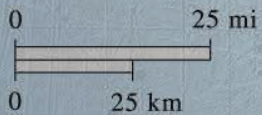
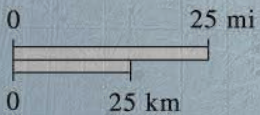


Automobile Racing In Southern California



Tijuana USA MEXICO

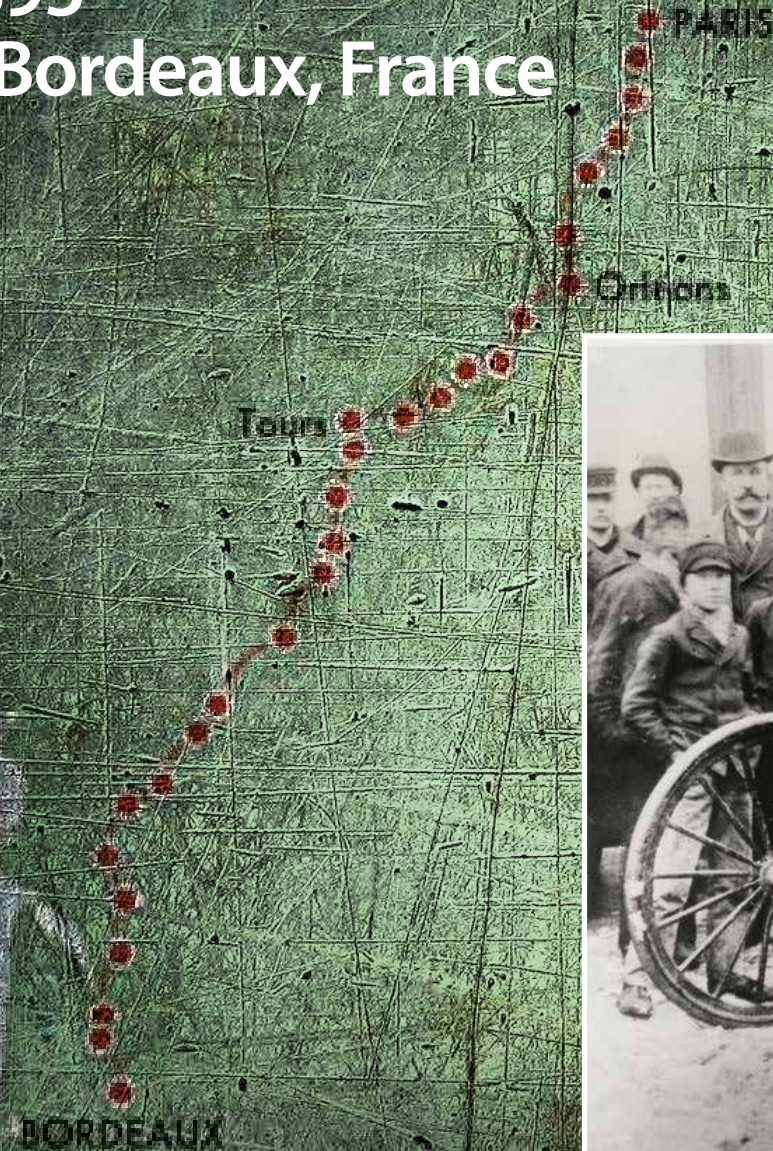
From The 1900s To The Present



First Recognized Automobile Race In The World

June, 1895

Paris to Bordeaux, France





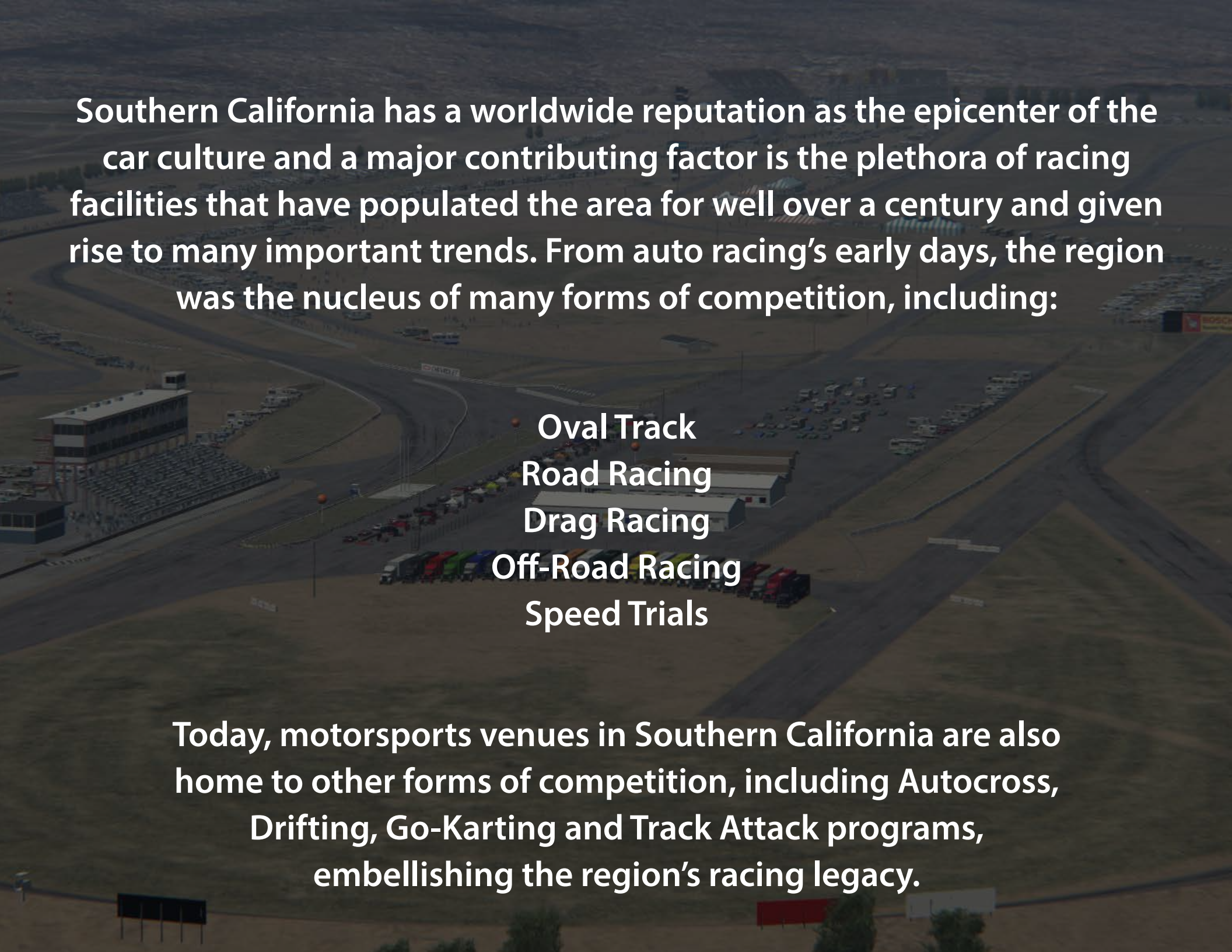
First Recognized Automobile Race In America

