



## MEDIA INFORMATION

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sonoma Raceway History .....	2
Sonoma Raceway Historical Highlights .....	16
Sonoma Raceway Wall of Fame .....	19
Sonoma Raceway Fun Facts .....	21
Speedway Motorsports Executive Bios .....	22
Speedway Children's Charities.....	24



## SONOMA RACEWAY HISTORY

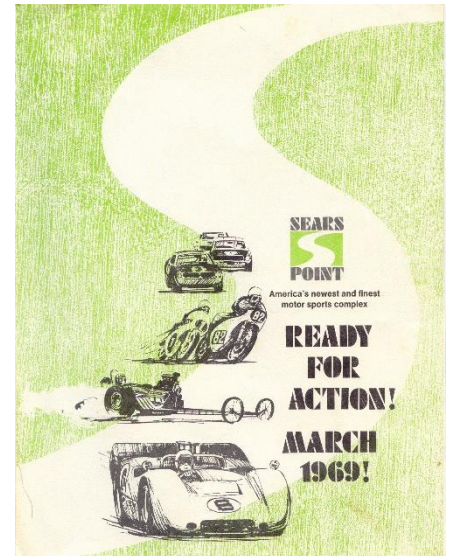
***In 1968, a twisting 12-turn, 2.52-mile road course and a quarter-mile drag strip were carved into the rolling hills at the gateway to the Sonoma Wine Country. Since then, race fans have been treated to some of the greatest racing found anywhere in the world.***

***Whether it's amateur or professional SCCA road races, AMA and AFM motorcycle racing, sports car events, vintage cars or the raw power of NASCAR, INDYCAR and NHRA drag races, Sonoma Raceway has played host to some of racing's top events and its greatest moments.***

***Racing stars such as Mario Andretti, Dale Earnhardt, Jeff Gordon, Al Unser, Dan Gurney, Kenny Roberts, Shirley Muldowney, Don "The Snake" Prudhomme and John Force have all left their indelible marks at this unique and historic facility.***

***It is arguably the world's busiest racing facility, with track activity scheduled an average of 340 days a year. It is one of North America's most complete and versatile motorsports complexes and home to one of the nation's only high-performance automotive industrial parks with approximately 70 tenants.***

**1968:** The 2.52-mile road racing course and quarter-mile drag strip were constructed on 720 acres by Marin County owners Robert Marshall Jr., an attorney from Point Reyes, and land developer Jim Coleman of Kentfield. Ground was broken in August and paving of the race surface was completed in November. The first official event at Sears Point Raceway was an SCCA Enduro, held on Dec. 1, 1968.



**1969:** The track was sold to Filmways Corp., a Los Angeles-based entertainment company, for \$4.5 million. From 1969 through early 1970, Sears Point Raceway hosted a variety of events, including USAC IndyCar races, NASCAR stock car races, SCCA races and drag races.

**1970:** Dan Gurney won a 150-mile USAC IndyCar road race with a field that included Mario Andretti, Mark Donahue and Al Unser. Not long after, the track closed in May and became a tax shelter for Filmways after losses of \$300,000 were reported.

**1973:** Hugh Harm of Belvedere and Parker Archer of Napa arranged to lease the track through Filmways vice president Lee Moselle for \$1 million. Bob Bondurant, owner and operator of the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, announced that he would move his school from Ontario Speedway in Southern California to Sears Point Raceway.



## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**1974:** Bob Bondurant and partner Bill Benck took over management and control of the leased raceway from Archer and Harn. American Motorcycle Association national motocross races in the hills north of Turn 7 became popular with Bay Area fans, but were phased out by the end of the decade because of rising insurance costs.

**1975:** Moselle, a lawyer with no racing experience, came aboard and hired Jack Williams, the 1964 NHRA top-fuel drag racing champion, to be his operations chief, and Art Glatke to handle public relations. Moselle was under orders from Filmways to clear spectator restrictions with the county of Sonoma and to build a major-event schedule.

A group calling itself Black Mountain Inc., which included Bob Bondurant, William J. Kolb of Del Mar and Howard Meister of Newport Beach, purchased the track from Filmways for a reported \$1.5 million. Two months later, in May, Kenny Roberts did wheelies on the final two laps while he waved to a crowd of 20,000 for a runaway victory in the AMA-Sonoma Motorcycle Classic.

**1980:** The Black Mountain Group took on an additional partner – the Long Beach Grand Prix Association – in hopes of improving marketing and public relations.

**1981:** The Long Beach Grand Prix, headed by Chris Pook, decided to rename the track Golden State International Raceway. The Black Mountain group obtained an injunction to keep Filmways from claiming the property after defaulting on payments. Black Mountain claimed Filmways gave false financial projections when it sold the property in 1979. Bondurant resigned as president of Golden State Raceway in a dispute with Pook over the Long Beach Grand Prix's management plan. Filmways regained ownership of the track and Williams, Rick Betts and John Andersen purchased the track from Filmways at an auction for \$800,000.

**1985:** The track was completely repaved, in part with funds donated from the "Pave the Point" fund-raising campaign. The first shop spaces, Buildings A, B, C, and D in the main paddock area, were also built.

**1986:** Harvey "Skip" Berg, president of a real estate acquisition and management firm headquartered in Seattle, took control of the track and became a major stockholder in Brenda Raceway Corp. Berg named Darwin Doll, vice president and general manager of Michigan International Speedway, new track president.

**1987:** The raceway signed a five-year contract with the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) for the California Nationals. The first event was held in the summer of 1988. Additional buildings constructed on the property brought shop space to more than 700,000 square feet.



## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)



**1988:** Berg hired Glen Long, an IBM executive, to be the track's new president. Mike Yurick was named general manager. The NHRA nationals were a resounding success, with an estimated 32,000 spectators on hand to watch Joe Amato edge Dick LaHaie in victory by one-hundredths-of-a-second margin.

**1989:** The raceway entered the national racing scene when NASCAR debuted at the track, with Ricky Rudd taking the inaugural victory.

**1991:** The Skip Barber Racing School replaced the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving. The NASCAR race drew 70,000 spectators in its second year at the track. The 15-year association with International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) GTP series was suspended. Steve Page, a marketing executive with the Oakland A's, succeeded Long as track president.



**1992:** Save Mart Supermarkets becomes title sponsor of the annual NASCAR Cup Series event.

**1994:** More than \$1 million was spent on a beautification project and construction of a 62-foot-high, four-sided electronic lap leader board in the center of the road course. A medical facility and an 18-nozzle gasoline filling station were also constructed.

**1995:** A \$3 million renovation plan was kicked off that included tower VIP suites and a two-story drivers' lounge/emergency medical facility. Trans-Am and IMSA races returned to the raceway, and the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series was added to the major-event schedule.

**1996:** The Russell Racing School signed a 10-year contract with Sears Point Raceway to headquarter its world-renowned driving school in Sonoma. Sears Point Raceway owner Skip Berg sold the rights to operate the track to O. Bruton Smith, chairman of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. in November of 1996 with an option to buy within three years.

