



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 highlights:

August 14, 1968: Ground was broken for the new facility and paving of the race surface was 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.

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

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

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

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

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

1981: The Long Beach Grand Prix Association, headed by Chris Pook, decides to rename the track Golden State International Raceway.

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

April 25, 1987: Sears Point Raceway hosts its first NASCAR Featherlite Southwest Series race, won by Roman Calczynski.

July 31, 1988: The first NHRA nationals were a resounding success, with an estimated 32,000 spectators on hand. The winners were Joe Amato (Top Fuel), Mark Oswald (Funny Car) and Harry Scribner (Pro Stock).

June 11, 1989: The NASCAR Winston Cup Series makes its debut in Sonoma for the Banquet Frozen Foods 300. Ricky Rudd won the inaugural event over Rusty Wallace.

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

October 7, 1995: Sonoma hosts its first NASCAR Truck Series race, which is won by Ron Hornaday, Jr. The raceway hosts three truck series races.

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

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

July 25, 1999: Professional sports car racing makes its return to Sonoma with the American Le Mans Series. JJ Lehto and Steve Soper won the inaugural event for BMW Motorsport.

June 22, 2002: The facility announces that it has been renamed Infineon Raceway as part of a 10-year strategic partnership with Infineon Technologies.

August 28, 2005: INDYCAR racing returns to the Sonoma Valley after a 35-year hiatus. 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.

2008: Kyle Busch earns his first NASCAR Cup Series road-course victory when he takes the checkered flag. His victory also marks the first win for Toyota in the Sonoma Valley.

2012: The 10-year partnership with Infineon Technologies ends and the raceway is rebranded Sonoma Raceway.

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.