November, 1895 – Chicago to Evanston, Illinois



First Recognized Automobile Race In Los Angeles

1903 - Agriculture Park (now Exposition Park)

An aerial view of a motorsports venue. The image shows a large oval track on the left, a road racing track on the right, and a central area with various racing facilities, including a pit lane with many colorful race cars, a grandstand, and several buildings. The background shows a hilly landscape under a clear sky.

Southern California has a worldwide reputation as the epicenter of the car culture and a major contributing factor is the plethora of racing facilities that have populated the area for well over a century and given rise to many important trends. From auto racing's early days, the region was the nucleus of many forms of competition, including:

**Oval Track
Road Racing
Drag Racing
Off-Road Racing
Speed Trials**

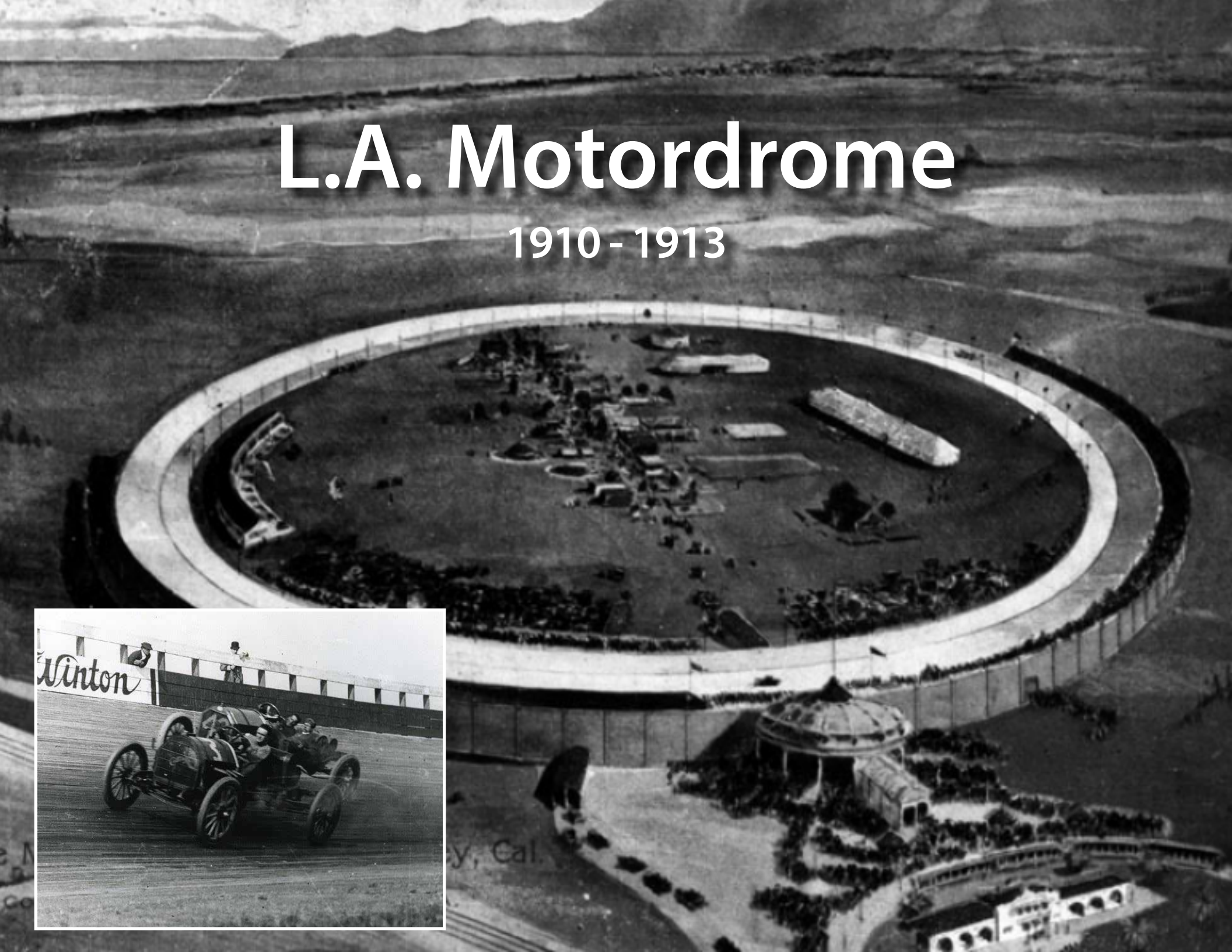
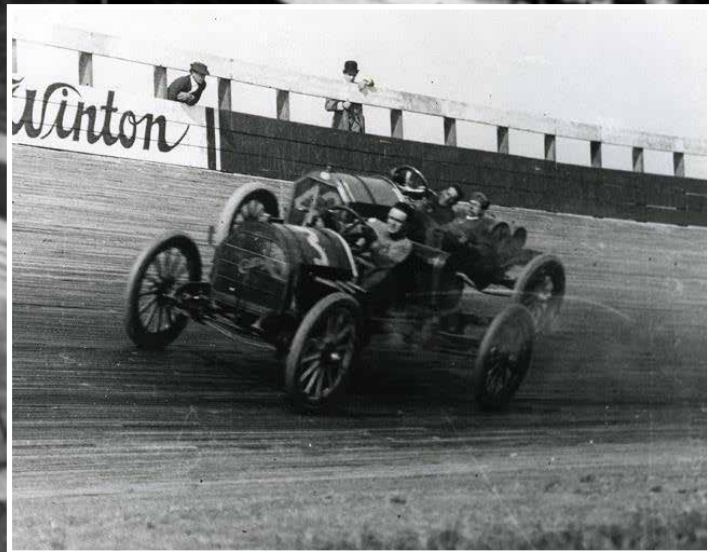
Today, motorsports venues in Southern California are also home to other forms of competition, including Autocross, Drifting, Go-Karting and Track Attack programs, embellishing the region's racing legacy.