**1998:** "The Chute," a new high-speed straightaway that connects existing Turns 4 and 7 was officially opened during a press conference on May 5. The re-design of the road course shortened the circuit from 2.52 miles to 1.949 and increased the race distance from 300 to 350 kilometers. Laps for the Save Mart/Kragen 350 were increased by 50 percent, from 74 to 112. The re-designed course will be used strictly for NASCAR events. "The Chute" spans 890 feet and has a banking of 2.8 degrees. Speedway Motorsports Inc. purchased the real property, including 800 acres of land and permanent structures.



## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**1999:** Sears Point Raceway introduced a new event to the schedule with the American Le Mans Series, which debuted July 23-25. This marked the return of sports car racing to the road course.

The Chute received a modification as the exit went from a sweeping turn to a hard-braking 90-degree right-hand turn. The modified circuit will be used for all NASCAR-sanctioned events. The NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race took a hiatus so that the raceway could begin work on its modernization project much sooner.

**2000:** The raceway received approval for a \$90 million Modernization Plan. The project, which began after the 2000 season, transformed the facility into the premier road-racing venue in the country. Included in the plan were hillside terrace seats, garages for competitors, wider roads for better internal traffic circulation, more permanent restrooms and numerous other fan amenities.

**2001:** The \$90 million Modernization Plan kicked off. The official groundbreaking ceremonies took place in September 2000, and more than 5,000,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved. The two-phase plan was completed by the 2002 season and gave fans a state-of-the-art facility that provides all of the amenities seen at modern sports venues. Improvements completed thus far included the construction of hillside terrace seats above Turns 2-4, 40 garages for competitors, dramatically expanded entrance and access roads to reduce traffic congestion into and around the raceway, and increased run-off on the road course at turns 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 6 and 7. Drivers encountered a modified segment of track at the Chute, which connects Turns 4 and 7 on the road course. The modification was designed to provide a passing zone at Turn 7, and possibly another at the new Turn 4a. The modification lengthened the NASCAR course from 1.949 miles to 1.99 miles.

**2002:** The raceway took the wraps off its \$90 million Modernization Plan after completing phase two of the project. Phase two enhancements included a new permanent grandstand at start/finish, underground pedestrian tunnels, enlargement of pit road to accommodate a 43-car field, new system of shuttle roads and the separation of the road course from the drag strip. The renovated drag strip features a 660-foot concrete launch-pad. The raceway's Karting Center was also opened in March, featuring a three-quarter mile, 16-turn course. The Karting Center is run by the Jim Russell Racing Schools. Raceway officials announced during the NASCAR Cup weekend that the facility has been renamed Infineon Raceway. It is part of a 10-year strategic partnership with Infineon Technologies, which is based in Munich (Germany) with North American headquarters in Silicon Valley. The company specializes in semiconductor manufacturing.



## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2003:** Improvements continued as the final portions of the road course were repaved (Turns 1-3, 6-8 and 11). Turns 4-5, 9-10, 12 and the Chute were repaved prior to the 2003 season. Additional runoff was also created at Turns 1 and 6, and the bridge at Turn 1 was replaced, while the Turn 6 bridge was removed permanently. There is now more than 120 feet of runoff at Turn

1, and 80 feet of runoff at Turn 6. Construction began on four additional competitor garages, bringing the total to 44, as well as a new medical center. On track, Robby Gordon captured his first-ever road-course victory in NASCAR, while track speed and elapsed-time records were broken in all four professional categories at the FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals. AMA riders encountered a modified 12-turn, 2.22-mile circuit for their event in May, complete with redesigned portions at Turns 1 and 9. Both changes were made to increase rider safety; the redesigned circuit was used strictly for the AMA event. The raceway generated a record amount of \$330,426 for Speedway Children's Charities.

**2004:** The IndyCar® Series was added to the schedule, beginning with 2005 season. The official announcement was made in August with the IRL's Ken Ungar and drivers Tony Kanaan and Townsend Bell. This marked the first road-course race at a permanent facility in the 10-year history of the IRL. It also marked the first world-class open-wheel race at the raceway since 1970 (Dan Gurney won that event)... NASCAR's Jeff Gordon continued his winning ways, taking his fourth Sonoma victory in the Dodge/Save Mart 350... The quarter-mile drag strip also had fireworks as track records were shattered at the FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals. The event also featured the fastest pass by a Pro Stock Motorcycle in history, as well as the fastest-ever Pro Stock Motorcycle field... A new event appeared on the schedule with the California Outdoor Sports Championships, a cycling event that included many different disciplines, including road racing, mountain cross, slalom racing and more... The Sonoma Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$458,000.



the  
at  
in

**2005:** History was made as the raceway hosted its first major open-wheel race since 1970 (35 years) with the Argent Mortgage Indy Grand Prix. It was also the first event on a permanent road course in the 10-year history of the IRL. Tony Kanaan (Andretti Green Racing) took the win in the 80-lap feature over the 12-turn, 2.26-mile road course on Aug. 28... Tony Stewart took the checkers in the Dodge/Save Mart 350 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup event; it was his second career victory in Sonoma, the other coming in 2001. Jeff Gordon reset the track qualifying record at 94.325 mph... Seven of eight track records were shattered at the FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals, and Andrew Hines set the world record for elapsed time (6.968 seconds) for Pro Stock Motorcycle. Winners at the event were Doug Kalitta (Top Fuel), Gary Scelzi (Funny Car), Greg Anderson (Pro Stock) and Hines (Pro Stock motorcycle)... The raceway unveiled its Wall of Fame during NASCAR weekend, and inducted Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin. Pro Stock driver Warren Johnson was inducted during the NHRA event.... Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$546,606, the highest one-year total for the Sonoma chapter. Bringing the total for the last three years to \$1.3 million.

## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)



**2006:** Jeff Gordon continued his dominance of the Sonoma Valley road course with his fifth victory during June's NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series event. Gordon also claimed his fifth pole position – the most of any driver in Sonoma.... Marco Andretti became the youngest driver in history (19 years old) to win an open-wheel event when he claimed the IndyCar Series victory during the series' second visit to Sonoma. Andretti celebrated with his father, Michael, and grandfather, Mario, in the Wine Country Winner's Circle with a sip of sparkling cider....



