**2018 Sprite Midget Race Series End of Season Report & Overview of 60th Spridget Reunion (revised August 20, 2018)**

1. **Overall** - It is hard to believe that this is our 7th Sprite Midget Race Series Season of having fun on and off the track. The following are some highlights:
2. **Driver Incidents Spridgets** – We have had an improvement so far this year when compared to last year and I will share additional information once the Driver’s committee submits additional highlights. Grattan was really excellent and a great tribute to Vern who has been our Chief Stewart for the past 8 years and is retiring. Our group has had very few incidents with one that involved another larger car considered the root cause of the problem, which also related to pass blocking. For the most part we as a group can have confidence that our other Spridget Competitors emulate the Jim Donato Most Respected Driver Criteria. There is no better feeling when racing to trust the person you are going wheel to wheel with. I am thankful that we as a group are able to maintain that value.
3. **Race Attendance** – As you can see from the chart below we had a great year with the 2nd highest overall. Our group is still leading all other Spridget Attended Vintage Race Groups based on viewing Vintage Magazines and race lists. Our 60th event and ELVF will really knocked it out of the park based on feedback from all over the US. Do not miss this 60th Spridget Reunion in September 14-17, 2018 Road America ELVF. I have spent a lot of time this year getting our name out through Victory Lane Articles, Austin Healey Club of America Magazine “Healey Marque” and social media mostly special Face Book Clubs related to Spridgets. Group 2 continues to grow overall resulting in a busy class.. **Awards** – our awards are second to none thanks to Eric Zanner and JDM Investments contribution & Jeff Carloss design. This year’s awards are beer type mugs that are really cool. Our Gary Kropf Special Spirit and Jim Donato Most Respected Driver Awards continue to reinforce our values.

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| **Race Track** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** |
| **Gingerman** | 14 | 14 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 12 | 18 |
| **Blackhawk** | 13 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| **Grattan** | 17 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 15 | 14 | 16 |
| **Total** | 44 | 39 | 43 | 53 | 36 | 36 | 46 |

1. **Grattan** – It was a great weekend with 16 Spridget Drivers racing. We had drivers attending from Canada to California. 14 made it to the grid for Sunday’s Sprite Midget Race. We had one car that had to return home and was still running, while another was leaking oil bad enough that he felt it would be unsafe to be on the track making a good appreciated decision. Outstanding job in supporting each other for help and as usual there were some serious mechanical issue and perseverance in the Kelly, Freers, Soave and Buress Camps! The weekend started off sweaty and stayed that way throughout the weekend with mostly lack of rain except to one Friday Session. Friday was the Paddock Crawl with good Micro Brewed Beer and Wine and an entertaining Girl Band playing 60s Rock. I appreciate everyone’s contributing toward the lunch with enough to eat for everyone. Our Grill Master for Saturday and Sunday was Brad Carloss, Karl, Bob Danielson and Roger Smith. We had a Midget Guest Bill Greenman in a solid 2D 1972 SCCA GCR appropriate car from California that was doing a 6 Vintage Race Tour and join us and enjoyed being part of our group and seeing how we have fun on and off the track (great driver to picking up very quickly as you can see from the results).

4.       **Sprite Midget Contributions** (WeThank all of the following contributors):

a.       Cana and Colin Comer for their Cool 60th Series Decal / Stickers.

b.      Erick Zanner’s JDM Investments contribution towards our series allowed us to enjoy the great awards for the 4th year in a row along with other items.

c. Jeff Carlos Posters highlighting the 60th Reunion with older advertisement retro look along with Vision Poster of ELVF 60th Spridget.

5.       **Season Overall Winners**  (requires having a perfect score of 48 points from at least 2 of the 3 race weekends) We mad up for last year’s lack of overall winners with our largest Overall Winners ever recorded including a Husband and Wife team. This is the 2nd time a female won the overall and the first time we had a repeat winner!

2013 Cana Comer

2014 Greg Cory and Nathan Burress

2015 Colin Comer and Randy Byboth.

2017 Ashley Burress, Nathan Burress & Jim Donato

2018 Ashley Burress and Ron Soave

5**..       Special Spirit and Driver Awards**:

***Gary Kropf Spirit Award*** (started in 2015 in honor of Gary’s attitude that we admire). This Huge piston award was donated by Paul Fitzsimmons and polished up with name tags by Charlie Hall’s vision towards what I know will be an important award now and in the future. The criteria for this award was modified slightly to not conflict with following 2nd award.