Oval Track

In the early days of racing, board tracks like the L.A. Motordrome (built in 1910) were in vogue. This allowed them to take advantage of banks for added speed. Frank Lockhart's 144 mph speed mark at Culver City back in the 1930s did not get eclipsed at the Indianapolis 500 until some 20 years later. The down side was fire, as the Motordrome burned in 1913 and was not rebuilt. However, "toothpick tracks" existed through mid-century, when dirt tracks like Ascot became popular. Today, dirt tracks and paved speedways (like in Irwindale and Fontana) each have their following.

L.A. Motordrome

1910 - 1913





Beverly Hills Speedway

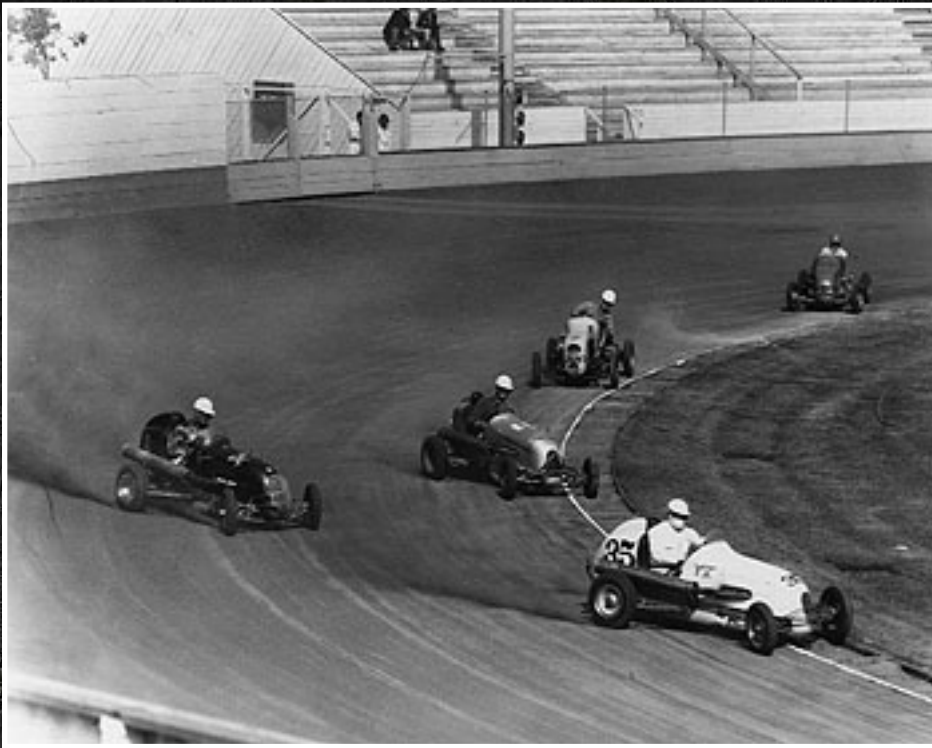
1920-1924

SPENCER
APPEARANCE BOLOS
LOS ANGELES, CALIF



Culver City Speedway

1925



Gilmore Stadium

1934 - 1950



Hanford Speedway

1951 - 1970



Ascot Park

1957 - 1991



Ontario Motor Speedway

1970 - 1980



Auto Club Speedway

1997 - Present



Kern County Raceway

2013 - Present

Road Racing

At the dawn of automobile racing using city streets was the order of the day, with dedicated road courses not coming on the scene until mid-century. Willow Springs, built in 1953, is said to be the longest operating road racing facility in the nation. Many races were held at courses set up at airports, such as Santa Barbara, Coronado and Palm Springs. Recently developed dedicated road racing facilities include Buttonwillow, Chuckwalla and the private Thermal Club.