Six of eight professional records were reset on the drag strip during the FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals, and two new riders (Antron Brown and Tom Bradford) raced their way into the Mickey Thompson Six-Second Pro Stock Bike Club. Winners at the event were JR Todd (Top Fuel), Eric Medlen (Funny Car), Jason Line (Pro Stock) and Chip Ellis (Pro Stock Motorcycle).... The raceway inducted five new members into the Wall of Fame: Miguel Duhamel and Rich Oliver (AMA); O. Bruton Smith and Jeff Gordon (NASCAR); and John Force (NHRA).... Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$501,497 to 55 qualified youth organizations in Sonoma County. The Sonoma chapter has distributed more than \$2.1 million since 2002 to Sonoma County youth groups.... The raceway sold the Jim Russell Racing Schools to Emotive Group, a London-based automotive marketing group.... In recognition of its business model and philanthropic efforts in the community, Infineon Raceway was named the 2006 "Business of the Year" by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**2007:** Juan Pablo Montoya made history when he became just the third foreign-born driver to win a NASCAR Cup event. Montoya qualified 32<sup>nd</sup> for the Toyota/Save Mart 350, resetting the track record for biggest winning improvement from qualifying. The event also marked the debut of the Car of Tomorrow on a road course. Race favorite Jeff Gordon and teammate Jimmie Johnson did not pass pre-race inspection on Friday of the event, and were forced to start from the back of the field.... On the drag strip, John Force (Funny Car) claimed his seventh Sonoma victory, dedicating his win to the late Eric Medlen. Tony Schumacher (Top Fuel), Greg Anderson (Pro Stock) and Matt Smith (Pro Stock Motorcycle) also claimed victories.... Scott Dixon continued his mastery of road course races in the IndyCar® Series with a victory in Sonoma. It was a frustrating day for Andretti Green Racing, when Dario Franchitti suffered damage to the front of his car after an incident with teammate Marco Andretti on lap 69. Andretti was leaving the pits and heading up to Turn 2 when the two cars touched. The damage enabled Dixon to make the pass on Franchitti on lap 72.... The raceway hosted the fourth and final Cougar Mountain Classic mountain biking and road cycling event.... The Sonoma Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$524,050 to 67 Sonoma County youth organizations. The organization has distributed more than \$2.6 million since 2002.... Mat Mladin (AMA), Ricky Rudd (NASCAR), Bob Piccinini (Save Mart Supermarkets), Gary Scelzi (NHRA) and Joe W. Huffaker (Huffaker Engineering) were inducted into the Wall of Fame.

## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2008:** Kyle Busch notched his first NASCAR Cup Series road-course victory when he took the checkered flag in the Toyota/Save Mart 350. The victory also marked Toyota's first win in the Sonoma Valley. The 110-lap race was lengthened by two laps for a green-white-checkered finish after a late-race red-flag incident on lap 109.... Tony Schumacher became just the sixth driver in NHRA history to sweep the West Coast Swing with his second consecutive Top Fuel victory in Sonoma. Other winners at the NHRA FRAM Autolite Nationals included Robert Hight (Funny Car), Dave Connolly (Pro Stock) and Sacramento native Matt Guidera (Pro Stock Motorcycle). Hight's win marked the third consecutive Sonoma victory for John Force Racing, which was kicked off by the late Eric Medlen in 2006.... Helio Castroneves ended a 30-race winless streak to claim his first Sonoma win at the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma County.... The Sonoma Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$417,936 to 57 Sonoma County youth organizations for the 2008 a season, marking the fourth consecutive year the Sonoma chapter has topped the \$400,000 mark. The Sonoma Chapter has distributed more than \$3 million since 2002.... The raceway also continued its recycling efforts by collecting more than 17 tons of materials during the racing season. More than 73 tons (147,524 pounds) of recyclable materials have been collected since the inception of the program in 2004.... Ken Clapp (NASCAR) and Doug Kalitta (NHRA) were inducted into the Wall of Fame.



**2009:** For the second consecutive year, a NASCAR driver earned his first Cup Series road-course victory, as Kasey Kahne took the checkers at the Toyota/Save Mart 350. It was the first win for owner Richard Petty since 1999. The race featured a dramatic green-white-checkered finish, as NASCAR introduced double-file restarts for the first time on the twisting circuit.... Top Fuel driver Antron Brown became just the seventh driver to sweep the West Coast Swing, earning his first Sonoma victory, alongside Tim Wilkerson (Funny Car), Jason Line (Pro Stock) and Andrew Hines (Pro Stock Motorcycle).... Dario Franchitti became the fifth different winner in five IndyCar Series events in Sonoma, leading from flag to flag. Sausalito native JR Hildebrand claimed the win in Indy Lights after starting from the pole.... The raceway continued its Go Green campaign efforts, adding more than 3,000 sheep to naturally maintain the grasses around the facility... The Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$280,879 to 43 qualified youth organizations in Sonoma County, bringing the total to more than \$3.3 million distributed since 2002.





## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2010:** For the third consecutive year, a NASCAR driver earned his first Cup Series road-course victory, as Jimmie Johnson took the checkers at the Toyota/Save Mart 350. It marked his first win on a road course in 17 attempts. Rick Hendrick, the most successful team owner in NASCAR history in Sonoma with six Cup victories, was inducted into the Wall of Fame...Will Power completed a dream weekend at the Indy® Grand Prix of Sonoma. It had been exactly one year since Power



suffered a broken back in a season-ending crash in Sonoma, but the Team Penske driver got his redemption as he took the checkers after starting from the pole. Power also received the inaugural Mario Andretti Road Championship trophy from the racing legend himself during post-race celebrations in the Wine Country Winner's Circle...Funny Car driver Ron Capps ended a one-year winless streak with his victory at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals. The other winners were Larry Dixon (Top Fuel), Jeg Coughlin (Pro Stock) and Michael Phillips (Pro Stock Motorcycle)... Elena Myers, a teenager from Discovery Bay, made history at the West Coast Moto Jam becoming the first female in history to win an AMA Pro Road Race after taking the checkers in the SuperSport class. Yamaha's Josh Hayes took back-to-back wins in American SuperBike...The Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$225,983 to 34 qualified youth organizations in Sonoma County, bringing the total to more than \$3.7 million distributed since 2001...The raceway recycled more than 67 tons of material during its major event weekends.

**2011:** Kurt Busch became the seventh different Toyota/Save Mart 350 race winner in as many years and the fourth consecutive driver to earn his first NASCAR Cup Series road-course win. Busch's last win in Sonoma came in 1999 when he took home the checkers in the West Series race. NASCAR Cup Series regular Joey Logano took home the win in the NASCAR Pro Series West race...NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series Funny Car driver Ron Capps won for the second straight year. Greg Anderson became the all-time winningest Pro Stock racer in Sonoma with his fourth-career victory. Other winners included Antron Brown (Top Fuel) and LE Tonglet (Pro Stock Motorcycle). Six track records were broken over race weekend. NHRA legend Don Prudhomme was inducted into the raceway's Wall of Fame...Team Penske's Will Power made it two-in-a-row in Sonoma winning the Indy® Grand Prix of Sonoma. Team Penske swept the top three spots, with Helio Castroneves second and Ryan Briscoe third...The West Coast Moto Jam featured Yamaha's Josh Hayes taking his third consecutive win in the SuperBike class on Saturday with Suzuki's Tommy Hayden dethroning him on Sunday with his first-ever SuperBike win in Sonoma...The Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$273,072 to 38 qualified youth organizations in Sonoma County bringing the total to more than \$4 million distributed since 2001...The raceway launched its Accelerating Sustainable Performance program, which featured a summit of sustainable business leaders at the raceway in August...The raceway announced the addition of the FIA World Touring Car Championship to its major-event schedule.

## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2012:** Clint Bowyer notched his first NASCAR Cup Series road-course victory, becoming the eighth different Toyota/Save Mart 350 winner in as many years. It also marked the first win for Michael Waltrip Racing in Sonoma and reset the 10-year old record for fastest race winner at 83.624 mph. NASCAR Cup Series regular David Gilliland took the checkers in Saturday's NASCAR Pro Series West event... Sonoma Raceway welcomed a new series as the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) made its United States debut. Chevrolet teammates Yvan Muller and Rob Huff recorded victories in the first-ever FIA WTCC events in Sonoma. Muller posted the victory in the first 13-lap Cup race, while Huff took the lead on lap nine of Race 2 when Muller was issued a penalty on a restart... Antron Brown posted his second consecutive Top Fuel victory in Sonoma at the 25th NHRA Sonoma Nationals. Other winners included Johnny Gray (Funny Car), Allen Johnson (Pro Stock) and Eddie Krawiec (Pro Stock Motorcycle). All eight track records were reset in 2012... Ryan Briscoe had finished second, third and fourth at Sonoma in the past four years, but held on to nab his first-ever Sonoma win in 2012. Briscoe, who started next to Team Penske teammate and pole sitter Will Power, held off Power on a pair of late restarts to win by 0.4408 of a second for his first victory since Texas in 2010. Target Chip Ganassi's Dario Franchitti finished third... In AMA Pro Road Racing action, Josh Hayes (Yamaha) and Blake Young (Suzuki) split the victories on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. The raceway later announced that the AMA would not return in 2013... The Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities distributed \$269,680 to 38 qualified Sonoma County youth organizations... The raceway hosted its 2nd annual Accelerating Sustainable Performance Summit, highlighted by the unveiling of a Sustainable Performance Ranking Metric that should aid consumers when purchasing a new vehicle. The metric, a collaboration between the raceway and Dominican University of California's Green MBA Program, boasts a new rating system for vehicles that combines factors associated with both sustainability AND performance.

**2013:** Martin Truex Jr. became the ninth different Toyota/Save Mart 350 winner in as many years and posted the second consecutive Sonoma victory for Michael Waltrip Racing. Race day also featured the debut of the NASCAR Express train from Sacramento, which transported 500 fans to the raceway. Lakeport's Derek Thorn claimed his first Sonoma Raceway win in Saturday's NASCAR Pro Series West event. During the NASCAR weekend, the raceway announced the renaming of the media center in honor of long-time raceway representative John Cardinale, who was also inducted into the raceway's Wall of Fame... Will Power continued Team Penske's INDYCAR domination in Sonoma, posting his third win in four years in wine country, and the fourth consecutive for the team... Ron Capps took his fourth Sonoma Funny Car victory in 2013; he dedicated the win to Cardinale. The other professional classes featured three first-time Sonoma winners: Shawn Langdon (Top Fuel), Vincent Nobile (Pro Stock) and Hector Arana Jr. (Pro Stock Motorcycle)... Tom Chilton (Chevrolet) and Gabriele Tarquini (Honda) took the checkers in the FIA WTCC double-header main events. The weekend was a success for Chilton, who posted his first WTCC pole and victory... The Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC) distributed \$234,670 to 45 qualified youth organizations in Sonoma County bringing the total to more than \$4.5 million distributed since 2001.

## **RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)**

**2014:** Carl Edwards nabbed his first-ever road course victory at the Toyota/Save Mart 350. Edwards' first road-course triumph extended the streak of consecutive different winners at the 1.99-mile road course to 10. Edwards' victory was the first at Sonoma for a Ford driver since

Ricky Rudd took the checkered flag in 2002. Jeff Gordon finished second, .591 seconds behind Edwards. NASCAR Cup Series rising star and Elk Grove native, Kyle Larson, took the checkers in the NASCAR Pro Series West race, the Carneros 200...Target Chip Ganassi's Scott Dixon overtook race leader Mike Conway on Lap 83 of 85 en route to a dramatic victory at the GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma Verizon IndyCar Series race. The win was Dixon's second in Sonoma (2007)... Courtney Force beat father John in the final to become the winningest female in Funny Car history at the NHRA Sonoma Nationals. With the win, Force broke a tie with sister Ashley Force Hood for the most all-time wins by a female in Funny Car. Khalid alBalooshi (Top Fuel), Jason Line (Pro Stock), and Eddie Krawiec (Pro Stock Motorcycle) also were winners... The Sonoma Chapter of SCC raised \$294,158 to help children in need through 12 fundraising events in 2014, an increase of more than \$58,000 from the prior year. Forty-eight Sonoma County non-profits received grants totaling more than \$266,846 from the Sonoma chapter, which has distributed \$4.8 million to Sonoma County youth groups since 2001.

**2015:** Kyle Busch's victory at the Toyota/Save Mart 350 signaled the beginning of an historic career comeback. Busch clinched his second Sonoma victory after an 11-race absence and went on to capture his first NASCAR Cup Series title. Jeff Gordon's retirement tour hit close to home as his hometown community rallied together to bid farewell to the Vallejo native's professional driving career... Funny Car driver Jack Beckman electrified the drag strip at the NHRA Sonoma Nationals with an elapsed time of 3.921 seconds – a new national record. He went on to claim his first victory in Sonoma alongside Antron Brown (Top Fuel), Chris McGaha (Pro Stock), and Eddie Krawiec (Pro Stock Motorcycle). NHRA Funny Car driver Ron Capps was inducted into the Sonoma Raceway Wall of Fame...The Verizon IndyCar Series made a grand entrance to Northern California by taking a detour across the Golden Gate Bridge. For the first time in series



history, the Verizon IndyCar Series Champion was decided on a road course. Scott Dixon overcame a 47-point deficit to take both the GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma and series title. Roger Penske, one of the most renowned figures in auto racing, was inducted into the Sonoma Raceway Wall of Fame... The Sonoma Chapter of SCC raised \$387,268 through 13 fundraising events in 2015, an increase of more than \$130,000 from the prior year. Fifty-five Sonoma County non-profits received grants totaling nearly \$380,000 from the Sonoma chapter, which has distributed more than \$5.1 million to Sonoma County youth groups since 2001.

## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2016:** Tony Stewart's last-lap pass of Denny Hamlin in the Turn 11 hairpin at the 2016 Toyota/Save Mart 350 will go down as one of the most epic finishes in the history of the challenging road course. Stewart's memorable victory snapped an 84-race losing skid and would ultimately be the final victory of his remarkable 16-year Cup Series career.... Save Mart Supermarkets and Sonoma Raceway celebrated 25 years of partnership at the annual NASCAR event. Tony Stewart and Ernie Irvan became the newest members of the raceway's Wall of



Fame...John Force raced to his eighth Sonoma victory and 145<sup>th</sup> career Funny Car win in front of a sold-out crowd at the Toyota NHRA Sonoma Nationals. J.R. Todd (Top Fuel), Greg Anderson (Pro Stock) and LE Tonglet (Pro Stock Motorcycle) were also winners... With a dominating drive from the pole position, Simon Pagenaud won the GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma and earned his first Verizon IndyCar Series championship. It secured Team Penske's 14th IndyCar championship in its 50th year of operation....Fifty-five Sonoma County non-profit organizations benefitted from nearly \$375,000 in grants that were awarded by the Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC), the charitable arm of Sonoma Raceway. In total, \$374,670 was distributed, bringing the chapter's total to more than \$5.5 million since 2001... To improve the fan experience, the raceway installed an 85-foot tall, four-sided LED scoring tower above Turn 1 as well as an 84 x 12-foot Panasonic LED video board on the front of the Drag Tower building.



Photo by: Mike Finnegan

## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2017:** Kevin Harvick nabbed his first Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series win in Sonoma and his first win in a Ford. Harvick also became the first driver ever to win both the Saturday NASCAR West Series race and Sunday Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race in the same weekend. To honor his final NASCAR Cup Series start in Sonoma, the raceway presented Dale Earnhardt Jr. with a unique gift to Paws as Loving Support (PALS) Assistance Dogs. The raceway sponsored three Labrador Retriever puppies that will be raised and trained to help children with disabilities at home and in the community. The raceway also debuted its newest fan amenity, the RevZone at Turn 7, featuring more than 200-feet of stand up bars... Sonoma's drag strip continued to post some of the quickest and fastest runs on the NHRA circuit, including Funny Car driver Robert Hight's national speed record of 339.87 mph: Five track records were set in 2017: J.R. Todd secured his first career Funny Car victory, making him the first African-American to win in the NHRA Funny Car category and the second driver in NHRA history to win at Sonoma Raceway in both nitro categories: At the GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma, Team Penske swept the podium as Simon Pagenaud won his second consecutive Grand Prix of Sonoma, while teammate Josef Newgarden finished second to wrap up the championship, becoming the first American champion in the series 2012.... Professional Superbike racing returned to Sonoma Raceway for the first time since 2012 with the MotoAmerica AMA/FIM North American Road Race Championship... Sonoma Raceway opened its 50 Acres campground to evacuees seeking temporary refuge from the Northern California fires in October.... Fifty-three Sonoma County non-profit organizations benefited from \$405,000 in grants awarded by the Sonoma chapter of (SCC), bringing the chapter's total distribution of funds to just over \$6 million since 2001.



Photo by: Mike Doran

## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)

**2018:** Using a strategic pit bluff, defending NASCAR Cup Series champion Martin Truex Jr. nabbed his second Sonoma victory at the Toyota/Save Mart 350 in his last year with Furniture Row Racing. In recognition of the devastating wild fires that ravaged the North Bay in October 2017, Sonoma Raceway utilized its largest event weekend to support the theme "Sonoma Rising," an initiative to honor those affected by the disaster, salute first responders and lend support to the North Bay's ongoing rebuilding efforts. ....California natives Blake Alexander (Top Fuel) and Robert Hight (Funny Car) brought home victories in front of a sellout crowd at the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Toyota NHRA Sonoma Nationals. Jeg Coughlin Jr. (Pro Stock) and LE Tonglet (Pro Stock Motorcycle) were also winners at the 15th of 24 events on the 2018 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series schedule. Long-time Drag Racing Manager Georgia Seipel was inducted into the Wall of Fame during pre-race ceremonies. ...For the fourth consecutive year, the Verizon IndyCar® Series hosted its season finale on the Sonoma Raceway road course. The weekend marked the last INDYCAR event in Sonoma for the foreseeable future. Andretti Autosport's Ryan Hunter-Reay led 80 of 85 laps to win the season finale from the pole position. Chip Ganassi Racing's Scott Dixon started second and finished there, which was more than enough to secure the season crown....Fifty-five Sonoma County non-profit organizations received \$448,000 in grants from the Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC) bringing the chapter's total distribution of funds to over \$6.4 million since 2001. The amount raised and included \$60,000 that was donated directly to the Wildfire Relief Fund, which was the result of donations following the October 2017 wildfires.... Sonoma Raceway President and General Manager Steve Page was selected as one of three finalists for the 2018 Comcast Community Champion of the Year Award, an annual award created to recognize the philanthropic efforts of individuals within the NASCAR industry. ...The Sports Car Club of America® (SCCA®) held its National Championship Runoffs® for the first time at Sonoma Raceway, Oct. 19-21 as more than 500 racers from across the United States and Canada converged on the circuit to decide National Champions across 28 car classes....Shell welcomed more than 1,000 students from 99 high schools and universities across North and South America to Make the Future California featuring Shell Eco-marathon Americas at Sonoma Raceway. Make the Future California provides a platform for innovation, collaboration and conversation around the world's energy challenges.



## RACEWAY HISTORY (cont.)



**2019:** Sonoma Raceway celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2019 race season, featuring legends and vintage car displays at the NASCAR and NHRA race weekends, as well as the release of a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. Martin Truex Jr. held off Kyle Busch, his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, to win his third NASCAR Cup Series event at Sonoma Raceway. The race utilized the 2.52-mile road course, including the Carousel, for the first time since 1997. Sonoma Raceway added legendary NASCAR team owner



Joe Gibbs and one of the raceway's founders, Robert Marshall, to its Wall of Fame during the Toyota/Save Mart 350 weekend. The raceway also introduced the newest fan area called "The Point" in the peninsula overlooking the Carousel, which included a 1,550-square-foot Humboldt Redwood shade structure and more than 700 feet of stand-up bars along the fence line. In addition, FOX analyst and NASCAR legend Darrell Waltrip gave his final "Boogity, Boogity, Boogity" during the Toyota/Save Mart 350 broadcast... Robert Hight finished off a standout weekend by racing to his 50th career Funny Car win at the NHRA Sonoma Nationals. Billy Torrence (Top Fuel), Greg Anderson (Pro Stock) and Andrew Hines (Pro Stock Motorcycle) were also winners in their respective categories... Fifty-four Sonoma County non-profit organizations benefited from nearly \$378,000 in grants awarded by the Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, bringing the chapter's total distribution of funds to nearly \$6.8 million since 2001... The Sonoma Speed Festival announced its first-ever event from May 30-June 2, 2019 at Sonoma Raceway and the Blancpain GT World Challenge America Series also joined the 2019 major events schedule.

