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History Rocks

Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 11:31:51

Tags: nsa, history, car racing

Car racing at NSA..remember?

Back in the day, I can recall driving by the Parking lots at the Big Four on weekends and seeing pylons set up on the empty lot and cars lined up to "run the course". Who was that and whatever became of those events....anybody know?

2898 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 11:46:49

SCCA Solo II racing

(U) Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Solo II racing. I was told it was discontinued some time in the late 90's IIRC due to liability concerns. It's actually a very safe event since it's one car on the "track" at a time and speeds rarely exceed 60 mph and then perhaps briefly. It's all about smooth control and shifting.

(U) It's a lot of fun and I did some as a Student Naval Flight Officer in Pensacola FL in the eighties on one of the outlying fields we used for touch and goes.

2899 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 11:51:18

(U) I don't know about that, but what about....

(U) When I was pre-school / kindergarten age (circa 1964), my dad belonged to an NSA social group called the BLACKHAWKS. I think this was born from the softball and bowling teams that my dad belonged to.

(U) But in my mind's eye I seem to recall that there were ball fields in the area currently occupied by the Shell gas station and Remembrance Park. I remember there was a short, bumpy, dirt road that led from 32 to the fields.

(U) Does anyone remember that ?

(U) In my high school years I do remember going to the ball fields over the child care center. But I'm pretty sure that my earlier memories were of some other place.

2900 re 2898 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 11:51:29

Re: SCCA Solo II racing

Thanks, that clears that up. I know that the Washington MG car club does "Gymkana" on weekends up at Frederick Keys stadium outside Frederick. Been there a few times, just watching not running. thanks again.

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2901 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 11:59:26

(U) I haven't been around long enough to remember those events, but autocrossing is still around. One group holds events at FedEx Field and in Waldorf. Cal Ripken Stadium held events for a couple of years, but I think they were discontinued. I also think there are autocross events in Frederick (an old airport?)

(U) Try googling "autocross maryland". I've always wanted to try autocrossing, but it will have to wait until the car I'm building in my garage is finished. It was planned for 1 year build. It's been almost 3 years and is well over budget. Maybe I need a new project manager.

2902 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 12:28:37

(U) *Autocrossing and AJSTC*

(U) From the late 60's and forward for about 20 years, I was very active in the Baltimore Area Sports Car Council (BASCC). It was a sanctioning and rules-making body for an amalgamation of local clubs. There was a corresponding Washington organization, with a club member, the AJSTC, which I believe stood for the Annapolis Junction Sports and Touring Club. It was widely known but not officially admitted that the members worked for the DoD somewhere around Annapolis Junction. The clubs sponsored Time-Speed-Distance rallies and autocrosses. This autocross activity preceded the SCCA events. I both participated (TR4A and 356 SC) and wrote articles for a weekly Washington paper, The Stopwatcher. I have an archive at home and I can probably find some articles on events sponsored by the AJSTC. I know I have some pewter trophies tucked away with the AJSTC name and logo. Maybe we need a [REDACTED] history article?

2903 re 2899 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 13:35:10

Re: (U) *I don't know about that, but what about...*

(U) When I was stationed at Ft. Meade in 1980, I played on the the softball fields near Colony 7.

2904 re 290 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 15:37:59

Re: (U) *Autocrossing and AJSTC*

I was a member of the AJSTC in the mid-70's. It was a sanctioned club of the CWF. They used to keep a small blue trailer for their cones and timing things - they stored the trailer back behind where the baseball diamond used to be by Bldg 9805 (?) [behind the facing army & air force barracks]. Members would set there course and each one with the gumption to try it would try to get the best time. I have a lot of slides of cars and drivers from that era. The sport is called Auto-Crossing.

2905 [REDACTED] @ 2009-08-27 15:48:57

(b) (3) - P, I, 86-36

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UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~*Ahhhh Autocross*

I wasn't a member of the club but I would on occasion get to run the course in my Opel GT (poor man's Vette). They would be set up in the parking lot when I would happen to be driving by or after shift work. This was in the late 70's.

