgeable docents leading the way on Sunday, September 13 beginning at 12pm. [Reservations are required.](#)

For more information and **reservation instructions** [click here.](#)

Saturday and Sunday offerings:

Seneca Lake Beer Trail

Details coming soon... Please check back!

Seneca Lake Wine Trail

Enjoy visiting 3 award-winning wineries near the Watkins Glen area, traveling along a carefully chosen road course giving you maximum driving fun the afternoon of Saturday, September 12, 2015 and Sunday afternoon, September 13, 2015.

For details or to buy Wine Trail Event tickets [click here.](#)

The Glen Theater will be showing automotive and racing related movies. Admission is \$6.00 per person.

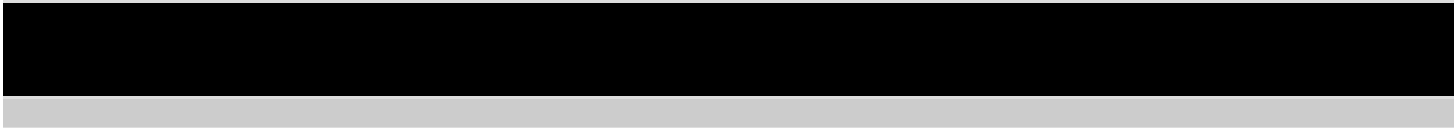
Friday - "Greased Lightning" with Richard Pryor (1977) at 7:00

Saturday - "Winning" with Paul Newman (1969) at 7:00

Sunday - "Le Mans" with Steven McQueen (1971) at 5:00

Some events are subject to change, and more will be added. Please visit often for updates as plans are developed.

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This was copied from a <http://www.watkinsglenchamber.com/vintage> page with minor editorial/informational changes. The page's format did not fit the format of this document and I needed to add things.

Vintage Grand Prix Festival

The Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a partnership with the Glen Motor Inn to present two new additions to the slate of activities for Grand Prix Festival weekend!

Legends Brunch at The Glen Motor Inn on Sunday, September 13 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Enjoy the chance to visit with historic racing legends including the only race car driver that competed in the Glen's first race in 1948, Otto Linton over a delicious brunch and a champagne toast. Brunch includes scrambled eggs Florentine, French toast with warm syrup, from-scratch biscuits, house-fried potatoes, fresh mixed fruit, tossed salad, honey glazed ham, chicken alfredo with farfalle, assorted cookies, and refreshments including coffee, tea, soda, lemonade, iced tea, and juice. The cost for brunch is \$30 per person including tax and gratuity.

Reservations for brunch are required and you may reserve your space by calling the Glen Motor Inn at 607-535-2706. Reservations must be received by September 1. The Glen Motor Inn is located at 3380 State Route 14, Watkins Glen.

Retrace the Race in downtown Watkins Glen - Sunday, September 13 at 12:00 pm

After brunch, head downtown to "Retrace the Race" with knowledgeable docents leading the way! The walking tour will depart from the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centre (214 North Franklin Street, Watkins Glen) at 12:00 pm. Local historians Bill Green and Kevin Hughey will lead you on a walking tour of five notable stops in downtown Watkins Glen including Specchio's Garage, (Watkins Glen's Ford dealer) the Start/Finish line, Smalley's Garage, Milliken's Corner, and the current Rooster Fish Beer Garden (the birthplace of the Corvette). Along the walk, Mr. Green and Mr. Hughey will share their incredible, encyclopaedic knowledge of race and regional history, and will speak in detail about the importance of each stop along the way. Walking tours will be available from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Reservations are required and you could do it via the Glen Motor Inn at 607-535-2706. However I would rather you call me at (905) 677-9259 or send me an e-mail at paul_whittaker@rogers.com. I will make reservations directly with the tour organizers on your behalf so that we can keep our group together.

You may participate in the brunch, the walking tour, or both. This sounds like a good way to wind down the weekend.