**2020:** On Jan. 1, Sonoma Raceway officially acquired the onsite racing school, rebranding it the Sears Point Racing Experience. The event season kicked off with the 9th annual John's March Against Stomach Cancer generating \$12,430 for No Stomach for Cancer. In March, racing operations were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR Cup Series race weekend originally scheduled for June 12-14, 2020 was transferred to Charlotte Motor Speedway and run on May 27, marking the first time the NASCAR event in Sonoma has been cancelled or rescheduled. The NHRA Sonoma Nationals NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series event was also cancelled. Competitor-only racing resumed in June, including the NHRA Division 7 Drag Races, presented by Korb, in July and the GT World Challenge America race weekend in August. On July 28, long-time raceway executive Jere Starks, who oversaw the physical transformation of the raceway into one of the nation's premier motorsports venues, was inducted into the Sonoma Raceway Wall of Fame... The Sonoma Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities raised a total of \$183,000 through Laps for Charity, CSRG Charity Challenge, NHRA Tour de Charity and the first-ever Transcendence Theater Company holiday drive-in, among other events. Due to ongoing uncertainties around the pandemic and live events, the Sonoma chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC) suspended its 2020 grant application cycle. ... After nearly 30 years at the helm of Northern California's premier motorsports venue, President and General Manager Steve Page retired at the end of 2020.

**2022:** Introduced in 2022, Turn 11 at Sonoma Raceway became an extraordinary 19,000 sq. ft. hospitality destination. The perfect blend of racing pedigree, market location and amenities, Turn 11 at Sonoma Raceway offers three flexible indoor/outdoor room concepts, making it ideal for enviable viewing experiences during major race weekends, bespoke private events, corporate off-sites and product innovation showcases for up to 1,500 guests.

Designed by Perkins Eastman's Charlotte, North Carolina studio and built by Tilton Pacific Construction of Rocklin, California, the Turn 11 facility incorporates extensive use of Humboldt Sawmill redwood tongue and groove pattern stock on the exterior eaves and interior paneling. The redwood pattern stock also wraps large steel beams spanning the interior ceilings. The front entrance barn doors and additional pergolas on the front lawn complete the use of Humboldt Sawmill redwood on the Turn 11 project. When it's time for more formal brainstorming and presentations, the conference spaces provide the latest audio-visual capabilities along with a sense of relaxed luxury.

## SONOMA RACEWAY HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

*In 1968, a twisting 12-turn, 2.52-mile road course and a quarter-mile drag strip were carved into the rolling hills at the gateway to the Sonoma Wine Country. Over the last 50 years, Sonoma Raceway has hosted an incredible number of events and memorable moments. Here are a few of the raceway's highlights:*

### **1960-1969**

**August 14, 1968:** Ground is broken for the new facility and paving of the race surface is completed in November.

**December 1, 1968:** First non-spectator shakedown event at Sears Point Raceway, a Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Enduro.

**March 8-9, 1969:** The San Francisco National Open marks the first NHRA-sanctioned drag race in Sonoma.

**March 29-30, 1969:** National Championship points event under SCCA sanction marks first road-course spectator event.

**June 8, 1969:** Sears Point Raceway hosts its first NASCAR Pacific Coast Late Model Division race. The race was won by Ray Elder in his 1969 Dodge.

**1969:** The track is sold to Filmways Corp., a Los Angeles-based entertainment company, for \$4.5 million.



### **1970-1979**

**April 4, 1970:** Dan Gurney wins 150-mile USAC IndyCar race with a field that included Mario Andretti, Mark Donahue and Al Unser.

**1973:** Bob Bondurant moves the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving to Sears Point Raceway.



**1974:** American Motorcycle Association hosts national motocross races in the hills north of Turn 7.

**July 24-25, 1976:** Raceway hosts first IMSA GT Championship race in Sonoma.

**July 17, 1977:** Paul Ritter wins the first-ever AMA Superbike race on a Ducati.

**July 17, 1977:** Kenny Roberts competes in the Grand National championship (aka AMA Formula One road races) at Sears Point, where he started the race at the back of the pack and passed the entire field within four laps to win the race.

## **1980-1989**

**1981:** The track is renamed Golden State Raceway.

**1985:** The track is completely repaved, in part with funds donated from the "Pave the Point" campaign.



**April 25, 1987:** The raceway hosts its first NASCAR Featherlite Southwest Series race, won by Roman Calczynski.

**July 31, 1988:** Joe Amato (Top Fuel), Mark Oswald (Funny Car) and Harry Scribner (Pro Stock) claim victories at the first NHRA national event.

**June 11, 1989:** Ricky Rudd wins the inaugural Winston Cup race at then-Sears Point Raceway, beating Rusty Wallace by just 1.1 seconds.

## **SONOMA RACEWAY HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**(cont.)**

## **1990-1999**

**July 29, 1990:** John Force posts his first of eight Funny Car wins in Sonoma (most of any NHRA racer). He goes on to win in 1990-92, 1994, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2016

**June 9, 1991:** Ricky Rudd crosses the finish line first, but Davey Allison is declared the winner after Rudd was assessed a penalty 2 ½ hours after the race.



**June 7, 1992:** Save Mart Supermarket becomes title sponsor of the annual NASCAR Cup Series event. Ernie Irvan claims his first Sonoma victory in the Save Mart Supermarkets 300. Irvan was black-flagged after crossing the starting line ahead of pole winner Ricky Rudd, but came back to pass 41 cars to take the checkered flag.

**Aug. 2, 1992:** Don Prudhomme becomes the first driver to win in two different professional classes in Sonoma – Funny Car (1989) and Top Fuel (1992).

**May 15, 1994:** Ernie Irvan becomes the first two-time winner of a NASCAR Cup event in Sonoma, winning by the largest margin in raceway history (9.56 seconds).

**May 7, 1995:** Dale Earnhardt wins his only NASCAR road-course race.

**Oct. 7, 1995:** Sonoma hosts its first NASCAR Truck Series race, which is won by Ron Hornaday Jr. The raceway goes on to host three more truck series races (1996-1998).

**1996:** The track is purchased by O. Bruton Smith and Speedway Motorsports, Inc.

**1996:** The Jim Russell Racing Schools becomes the raceway's official racing school.

**May 1, 1997:** As part of the public outreach efforts to raise awareness about the Golden Gate Bridge's 45 mph speed limit and the NASCAR Winston Cup race, 15 NASCAR Winston Cup stock cars crossed the Bridge with "taxi-top" signs reading *"I Can Drive 45 on the Golden Gate Bridge."* The promotion attracted hundreds of fans and national media attention.

**May 4, 1997:** Mark Martin wins his first NASCAR Cup race in Sonoma and becomes the second driver to start on the pole and win the race.

**June 28, 1998:** The first NASCAR Cup race with the modified course using The Chute instead of the Carousel.



Jeff Gordon wins the race.

**June 26, 1999:** Kurt Busch wins the Featherlite Southwest Snap-On 200 and is discovered by Jack Roush, who soon signs him to his first NASCAR Cup Series ride.



**Aug. 7, 1999:** Warren Johnson runs the first 200-mph plus for Pro Stock in Sears Point history covering the course at 200.77 mph.

**July 23-25, 1999:** The American Le Mans Series makes the fourth stop of its inaugural season at Sears Point Raceway for the Grand Prix of Sonoma.