1915



1914, 1916

Venice & Santa Monica

Torrey Pines

1950 - 1957



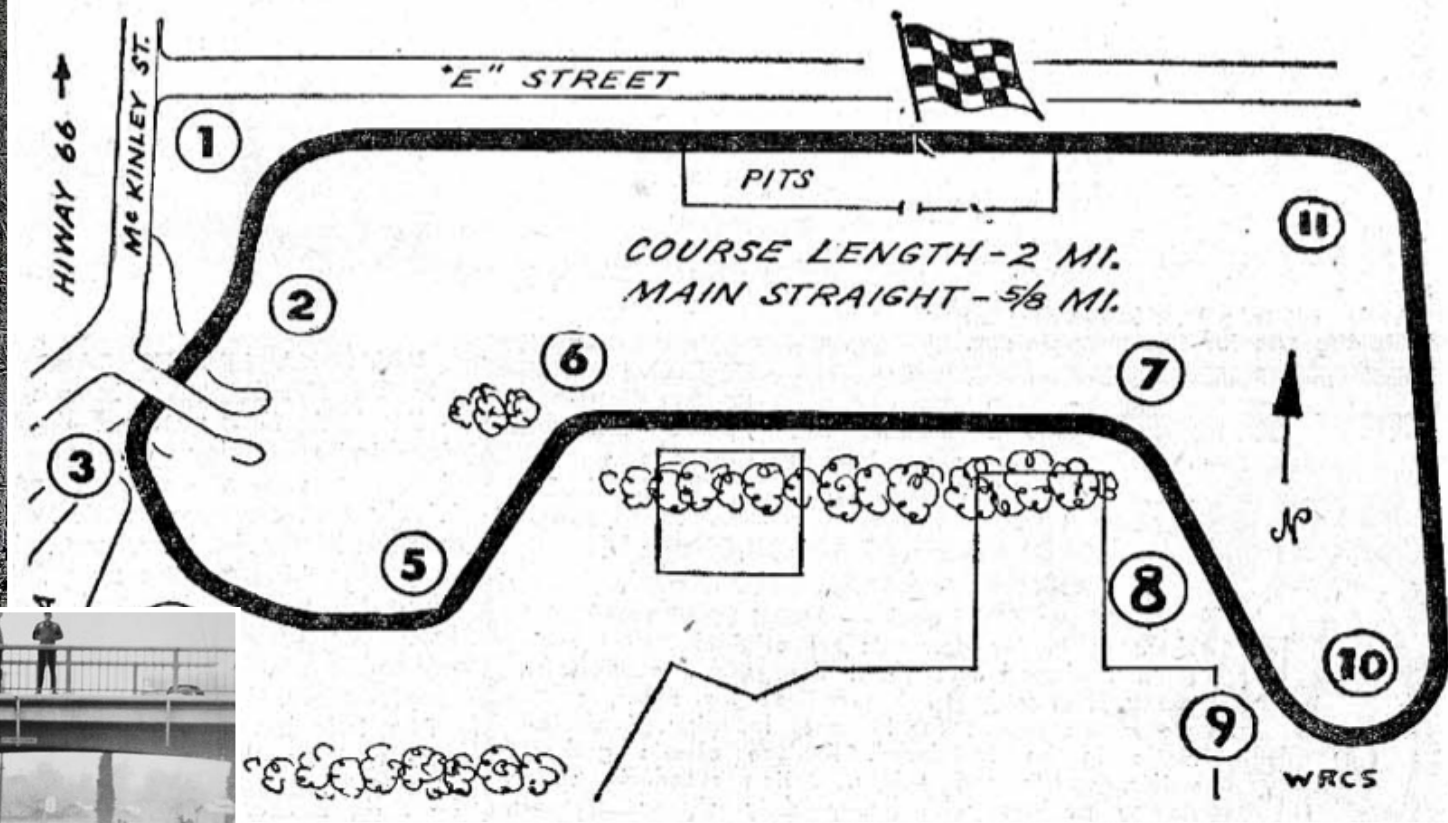


WILLOW SPRINGS
The Fastest Road in the West



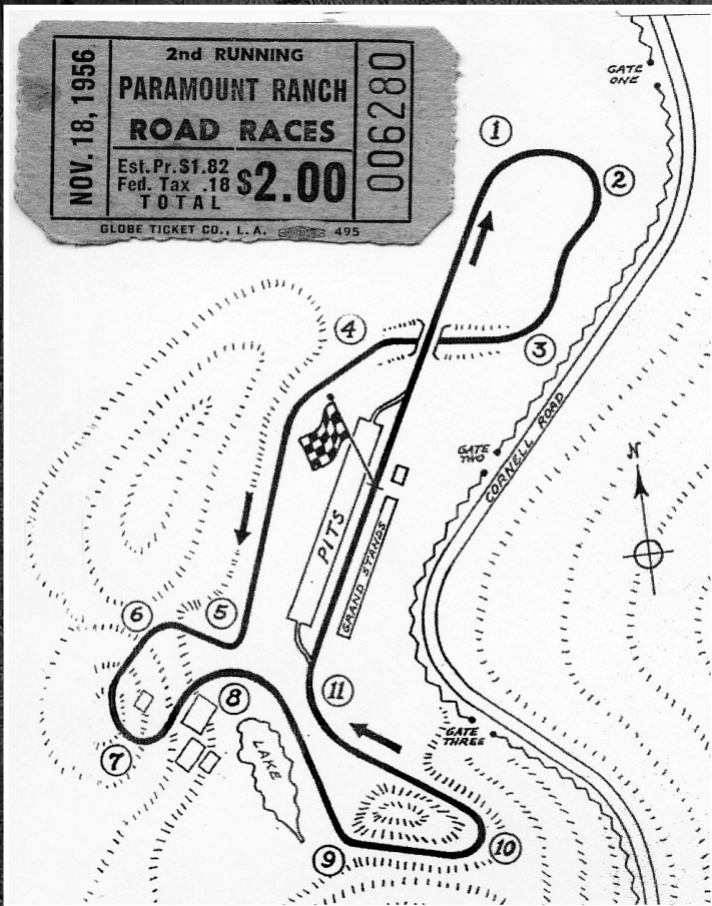
Willow Springs
1953 - Present

Pomona Course: 2 Miles, 11 Turns



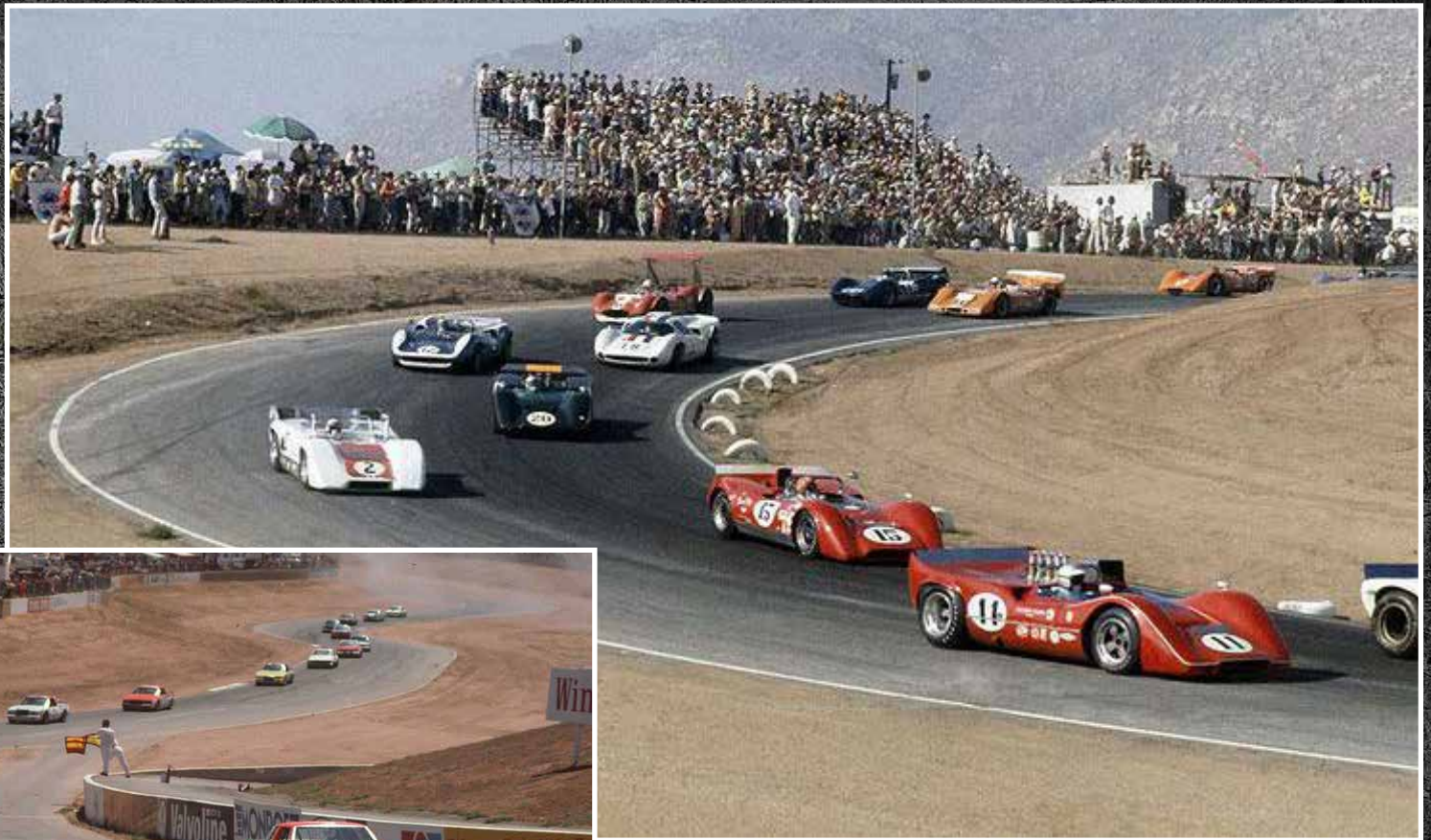
L.A. County Fairgrounds

1956 - 1963



