

CLASSIC SEBRING 12 HOURS



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For the last twelve months or so, I have put forward the idea of a “Classic” Sebring 12 Hours, much in the same pattern as the “Classic Le Mans” events that are held every year in France, which entry this year is oversubscribed many times over.

I have written to Don Panoz and called his events manager at Sebring, who told me: “All vintage racing here is done by HSR, you’ll have to contact them”. I did that, finding interest from one of the principals but no follow through to get an event organized.

I find myself baffled and frustrated; if ever there was a success waiting to happen in Vintage racing circles, this is it. Just imagine, in Europe it’s always cold and wet in February/March and no racing takes place there. So a legendary circuit starting a “Classic Sebring 12 Hours”, inviting only cars **of the type** (no replicas, proper cars only) that took part in the original Sebring 12 Hours, would see an influx of entries from Europe, let alone America’s own entries. I suggest that we split the classes into:

1. 1950 to 1960 (Sebring 12 Hours started in 1950)
2. 1961 to 1969 (Ferrari winning mainly)
3. 1973 to 1980 (Porsche winning mainly)
4. 1981 to 1990 (GTP era)

Of course, there would be various classes within each time period, such as GTX, GTO, GTU.

Each class would have three 40-minute races in rotation, some in the darkness. That would give each class two hours total racing, leaving 20 minutes for clearing up after previous race, getting ready for next race, which should work.

Now this is where you, dear reader, come in! If you think this idea is worth pursuing, email/call HSR (see: www.hsrrace.com) or Sebring Raceway. If we all push for a Classic Sebring 12 Hours, it may very well happen!

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