Watkins Glen
Vintage Festival Tour
September 10 -13, 2015

Newsletter Issue 5 15.08.27

This is the last in this series. I know I said that the last time. Sometimes I, just like a politician, misspeak.

This morning I sent you each an 9 X 12 envelope by Canada Post. Enclosed is a booklet entitled "Follow That Miata!" with three large scale maps stuffed inside. This is all you'll need except for your passport (or Nexus), Drivers Rules Acknowledgement, Tour de Marque detailed instructions signed by Bruce Coulombe, (that is if you signed up for this), costly American money, MX-5 in good shape, CB, sense of fun and adventure and of course health insurance. Also bring your camera. We need pictures for the after version of "Follow That Miata!"

Look at the book and decide what additional things you want to do, or conversely think that you might like to delete, or change, in your agenda. I don't expect to change anything. I have put in a request for sunny and warm weather with only very light breezes. If that is what we get, I will gladly take the credit. If on the other hand the fine print, the stuff we never look at, leads to less that ideal weather, lay that on that phantom phellow, pheckless Phil; he's got broad shoulders. It can sometimes be cold and damp. Take appropriate warm clothing, but hey you're all Miata top downers, You know what to do. If by some fluke it rains and you have use your wipers, in NY state you have to have your headlights on when your wipers are on. I don't know why I'm telling you this because it's going to be sunny. Right?

In any case, should you not receive your package in the mail soon, let me know



Watkins Glen
Vintage Festival Tour
September 10 -13, 2015

Newsletter Issue 6 15.09.04

It seems that there is a need for another newsletter. Just a short one this time dealing with some last minute things. Yes I know, I thought number 4 would be the last but things keep happening. There may even be another as we get closer to the event.

The travel groups and the banquet are things that you should know about before the tour is underway, and cancellation of the brunch about which you are probably aware, is also noted. As far as I know everything else is as planned

Travel Groups:

The travel groups mix is a combination of a request and my filling in the spaces around the request. Some are cast in concrete, others are simply covered with feathers and molasses. If you would like to change your assignment, let me know. That isn't to say your request will be honoured, but I will try to accommodate you.

Departure times are set at 10 minute intervals, and it's up to the group leads to attempt to keep to that schedule, i.e., the second group follows the first by about 10 minutes, the third follows the second by about 10 minutes. The faster groups should be closer to the group(s) ahead as they arrive at our rest stop in Dansville and complete our day's journey in Watkins Glen. They should not catch up with them enroute.

Slow (7)
Group 1
CB ch. 3 (alt. 5)

Faster (7)
Group 2
CB ch. 7 (alt. 11)

Fastest (6)
Group 3
CB ch 14 (alt. 16)

Lead	Paul Whittaker, Carol Ketchum Holly Walker, Jim John Iannone, Cheryl Gary Helmer, Marilyn Ed Preston, Donna Don Muir, Cheryl	Kirk Benson, Pauline Larry Whitney, Joan Matt Adam, Joanne Ron Shenfield, Tillie Shuster Arthur Donin, Sandra Dale Smith	Carol Burrows, Val Apel Rose Stipanitz Michael Greene, Mickey Michael Darragh Gerry Robbins, Lorraine
Sweep	Dennis Allard, Dona	Gary Svoboda, Leah	Liz Burns

Independent Travellers (1)
Pat Smith

Banquet

We originally planned to have dinner at the Glen Motor Inn's Restaurant, the Montage Grill. As a group of 37 we have been offered the Inn's Lounge, which is a smaller more comfortable room, decorated with more race memorabilia, with the same view of the lake as the restaurant. As the word Lounge implies, it is also a bar. We will have exclusive use of the Lounge, but the adjacent bar is open to other guests. You can take full advantage of not needing a designated driver, although keep in mind that the tour de marque starts early Friday morning, and when you're on tour, clocks accelerate.

Traditionally we have a banquet on the last evening we are all together which in this case would be Saturday. On this tour because of the diversity of events and options we have, it might be difficult for us all to get together

on Saturday, so our “banquet”, is on Thursday at 7:30 to give you time to check in, freshen up and arrive in the lounge without having to feel rushed.