## SONOMA RACEWAY HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

### 2000-2009

**2000:** The four-year, \$100 million Modernization Plan begins, renovating nearly all aspects of the facility.

**June 21-24, 2001:** The re-configured Chute, which connects Turn 4 and 7 on the road course, is introduced for the first time at the Dodge/Save Mart 350 and NASCAR Featherlite Southwest Series 200. The modification increased the length of the road course from 1.95 to 1.99 miles. The number of turns remains the same (10).

**June 22, 2002:** Raceway takes wraps off modernization and announces new naming rights partner, Infineon Technologies, becoming Infineon Raceway.

**March 13, 2002:** The raceway unveils its new three-quarter mile, 16-turn karting track.

**Sept. 24-25, 2003:** The raceway hosts Challenge Bibendum, organized and hosted by Michelin, an event designed to bring together and test the best available technologies for environmentally positive vehicles.



**July 18, 2004:** Dale Earnhardt Jr. drives a Chevrolet Corvette C5-R in a 30-minute practice session when the car spun and impacted a barrier in the Turn 8 section of the track and caught fire. Earnhardt quickly exited the car on his own and was then assisted by safety crews. Earnhardt was scheduled to co-drive with Boris Said.

**June 24, 2005:** Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin become the first drivers inducted into the raceway's Wall of Fame.

**July 31, 2005:** Legendary racer Warren Johnson becomes the first drag racer to be inducted into the raceway's Wall of Fame.

**Aug. 28, 2005:** INDYCAR brings major open-wheel racing back to Sonoma for the first time in more than 30 years. Tony Kanaan claimed the inaugural victory and did push-ups in the Wine Country Winner's Circle.



**August 26, 2006:** The Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series makes its debut in Sonoma. Auburn's Scott Pruett and teammate Luis Diaz took the checkered flag.

### 2010-2022

**May 15, 2010:** Discovery Bay's Elena Myers becomes the first female in history to win an AMA Pro Road Race.

**May 16, 2010:** Raceway hosts TTXGP U.S. Championships, the first zero-carbon motorcycle race on U.S. soil.

**Sept. 21-23, 2012:** Raceway hosts the first-ever FIA World Touring Car Challenge event in the United States.

**2012:** The 10-year sponsorship with Infineon Technologies ends. The raceway is rebranded Sonoma Raceway.

**Aug. 2, 2015:** All four No. 1 qualifiers go on to win their respective categories for the first time in NHRA history.

**June 26, 2016:** Tony Stewart claims the last victory of his historic Cup Series career. It marked his third Sonoma Raceway win and ended an 84-race winless streak.

**April 19-22, 2018 and April 3-6, 2019:** Sonoma Raceway hosts more than 1,000 students from 99 high schools and universities across the Americas at Make the Future California featuring Shell Eco-marathon Americas, which challenges future engineers and scientists to go the farthest with the least amount of energy.

**June 12, 2022:** Daniel Suarez became the first Mexican-born Cup Series driver to win in NASCAR history.

## SONOMA RACEWAY WALL OF FAME

The Wall of Fame is designed to honor those who have excelled not only in their form of motor racing, but more importantly, in Sonoma. Each inductee is recognized during a ceremony with a marble plaque engraved with their likeness, which are placed onto the Wall of Fame located behind the main grandstand. The Wall of Fame includes competitors from all forms of motor racing in Sonoma, including NASCAR, NHRA, AMA, open-wheel cars, sports cars and those who have made significant contributions to the raceway over the years.



Photo by: Randy Jones

### **WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:** **2005**

Rusty Wallace (NASCAR)  
Mark Martin (NASCAR)  
Warren Johnson (NHRA)

### **2006**

Miguel Duhamel (AMA)  
Rich Oliver (AMA)



Jeff Gordon (NASCAR)  
O. Bruton Smith (Speedway Motorsports)  
John Force (NHRA)

Photo by: James Wirth

## **2007**

Mat Mladin (AMA)  
Ricky Rudd (NASCAR)  
Bob Piccinini (Save Mart Supermarkets)  
Gary Scelzi (NHRA)  
Joe W. Huffaker (Huffaker Engineering)

## **SONOMA RACEWAY WALL OF FAME (cont.)**

## **2008**

Ken Clapp (NASCAR)  
Doug Kalitta (NHRA)

## **2010**

Rick Hendrick (NASCAR)

## **2011**

Don Prudhomme (NHRA)

## **2013**

John Cardinale (Sonoma Raceway)

## **2015**

Ron Capps (NHRA)  
Roger Penske (IndyCar)

## **2016**

Tony Stewart (NASCAR)  
Ernie Irvan (NASCAR)



Photo by: Nate Jacobson



## **2018**

Georgia Seipel (Sonoma Raceway)

## **2019**

Joe Gibbs (NASCAR)

Robert Marshall (Sonoma Raceway)

## **2020**

Jere Starks (Sonoma Raceway)

## **2021**

Steve Page (Sonoma Raceway)



Photo by: Nate Jacobson

## **SONOMA RACEWAY FUN FACTS**

- The road course features more than 160 feet of elevation change from its highest point (Turn 3a, 174 feet) to its lowest point (Turn 10, 14 feet).
- The berms on the turns of the road course are painted blue and gold at the suggestion of former raceway President and General Manager Steve Page, who attended UC Berkeley.
- The property on which the raceway was built was a working farm called Sears Point Farm in the early 1900s.
- The raceway houses a motorsports industrial park of more than 70 businesses in 104 shops.
- In 2016, Sonoma Raceway installed more than 5,000 square feet of high-resolution, full LED Panasonic screens. An 85-foot tall, four-sided LED scoring tower replaced the outdated lap/leader board above Turn 1 of the road course, and an 84 x 12-foot Panasonic LED screen was added to the front of the three-story Drag Tower building.
- In 2011, in partnership with Panasonic Corporation of North America, the raceway installed nearly 1,700 solar panels, which offset 41% of the raceway's energy usage.
- Drivers who complete the Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR Cup Series race will make 1,080 turns around the 12-turn road course. The race spans 90 laps.
- Mat Mladin (AMA), Josh Hayes (AMA), Doug Kalitta (NHRA, Top Fuel), John Force (NHRA, Funny Car) and Jeff Gordon (NASCAR) are the only riders/drivers to three-peat in a major racing series in Sonoma.
- Winners in Sonoma celebrate with a sip from the Champion's Goblet in Victory Lane. The goblet, which is handcrafted by a Bay Area glass blower, was introduced in 2006 and incorporates the raceway's rich wine country heritage.
- The raceway has collected more than 734 tons of recyclable material (1,469,341 pounds) since the

inception of its recycling program in 2004, including more than 39 tons in 2019.

- Through the Track Ambassador program, the raceway engages approximately 250 volunteers to help around the facility during event weekends and at various promotional and charitable activities throughout the year.
- The raceway donated 7,326 event tickets valued at nearly \$260,000 to Northern California non-profit organizations in 2019.
- Levy Restaurants partnered with 12 local non-profits to provide staffing for concession stands and catering events during event weekends in 2019. The non-profits received more than \$103,000 for their efforts. Levy also donated more than 1,600 pounds of food to Sonoma Food Runners, which relay excess food to the hungry throughout Sonoma County.
- Twenty owl boxes encourage owls to nest and help with natural rodent mitigation.

