



A record 150 plus entrants converged on Bass Island for 3 days of vintage "racing", exhibitions, and social events. In cooperation with the island and the FAA, the airport is closed (after the mail plane departs) for on-track events. Participants in the on-track events must have older cars - mostly pre-1973. And you'll see just about every European brand out there from Alpha Romeo to a 68 Zink C-4. Cars that are not quite track ready, and some newer models come for the street class and can participate during parade

The islanders roll out the red carpet, with a "Fan Zone" hosted by the Put-In-Bay Chamber of Commerce. This is where the cars stage, there's covered stadium seating, food, vendors, and the opportunity to see the racing teams up front and personal. A great opportunity to bring the kids.

But the most unique feature of this event is the on-street "rally". In cooperation with island residents and police department the streets are closed and all cars - racing group entrants and street alike complete two laps of the old road course. This part of the event really relives the glory days of vintage road racing - when there were no fancy tracks and on lookers lined the route for a view of the amazing machines and their drivers. (Yes this was quite dangerous - but hey - the photos are still cool!) This year the officer leading the convoy got up to speeds of 40 plus. Not too shabby for an on-street parade lap. (40? Errr... OK. Some of us saw something quite a bit higher than that but don't tell anyone... - Ed.)



Did I mention how neat the town of Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island is? There are scores of hotels and guest houses as well as camping available. Several wineries have dotted the landscape for generations, and there are CAVES! For "not so enthusiastic enthusiasts" there are many quaint shops and restaurants, and a picturesque marina and bay area - the boats and yachts are awe inspiring. In addition there is a small but interesting museum detailing the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812 and the Perry Monument celebrating long lasting Peace between the US and Canada. Currently undergoing restoration, the monument will reopen May 2018 allowing visitors to ride the elevator to the top for an expansive view of the lake, islands, and Canadian border.

2018 will mark the 10th Annual Put-in-Bay Road Race Reunion, again presented by American Modern Insurance and scheduled for September 25-28. Many attendees will come in Monday night to be ready for the practice runs on the track Tuesday morning. Wednesday will feature the event for the cars that are "out front" - as this is not a true race but a fun wheel to wheel on track event meant for fun. New for 2018 will be a Ladies Luncheon (hosted by yours truly) themed "Don't give up the Ship!" - the local slogan commemorating the US Navy defeat of the British in the Battle of Lake Erie. Sprinkled throughout are dinners and social events for relaxation between in car events.



Hotels will fill up quick and due to the intimate nature of this event there is a cap of less than 160 participant cars permitted. Registration should open in February, so watch for more information and register early. I will see you there!

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