I have copied the menu below. The price per person is \$36.00 (US) inclusive of sales tax and gratuity. To simplify things for the Inn, pay me and I will pay them. The cost of course doesn't include drinks.

Buffet Menu

House Tossed Salad

Fresh Baked Bread

Chicken Masala, Chicken Parmesan, or Chicken Formaggio

Penne with meat sauce

Garlic and Herb Crusted Pork Loin

Mediterranean Vegetables

Dessert

Coffee, Hot Teas, Iced Tea, Soda, and Lemonade

Other Things of Interest

Thursday Morning's Museum Visit

Kirk sent me this link about the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum, a titillating preview https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Kmq7flpDO8 This production was done before the Frank Lloyd Wright Gas Station was completed and the total size of the museum increased. Jim Sandoro, featured in the video, will be conducting our guided tour.

Sunday Brunch Cancellation

Talking about things of interest, there was not enough interest in Sunday's brunch at the Glen Motor Inn. I think that would have been fun and I, as well as a number of people in our group, signed up for it. The people at the Glen Motor Inn are to be commended for taking the time to call all of us who had reserved a space to let them know about the cancellation.

Carol and Paul's Accommodation

I was asked about this again and thought I should make it clear. Carol and I are staying at the Tudor Rose Bed and Breakfast. The reason for this is that last year as Alan and I arrived, we booked this year. We've been doing this for about ten or more years. The same people arrive for the weekend with little change over the years and there is a waiting list. Before the TMC tour, I planned to take Carol, because Alan was unable to go and the folks Alan and I see there every year are looking forward to meeting her, and she is looking forward to meeting them.

If Carol and I weren't staying at the Tudor Rose one of you would be unable to go on the tour. The space at the Glen Motor Inn is limited, and we filled their available spaces with our tour.



Watkins Glen
Vintage Festival Tour
September 10 -13, 2015

Newsletter Issue 7 15.09.06

Didn't I say that there would be another one of these newsletters? Yes, I think I did. This is the latest press release, followed by rules for lapping the old course which I think we should all read:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Carole Pierce, Watkins Glen Promotions director of special events

(607) 535-3003; eve...@watkinsglen.com

22nd GRAND PRIX FESTIVAL of Watkins Glen

Set for Friday, Sept. 11

Parade of Lotus, Ferrari, 'Muscle cars' New Feature

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. (Sept. 2, 2015) – The Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen presented by Chemung Canal Trust Company returns Friday, Sept. 11, to the home of American road racing.

Mazda is the featured marque, and more than 100 Mazdas will be joining the other 400 or so sports cars for this celebration of the history of racing in Watkins Glen.

This year's Grand Prix Festival extends through the weekend with several new activities.

The opportunity to increase the fun for both festival participants and observers was the result of changes to the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association's 2015 schedule. Due to the re-paving project at Watkins Glen International, SVRA was at the track in July, rather than its traditional September date.

"Our festival friends are going to have the same great experience as any other year," Carole Pierce, Watkins Glen Promotions director of events, said, "starting with Smalley's Tech Inspection first thing in the morning to the fireworks in the State Park gorge at dusk."

The single biggest difference is that instead of SVRA race cars arriving on Franklin Street late in the afternoon for viewing and tribute laps, the committee is presenting a "Grand Autocade" of Lotus, Ferrari, and classic American "muscle" cars. Vintage motorcycles also will be joining the Franklin Street parade and laps, Pierce said.

"This will be a collection of cars never before seen at a Grand Prix Festival, imagine the rumble of those engines! The committee is very excited about this new feature, and we know everyone else is going to enjoy it, too."

The Grand Autocade arrives at approximately 5 p.m. The show, as the cars drive laps on the original race circuit, is expected to be the highlight of the day. The cars will then park on Franklin Street for public inspection. Festival goers will be able to get a close look at the vehicles and chat with the owners.