## **SPEEDWAY MOTORSPORTS BIOS**



### **MARCUS SMITH**

#### **President and Chief Executive Officer, Speedway Motorsports**

Marcus G. Smith was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Speedway Motorsports in May of 2008 and subsequently appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer in 2015. Prior to that, Smith served as Executive Vice President of National Sales and Marketing for Speedway Motorsports from 2004-2008. He joined the company in 1996 as a sales associate at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Growing up in the motorsports business, Smith worked summers on the grounds crew with the Charlotte Motor Speedway operations department and washed cars at a family car dealership. Smith worked in all areas of the business from weed-pulling to ticket-selling and business management. In addition to currently leading Speedway Motorsports, Smith serves on the board of Sonic Automotive, a Fortune 500 automotive retailer.



Smith also serves on boards for the Charlotte Regional Sports Foundation and two non-profit charitable organizations. He is the vice-chair of Speedway Children's Charities, a foundation focused on helping millions of children in need throughout the United States, and also the chairman for Youth Commission International, a faith-based youth ministry helping children find hope, encouragement, and healthy fellowship.

In his spare time, Smith enjoys activities with family and friends, high-performance driving experiences and adventures in shooting sports.

## **ABOUT SPEEDWAY MOTORSPORTS**

Speedway Motorsports is a leading marketer, promoter and sponsor of motorsports entertainment in the United States. The Company, through its subsidiaries, owns and operates the following premier facilities: Atlanta Motor Speedway, Bristol Motor Speedway, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Kentucky Speedway, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Sonoma Raceway and Texas Motor Speedway. Speedway Motorsports provides souvenir merchandising services through its SMI Properties subsidiaries; manufactures and distributes smaller-scale, modified racing cars and parts through its U.S. Legend Cars International subsidiary; and produces and broadcasts syndicated motorsports programming to radio stations nationwide through its Performance Racing Network subsidiary.

## **SPEEDWAY MOTORSPORTS BIOS (cont.)**

### **JILL GREGORY**

#### **Executive Vice President and General Manager, Sonoma Raceway**

Acclaimed NASCAR executive and sports marketer Jill Gregory has served as Executive Vice President and General Manager at Sonoma Raceway since January 2021. Named by Adweek one of “The Most Powerful Women in Sports” prior to assuming the role, Gregory leads the Speedway Motorsports-owned historic 1,600-acre property where she attended her first NASCAR road course race as a teenager. As only the second female leader of a NASCAR sanctioned facility when appointed in 2021, Gregory came armed with formidable leadership skills honed by her experience serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing and Content Officer at NASCAR and the managing executive of the company’s Charlotte-based operations.

This year Gregory was instrumental in securing the addition of the NASCAR Xfinity Series for the first time ever to run at Sonoma during the 2023 NASCAR Cup Series race weekend. Equally at home promoting Sonoma Raceway to the local community, Gregory was just honored with the 2023 Influential Women Award from North Bay Business Journal. In 2022, she was honored nationally by WISE (Women In Sports + Events) as one of four women awarded WISE Women of the Year, and locally by San Francisco Business Times with an Inspire Award at their “100 Most Influential Women in Business” event. Collaborating with Bay Area sports teams is also a priority and has included events with the San Francisco Giants and Oracle Park. Gregory’s Sonoma Reimagined concept has resulted in increased facilities offerings, the





cornerstone being the Turn 11 luxury hospitality pavilion which has been attracting luxury automotive clients for events. The 19,000 square-foot space is a centerpiece for all of Sonoma County and unique in the North American motorsports arena.

Remaining steadfast in her dedication to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion endeavors, she is actively involved with Women with Drive and Women in Motorsports North America. Participating in the Pride Parade in 2022 and involvement with area Latino leaders is another way Sonoma Raceway as a racetrack is opening its doors to the community.

During her tenure at NASCAR, Gregory led the marketing, media, communications, broadcasting and diversity and inclusion functions, and was responsible for the sanctioning body's digital platform, including NASCAR.com, the NASCAR Mobile app and fantasy games. Under her leadership, the organization bolstered its overall marketing strategy to strengthen fan engagement and cultivate new fans among younger and more diverse audiences by modernizing the NASCAR brand.

Prior to joining NASCAR, Gregory was the Senior Vice President of Motorsports Marketing for Bank of America, and previously served as Director of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series marketing program for Sprint Nextel.

Gregory earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and currently serves on the board of Speedway Children's Charities, and is a national Trustee of Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

**\*\*In memoriam\*\***

### **BRUTON SMITH**

#### **Executive Chairman, Speedway Motorsports**

Growing up on a modest farm near Oakboro, North Carolina, O. Bruton Smith parlayed his love for "building things" into a business empire, focusing on the motorsports and automotive industries.

Smith founded Speedway Motorsports by consolidating his motorsports holdings in December 1994, and in February 1995 he made it the first motorsports company to trade on the New York Stock Exchange. In 2019, the company became privately held after a purchase by Smith's Sonic Financial Corporation.

Speedway Motorsports owns and operates eight premier motorsports facilities; provides souvenir merchandising services through its SMI Properties subsidiary; manufactures and distributes smaller-scale, modified racing cars through U.S. Legend Cars International; and markets, produces and distributes motorsports programming to more than 700 radio stations through the Performance Racing Network.

In November 1997, Smith organized his automotive group under the Sonic Automotive flag and took it public on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE:SAH). Sonic Automotive, Inc., a Fortune 500 company based in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the nation's largest automotive retailers.



Smith is also very active in philanthropic activities, including Speedway Children's Charities – which he founded in 1982. The nonprofit organization has grown to include chapters at each of the Speedway Motorsports facilities and has distributed more than \$55 million to agencies that provide educational, medical and social support to children. Smith received the prestigious NASCAR Award of Excellence in 1997 in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Speedway Children's Charities.

In April 2007, Smith was inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame and he became a member of the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame in January 2006. In 2012, he received the Achievement in Motorsports Tribute Award from the North Carolina Motorsports Association. He was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2016.

## **SPEEDWAY CHILDREN'S CHARITIES**

### **SPEEDWAY CHILDREN'S CHARITIES**

Speedway Children's Charities (SCC), the charitable arm of Sonoma Raceway, is dedicated to improving the lives of Sonoma county children and families in need. Through fundraising campaigns and events, the Sonoma Chapter of SCC has raised over \$6.8million since its inception in 2001.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Speedway Children's Charities provides funding for local non-profits that meet the direct needs of children. The charity's vision is that every child has the same opportunities no matter what obstacle they're facing.

For more information, visit [www.speedwaycharities.org/sonoma](http://www.speedwaycharities.org/sonoma)