Paramount Ranch

1957 - 1958



Riverside International

1957 - 1988



Long Beach Grand Prix

1975 - Present



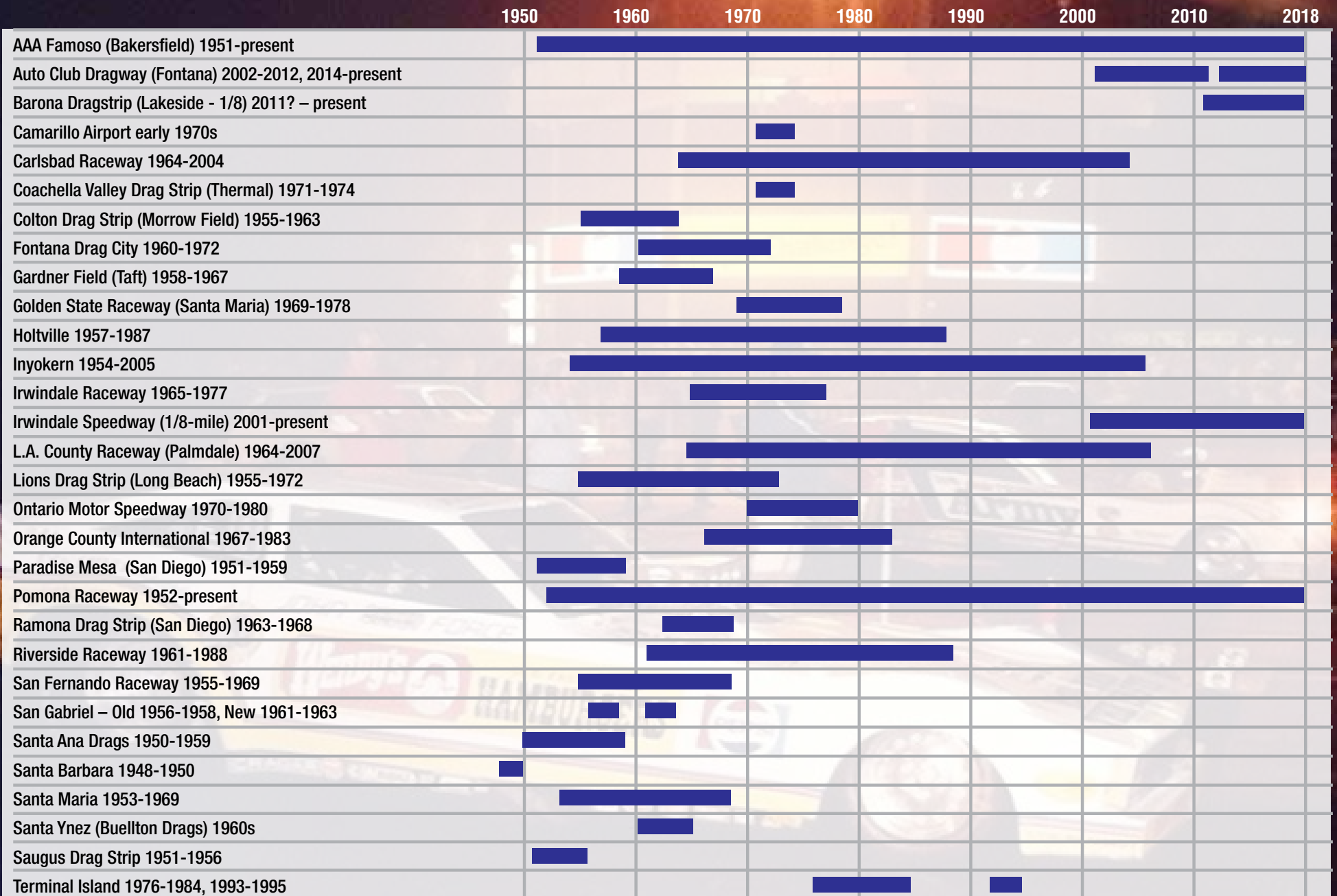
Buttonwillow

1996 - Present

Drag Racing

According to historians, the first organized drag race was in 1950 on an auxiliary runway at the Santa Ana Airport. Run by C.J. "Pappy" Hart, the track was active thru 1959. The site is currently known as John Wayne Airport. NHRA was founded by Wally Parks in 1951, and its first sanctioned event was held at the L.A. County Fairgrounds In Pomona in 1953. NHRA held its first West Coast national event there in 1961. The Winternationals remains NHRA's longest running national event at the same facility.