Other features of the Grand Prix Festival weekend:

- Classic racing films at the Glen Theater. “Greased Lightning” with Richard Pryor (1977) at 7 p.m. Friday; “Winning” with Paul Newman (1969) at 7 p.m. Saturday; and “Le Mans” with Steven McQueen (1971) at 5 p.m. Sunday.
- A celebration of Can-Am racing on Saturday at the International Motor Racing Research Center, 610 S. Decatur St. Former Can-Am champion racer Oscar Koveleski and Jack Deren, chief mechanic for Koveleski’s Team Auto World McLaren, will be the program’s headliners, along with noted motorsports journalist Pete Lyons.
- Glen Region SCCA Autocross at WGI, an autocross featuring two different courses, one specifically designed for novices and first timers and the other a challenging course designed to satisfy the veterans of the sport. Entries are limited, but some space for walk-ons may be available. Spectators are also welcome. For more information, go to www.GrandPrixFestival.com/weekend2015 and follow the link.
- “Retrace the Race” Walking Tour, joining racing historian Bill Green and other knowledgeable folks on an historic walking of downtown Watkins Glen. The tour starts at noon on Sunday, Sept. 12. Reservations are required by contacting the Glen Motor Inn at (607) 535-2706.
- Seneca Lake Wine Trail and the fun of visiting three award-winning wineries in the Watkins Glen area, travelling along a carefully chosen road course giving you maximum driving fun. To purchase tickets for either day, visit the Festival web site at www.grandprixfestival.com/weekend2015 and follow the link in the section about the Wine Trail tour.

For all the details of the Grand Prix Festival and the weekend events, visit the web site www.GrandPrixFestival.com.

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This is from Casey at the Glen and is addressed to those who will be driving the old course, which is most of us.

Old Course Rookies, please read it carefully.

Rules for Laps of the Old Course for all Stone Bridge Drivers, including Grand Autocade drivers:

During your 2 lap tour of the Old Course it is an open road, **not a closed course**. There will be oncoming traffic and there may even be local traffic mixed in with your group if you wrongly let that happen.

Be aware that one third of you want to drive too fast, and wish the rest would speed up.

Another third of you want to drive too slowly, and are annoyed at how fast everyone else is going.

While the other third just wants to do it properly with everyone keeping it at a safe and proper speed.

My goal is to keep this festival going for as many years as possible. That means **NO MISHAPS** on the Old Course. It is better to have a little bit of fun for a lot of years than to have a lot of fun for only one year.

Although each Stone Bridge Driver Event will have its own lead car, there will be one common pace car that will pace each group for all of the Stone Bridge Driver Laps. This year the pace car will be a **2016 MX-5 Launch Edition** owned and driven by Robyn Resch.

As in the past Pat Scopelliti will be driving his 308 Ferrari as the last car in each group.

Each group will be split into two lanes as they enter Franklin Street on their approach to the S/F line for the start of their two laps. The person who does the splitting is a pro and is used to splitting real race cars driven by pros, so act accordingly. Meaning look for his signals and do what he tells you, and try not to hit him. He is trained to not move, so you only have one spot to avoid.

Each group will get a standing start and then be un-split, back into one lane as they approach turn one at the beginning of their two laps. **This will happen one lane at a time.** In other words one lane will proceed and then the other will follow. This will all be at the direction of our traffic people. So, all you have to do is **pay attention** and go when and where they tell you to go. If the one car in the moving lane is slow on the uptake, the next car in the waiting lane will be directed to go, to try to keep you all together.

There will be no passing at all while doing your two laps on the Old Course. Sorry, but we really have to keep it safe for the longevity of this great event.

Keep in mind that when we do our laps, **the Old Course is still an open road.** It is **NOT** a closed course.

There will be no breaking of any speed limits while doing your two laps on the Old Course. There will be Police cars patrolling the course in the opposite direction who will be issuing traffic tickets to any violators.

