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Friendly Faces

Sprites Steal the Limelight in Elkhart Lake

VSCDA ELKHART LAKE VINTAGE FESTIVAL XXXIII

September 14-16

Road America

Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

1 & 2. Sprites, like Rick Fisk's blue Bugeye, filled the grids at the Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival, although big-bore cars such as Damon Bosell's 1965 Ford Falcon added some bass notes to the mix.



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Local residents might have been forgiven if they felt Elkhart Lake was overrun by swarms of LBCs—Austin-Healey Sprites and MG Midgets, to be exact. They seemed to be everywhere.

The VSCDA chose Spridgets as the focus of its 2018 festival, especially the Sprite component, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of that venerable British car. Introduced at Monte Carlo shortly after the 1958 Grand Prix, the Sprite has become a

quintessential touchstone when the subject of sports cars is raised. It remains as popular today as when it first debuted.

We didn't count how many Spridgets we encountered in and around Road America and Elkhart Lake throughout the weekend, but there were a lot of them. Tallying the number on track was a bit easier: Friday's entry list featured 44 Sprites and Midgets in Group 2, making them slightly more than half the group's hefty 80-car field. Of the featured group, some three dozen Sprites and Midgets took part in Sunday's all-Spridget feature race.

Saturday's schedule included familiar events in Elkhart Lake, like the annual road course reenactment and Gather on the Green, the festival's invitational concours and car show at the Osthoff.

Anticipate another banner Elkhart Lake weekend in 2019, as the VSCDA will celebrate 50 years of Formula Ford with a five-day extravaganza. Mark your calendars for September 11-15 now. Absolutely.—James Heine