I remember someone asking if it would be ok to take pictures of the event and the security officer said it was fine as long as they didn't take pictures of the buildings (no OPS2A or 2B at the time). I guess someone didn't abide by the rules because later they came out and told people to put the camera's away.

One time this guy tried the course in his Full Size American Station wagon, now that was entertaining, those poor tires. You of course were timed in the event and you would get time penalties for hitting the cones. I'm not sure but I think he was going back in time while he was running.

After seeing a trailer'ed, race prepped MG tear up a tire when the anti-sway bar broke loose. I suddenly realized I was risking my commuter car with such antics. Reality can be such a buzz kill.

2906 [redacted] @ 2009-08-27 16:27:33

Short Cut

Reference the ball fields topic.

I believe there were a couple of fields in what is now known as the airplane lot. I also remember riding my dirt bike past the ball fields into the woods. There you would find a trail that ran along side of the Fort Meade housing areas and behind Blob's Park. It was a great "Short Cut" to Route 175 (you would pop out about where the (former) Antique store is.

In the late 80's while mountain biking along Rt. 175, I told my wife of a magical trail through the woods that would lead us all the way to Route 32. After pushing and carrying our bikes through the under brush for a while she began to doubt my story. We eventually ran into a security fence, the short cut was no more.

2907 re 2906 [redacted] a @ 2009-08-27 17:10:03

Re: SCCA Solo II racing

SCCA still does Solo I and Solo II as well as Club Racing and Autocross. Most of the Club Racing is done at Summit Point Raceway, Summit Point, WV (about 10 miles past Charlestown Races & Slots). We have a double race weekend coming up over Labor Day. Come on out and watch some great racing. SCCA also has unclass web-site at SCCA.com, link to Washington DC Region and you can see all of the events that are left for this season.

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2909 re 2899 [redacted] @ 2009-08-27 18:14:43

(U) 1970s Ball Fields

I seem to recall that there were ball fields in the area currently occupied by the Shell gas station and Remembrance Park.

(U) This picture from around 1975 shows the ball fields where National Vigilance Park and the N10 "Airplane Lot" are now. The Colony 7 Shell Station and its neighbor, Plain 'N' Fancy Doughnuts, can be seen at the bottom of the picture

2912 re 2909 [redacted] @ 2009-08-27 18:53:47

Re: (U) 1970s Ball Fields

(U) Cool, thanks for sharing !

2915 re 2909 [redacted] @ 2009-08-27 20:03:36

Re: (U) Autocrossing and AJSTC

As the proud owner of a 1986 Toyota MR2 (a tiny, wedge-shaped sports car with a big spoiler that looked like a handle to pick it up with), I joined AJSTC around 1987 and also edited their newsletter for a year or two. I found autocross to be fun, but awfully hard on tires and brakes, so eventually gave it up. I do remember people maneuvering surprisingly well around the course in sedans and station wagons (no SUVs back then).

2916 [redacted] @ 2009-08-28 10:00:44

meandering along the trails

Before the Security Fencing closed off access, I used to run those trails between the housing area and the BW Parkway -- it was more pleasant running in the woods than on the roads or golf course on a hot summer day. One trail led to a tunnel under the Parkway and in the summer when the stream was low I would cross through and run the loop on the other side.

2917 [redacted] @ 2009-08-28 20:18:06

Plain-N-Fancy Question

I don't remember the car racing, but I do remember the Plain-N-Fancy doughnuts. My Dad sometimes brought home a dozen after he finished working mids on Saturday morning. We were discussing this in my office, and no one knew for sure when the Plain-N-Fancy closed. Does anyone know?