Standard NY seat belt laws will still be in effect and will be enforced. And the driver and every passenger in your car must have signed a waiver when they showed up at their respective events. That means no added passengers for your two lap tour. And if I catch any driver texting or talking on a cell phone while driving, you will instantly be thrown out.

While speeding is prohibited, **driving too slow will also not be tolerated.** If you and/or your car are not capable of maintaining 55 MPH outside of the village limits, we ask that you agree to not participate in your respective two lap tour of the Old Course. Please tell your event chair at your drivers meeting that you won't be able to keep up and you will be told where to go and what to do so that you will still be able to park with your group.

Anyone who is taking part in the two lap tour, who fails to keep up with the group, will be pulled out of their group on Franklin Street by one of the traffic workers and asked to remain there while the rest of their group completes their laps. **I know this sounds harsh, but I have to tell you that not keeping up with the car ahead of you can be as dangerous and/or disruptive as driving too fast.**

It will be up to each and every Stone Bridge Driver to **KEEP UP** with the car in front of you. You will not be required to break any speed limits or drive in a dangerous manner to accomplish this task of keeping up. But it will only work if everyone does their part. If one car lags behind, they hold up the train behind them, and then they have to go too fast to catch up, and then we have huge holes in the group, which in turn encourages pedestrians to cross the street, which can of course put them and our entire festival in jeopardy. Also even relatively small gaps will unnecessarily allow local cars and trucks to get into the mix which will then make it impossible for you to keep up without dangerously speeding. When I see the gap on Franklin Street and you tell me there had been a big truck who got into the line, I automatically know you were not keeping up properly. That is the only way that truck could have gotten in front of you.

And slowing down so that you can soon speed up to get a good run on an interesting part of the course will also not be tolerated because it then puts the person behind you in a position where they either speed to keep up with you or maintain normal speed and create a gap that makes them look like the culprit when I see a big gap in town and pull them out. And as much as I like music, there is no room on the Old Course for the accordion effect.

You all know the old joke: Why did the pedestrian cross the road? No it really wasn't to get to the other side. It was because **one of you failed to keep up** with the car ahead of you and now we have a bunch of pedestrians in the way. Shame on you!

Not keeping up with the car ahead of you not only encourages stupid pedestrians to put themselves into harm's way, but it will also allow cars, trucks, and dreaded RVs out on the course to get into your line and in the way of everyone. The best way to keep them out is to **keep up with the car ahead of you**. This will also make it impossible for the interlopers who try every year to get into the act.

Have you ever driven in a funeral procession in a big city? They all know full well how to keep up with the car ahead or else get stuck at a light.

We have a lot of Stone Bridge Driver vehicles to put across the Old Course in a very small amount of time. That creates a very tight schedule that only works when you are doing your part by following directions and keeping up with the car ahead of you.

Another thing to consider is that while you are enjoying your 2 laps of the Old Course, you are also "The Show" downtown for many, many spectators. Well, it isn't much of a show if there are big gaps between groups of cars. That leaves you just one choice:

Keep up with the car ahead of you.

Please help the festival by doing your part to obey these rules. You will still have a fun drive and you will find that it will be so much more enjoyable for everyone when you are all going at approximately the same speed.

There will be some official photographers on the Old Course taking your pictures. When you see them, feel free to wave and smile, **but do not in any way slow down to sort of pose for the cameras**. If you do, and it gets reported to me, you can expect to be pulled out and/or banned from future Stone Bridge Driver events.

I know it all sounds harsh and restrictive at times, but in reality if everyone just keeps up without any shenanigans, all of the Stone Bridge Drivers, all of our festival volunteers, and all of the spectators will have a great time.

It's all about having fun with cars.

Casey,

The guy in the middle of the street motioning you to keep up with the car ahead of you.

So this is the latest. There may be more latest, later. If there is, you will receive yet another newsletter from me later. Once you're on the tour I don't want to hear that you are bored and can't find anything to do. You might be bored and you might not find anything to do, but I don't want to hear about it.

Paul.