Drag Racing



Santa Ana

1950 - 1959





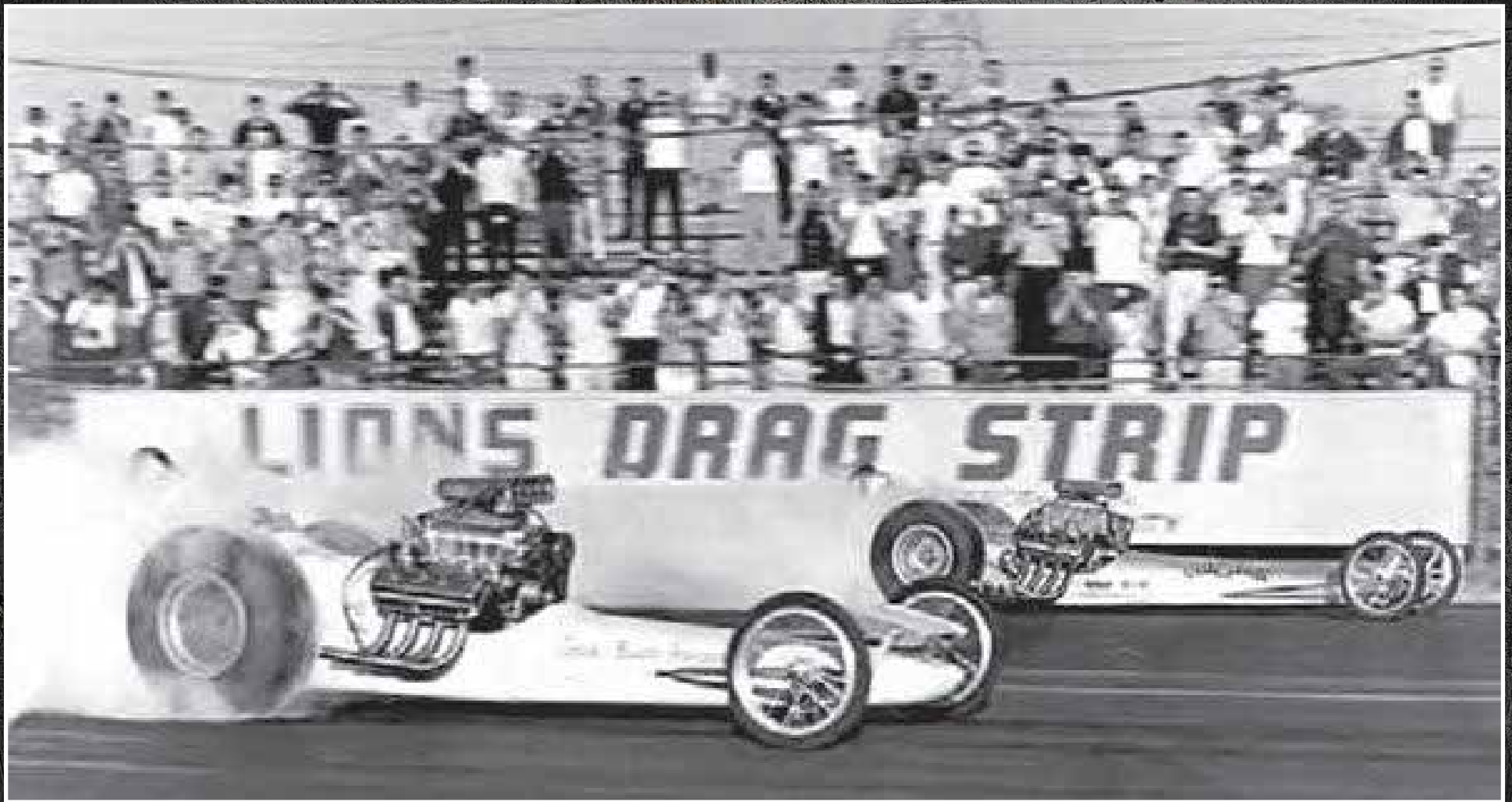
Pomona Raceway

1952 - Present



San Fernando Raceway

1955 - 1969



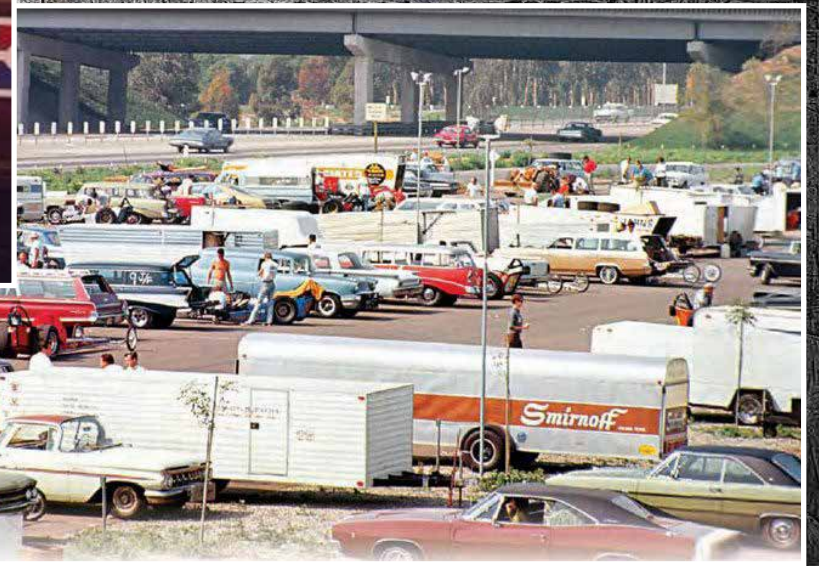
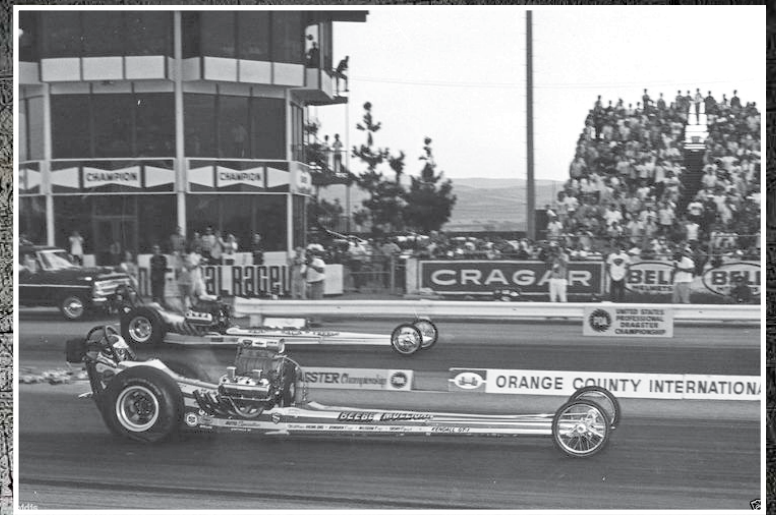
Lions Drag Strip