2919 re 2918 [redacted] @ 2009-08-30 22:32:09

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UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**Re: Plain-N-Fancy Question**

I heard rumors of several health code violations then the eventual closing of the place. Just rumors nothing substantial but that place should have been a goldmine for it's proximity to the building. And this was back in the day when a donut was a healthy part of a well balanced diet.

2922 re 2919 [redacted] @ 2009-08-31 13:29:58

Re: Plain-N-Fancy Question

(U) I always thought it was strange how many places that sold edible items near the NSA campus seemed to sprout frequent rumors of health code violations. Along with Plain 'N' Fancy Doughnuts, there were frequent stories about the sandwich shop Henkel's (now closed) and the Mexican restaurant Señor D's (now Remington's).

2928 [redacted] @ 2009-09-01 11:36:37

Plain and Fancy

I remember in the late 70's, early 80's, the many folks gathered outside the donut shop in the mornings to get assigned to work part time for the El Kane Movers; they did all the furniture moving/setup inside the buildings!

2936 [redacted] @ 2009-09-01 15:23:06

Further back in time.....

You reminded me of The Parkway East Club (Before Remington's & Senor D's). Once, and only once, a coworker took me there after an eve watch. The Parkway East would be described as a gentleman's club with exotic dancers. That was an eye opening experience for a young man just out of high school. Quite a few of the young ladies were working their way through college, I never inquired to what their majors were.

2953 re 2919 [redacted] @ 2009-09-08 14:26:06

Re: Plain-N-Fancy Question

They did very steady business. Did especially well, as you might expect, after promotions, awards, etc. were given out at the Agency. Maybe a few customers stopping in off the B-W Pkwy but ... mostly Agency employees.

2957 re 295 [redacted] @ 2009-09-09 14:56:22

Re: Plain-N-Fancy Question

Yes, lots of businesses depended heavily/mostly on NSA. I loved Henkels, and was sad when it closed. In fact, the 602 is still open, isn't it? I've never been there, of course.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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3019 re 2922 [REDACTED] @ 2009-09-14 15:38:00

Re: Plain-N-Fancy Question

I don't know about the donut shop or Henkel's, but a boyfriend tried to take me on a date to Senior D's/Remington's in the early 80's, and after going inside I asked to leave because the place really didn't look all that clean...I didn't want to eat there. Also, the crowd there looked pretty rough (bikers, mostly). I was all of 22 at the time and had never been in a "dive" before.

3073 re 290 [REDACTED] @ 2009-09-21 16:12:03

Re: (U) Autocrossing and AJSTC

I participated both in the AJSTC autocrosses and in the time-speed-distance rallies. For those rallies, some members had built "computers" into their cars, with which they could set up each stage of the rally (it was thumbwheels and toggle switches then, and a feed from the speedometer cable). That would have been in the early 70's. We had those autocrosses in several of the Agency parking lots. Also at a shopping center on Route 40 near Rolling Road.

3074 re 290 [REDACTED] @ 2009-09-21 16:16:30

Re: (U) 1970s Ball Fields

There was also a ball field near where the Child Care center was built. That one was popular because there was shade for the spectators and the "dugouts"

4415 re 290 [REDACTED] @ 2010-06-09 11:53:29

UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~*Re: SCCA Solo II racing*

I provided photos for the Stopwatcher in the mid 70s-mid 80s

Autocrosses in the 70s were held at GEM & Montgomery Wards Rt 40, AAI, Columbia Mall, State Fair parking lot, Laurel Race track, PG Plaza, Montgomery Mall here

Remember the AJ events held around 4th of July. To this day those events area were the only autocrosses that provide ET and splits. So one could compare your times/splits to your competitors.

What ever happened to [REDACTED] was a AJ lead Datsun 1200. She also provided content for the Stopwatcher

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WDC SCCA autocrosses presently events attract up to 260 entrants. Usually held on Fedex Field. Just secured event sponsorship from Apple Ford!

Anyone remember the Baltimore Halloween Car rallies?

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