

Looking Back at the Thrills & Spills of Atlantic Speedway

Echoes From the Past – Essay #12



Folks living in the Hammonds Plains area during the 1970's undoubtedly can reminisce about the noise of roaring engines infiltrating the still summer nights. It was the decade of Atlantic Speedway and the weekly stock car races were front and center in the community during the summer racing season.

Atlantic Speedway (the forerunner of Atlantic Splash Adventure) was built with a racing oval, grandstand, control tower and parking lot, all carved out of the woods on the Lucasville Road. The track consisted of a half mile asphalt oval track with banked turns and opened for races in June of 1970. It was noted for its red and white guard rails around the outside of the track. The track was owned and operated by Jim Corbett.

The track hosted weekly racing for maritime stock car owners in several divisions, regularly drawing crowds of 2-5 thousand. The biggest names in maritime car racing circles made their presence at the track, as the fans cheered on their favorites to get the checked flag. Upsurges of noise in the stands was common during the races as collisions and car passes proved to be crowd pleasers.

The track also hosted special auto events such as drag racing, demolition derbies and 'side shows of the day', such as motorcycle jumper Jose Canuck and the Imperial Hell Drivers. The legendary daredevil, Evel Knieval once even performed at the track. The most unique performer may well have been Bennie the Bomb Koshe who was famous for blowing cars up while he was in them. Media covering the 'Human Bomb' event at the time said "it was a blast!"

The track was transformed into an enjoyment park in 1981, after Scotia Speed World was built near the airport. It's hard to believe that the Lucasville Road site has been a beacon for summer enjoyment for over a half a century now, evolving from its origin as a thrill and spill auto speedway.



Race Day at Atlantic Speedway – 1970's