1955 - 1972



Fontana Drag City

1960-1972



Orange County International

1967-1983

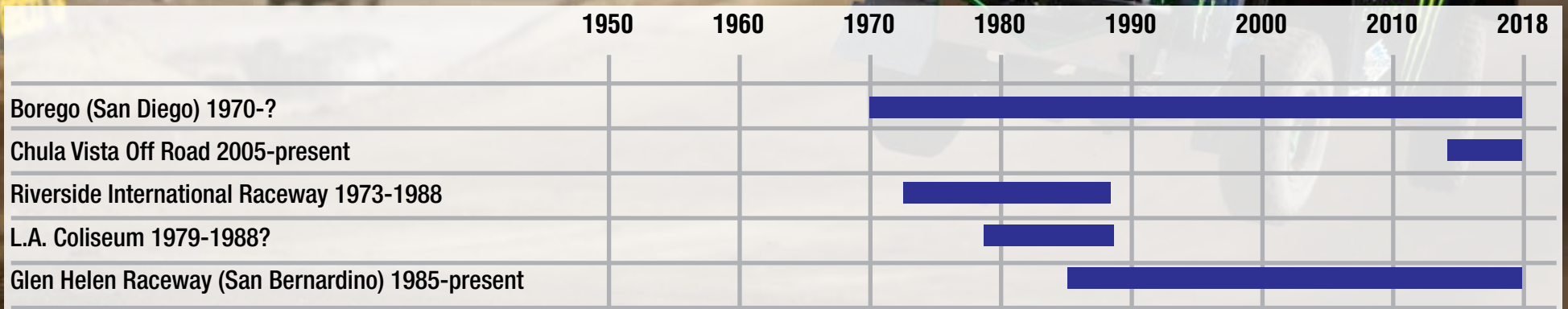


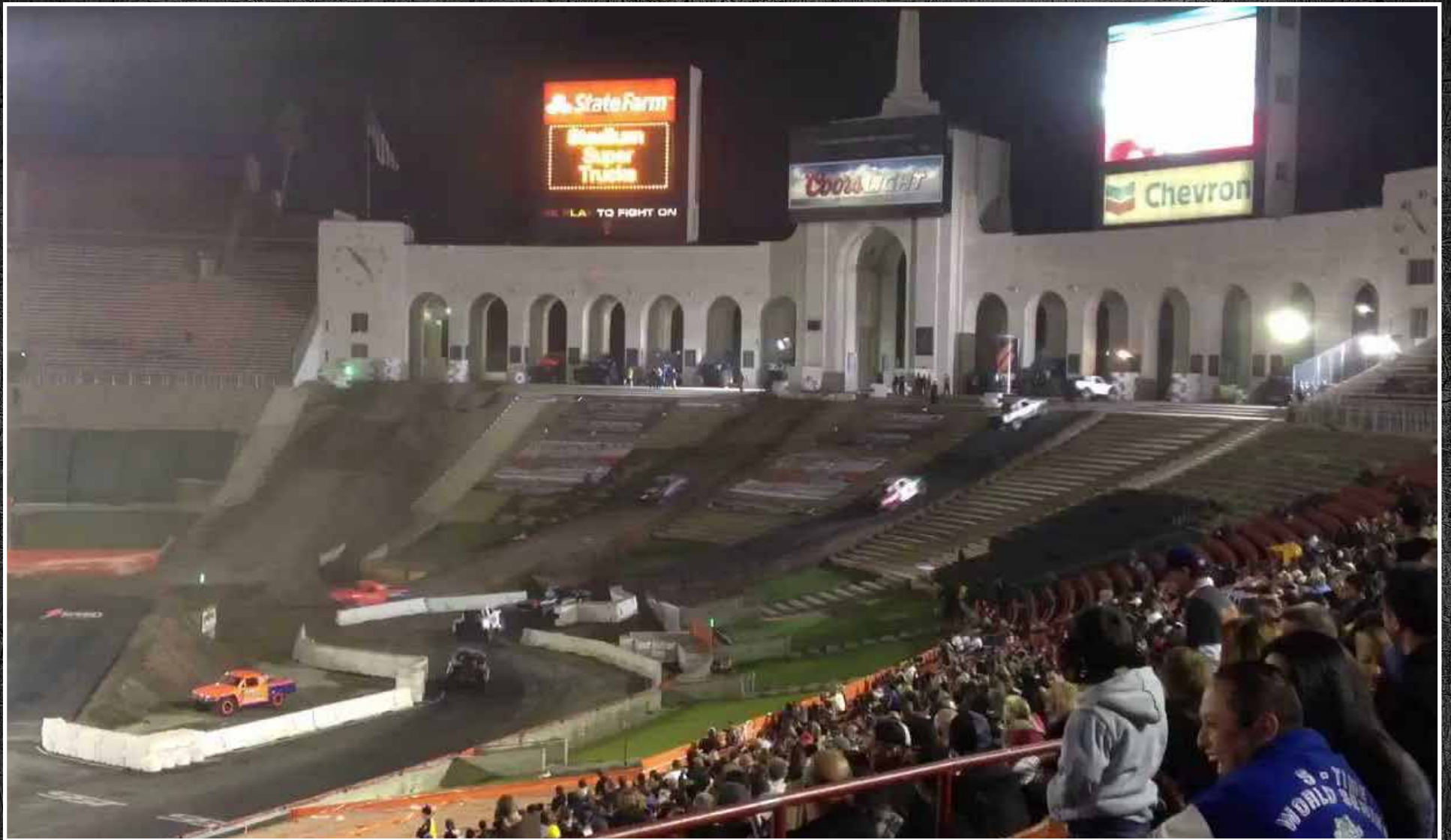
Auto Club Dragway

2002 - Present

Off-Road Racing

Desert racing became popular in the 1960s, and in 1973 Mickey Thompson founded SCORE, which conducted closed-course events in the area.





L.A. Memorial Coliseum

1979 - 1988

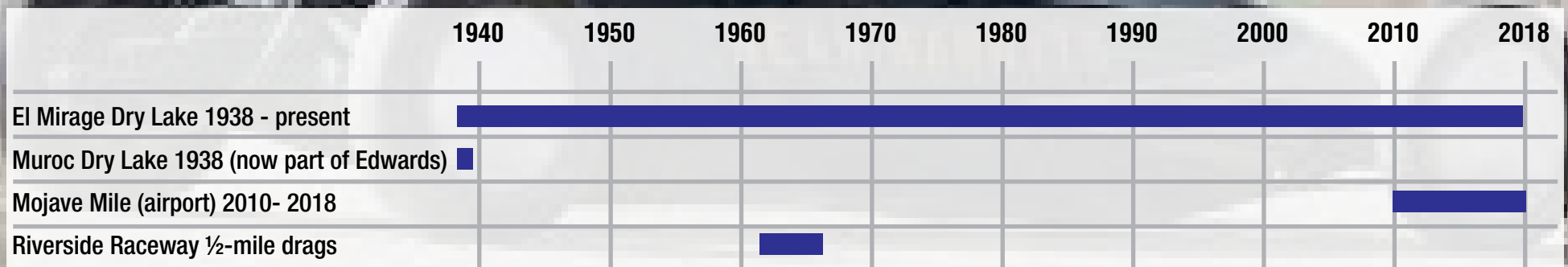


Glen Helen Raceway

1985- Present

Speed Trials

The Southern California Timing Association was founded in 1937 under leadership of Ak Miller & Wally Parks. It later merged with Russetta Timing Association, which favored closed cars. SCTA had open cars. The association is also known for its events at the Bonneville Salt Flats.





El Mirage

1938 - Present



Mojave Mile

2010-2018

Auto Racing In SoCal Today...



A Presentation By:



The material herein has been primarily researched on the internet, and there are random cases of conflicting information. Accordingly, I cannot take responsibility for the accuracy. The photos used here in have also been sourced online and believed to be free of copyrights, however they are merely used to help illustrate the information and passed along without any intent to profit from their use. Bill Holland - August, 2018.