

An Open Letter to “All” Vintage Karters,

We want to first thank all of you that have come out to vintage events at LaFayette Motorsports Park. We felt being a track opened in 1960 and expanded over the years, we offered a freshly paved smooth track with options for the original 1960 layout or longer expanded track, a track that suited all engine and driver styles.

As many of you may know, in 2021/22 we tried very hard to get both the VKA and EVK back together again for a combined event at LMP in 2022. It was almost a done deal until the 11½ hour when the willingness to work together once again broke down, what a shame.

Our first vintage event after buying the track was a combined event with very good attendance, which is both fun for you the attendees and makes an event such as this viable for the track too.

Because of the unwillingness of both groups to work together based on their own reasons, we had decided to run a totally independent “LMP Vintage Invitational” in 2023. This would be run purely by LMP but open to “any” vintage Karter with no requirements to be VKA or EVK members. We have run a number of modern day kart races this way, where differing groups or series running together could still be scored separately. It is no problem if points are desired by one group of the attendees who needed them as part of their specific series, it works well and is easy to do. There is no issue with insurance as LMP is running the event and as usual provides “all” attendees with wristbands.

We had pitched this idea to both groups in the summer of 2022 as a bridge to hold an event that was not only worthwhile running for the track, but offered the attendees the benefit of good class sizes, camaraderie and a big kart show. By LMP being the promotor of the event, it would take away any political them and us running of the event.

Since that time, some other tracks have also decided to run their own stand-alone events in particular since VKA will not be running any events in the Northeast in 2023. While on the face of it, this appears to be a good approach, EVK for their own reasons (which we respect) do not wish to be part of these all encompassing events nor support them. Sadly this in our opinion means we are in the same situation as the past few years, where we have two apposing groups running events, meaning too many events to support and the potential for lower attendance at each event, what a shame.

At LMP, when we first came up with this idea it was to provide you, the vintage karters, with a fun larger event with enough time between other events to make it viable for more people to attend. It would have also given us the numbers to once again provide a live band, cheese and wine, beer, nice awards etc. Frankly it should have been a win for you the karters, a win for the track and a win for the groups by potentially attracting attendees to their other events.

Unfortunately with this continued division resulting in quantity of events over quality of events, as of the time of writing, we do not see an LMP Vintage Invitational being viable in 2023. We feel it would result in the same smaller attendances as experienced the last couple of years.

We're saddened by this and ask that you the karters speak out to your respective groups. It's high time this large family of vintage karters focus on the common goal of all running together. It should be about the hobby of vintage karting and not about the politics. Unfortunately, if this continues, more and more tracks like LMP, will have no choice but to turn down these small individual vintage events leaving you, the vintage karters with fewer and fewer tracks to run.

Sincerely,

LaFayette Motorsports Park