* 1. Previous Winners: 2015 John Salisbury, 2016 Jim Donato and John Salisbury, 2017 Soave, Kelly, Mason.
  2. Criteria: Promotes the Vintage Spirit, Assists others within the paddock, with repairs, parts, advice and encourages racer in making next session. Quick to organize group activities with race and banquet. Volunteers with other VSCDA activities and committees.
  3. This year’s winner was a 3 way tie again with Gary Kropf, John Salisbury & Charlie Hall

***The Jim Donato Most Respected Driver*** (started in 2016 in honor of Jim’s contribution)

Criteria: A driver that exemplifies the meaning of a Vintage Sports Car Most Respected Driver includes:

**Predictable** (Stays on racing line and points racers by when being passed or when passing. Makes sure that over taking driver knows they are about to be passed and allows room and good judgement),

**Confident & Observant** (Uses mirrors and is aware of others racing near)

**Respectful** (Confirms that their race car is mechanically sound and will not cause others to be injured from improper maintenance. Can sit down with other competitors and enjoy their company after any session)

**Objective** (open to other’s comments) Drives Defensively (adjusts for conditions safely regardless of other driver’s interaction).

**Previous Winners:** 2017 Namesake Jim Donato, 2018 Mal Fay

1. This year’s winner was rightfully chosen Ashley Burress.

6.       **Spridget Contributors to VSCDA** (we appreciate our group’s unselfish contribution to VSCDA and the Sprite Midget Race Series making us one of the best groups within VSCDA for volunteering their time):

a.       Ron Soave and Jeff Porasik for Blackhawk Event Chairman for not one but 2 events this year

b.      Dave Young, Paul Fitzsimmons and Gerry Brasil, Brad Carloss for their contributions to Scrutineering / Tech Barn

c.       Stacey Donato for her overall running of VSCDA registration and all that she does.

d.      Jim Donato, Charlie Hall, Gary Kropf, Roger Heil for Drivers Committee. Gary Kropf initiated the Driver’s Committee Summary of actions, which is greatly appreciated and time consuming. I think this has helped to reduce the Driver Incidents that we have seen this season

e.      Doug Bruce for Homologations and Corner / Paddock Worker Sprite Door Annual Award selected for the best Grattan worker selected by their peers.

f. Registration Cheryl Carloss, Jeff & Jan Freers Registration

g. Stan Mason Group 2 Representative .

h. Don Kelly will assist Jeff Janus as the new Grattan Event Chairmen.

Please let me know if I overlooked anyone’s contribution within our group.

7.       **Series Awards**       Jeff Carloss did a great job ordering and organizing this year’s awards. We give Janet Carloss full credit for the Beer Mug Concept this year and will forever be grateful! We really appreciate the Carloss Team’s contribution (Cheryl, Janet and Jeff). This can be a little frustrating with the time limitations after compiling results from Sunday’s Spridget Race just in time to make the after Brat Lunch announcements.

7. **Season Awards** -Every driver that met the 2 race weekend or more requirements received these awards with name and position on award, which will be sent out separately in an Xcl File.

**Next Stops** :

1. Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival Road America Sprite Midget 60th Reunion September14-17, 2018
2. Blackhawk Farms Octoberfest, October 13-15, 2018

**60th Spridget Anniversary 2018 ELVF Road America September 14-17, 2018**

I can say personally based on all the email and other feedback this event is going to be a Huge Spridget Event for both racing with easily 35 Spridget Racers with a stretch goal of 50 possible. With all the advance entries in the Street Sprite Paddock 50 plus is realistic. The Gather On The Green Concours with 20 Sprites and Midgets are really special with really nicely restored examples of our favorite ride along with many special models like Innocenti, Speedwells and WSM.being accepted in addition to a Sebring Lemans Falcon Bodied Sprite built in Warwick und Geof Healey’s Race Group.

Thanks and Enjoy A Spridgetly Life!!

Stan Mason