

11-16-24: Buttonwillow Raceway Park

My original plan was to go to Phoenix for Nitrocross but that got canceled, then I pivoted to Placerville for the Hangtown 100, but when that got rained out I had to find a plan C. That turned out to be about the only place racing in all of Southern California, Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway, and before heading over there I was able to swing by Buttonwillow to take in an SCCA race.

The track is just a bit north of Kern Raceway on the 99, right off the freeway. I wasn't sure what the situation would be about getting in as a spectator and I'm still not sure, because I was able to park alongside the road going in and get a perfectly clear view of one side of the track along the low chainlink fence.



They actually streamed the races live on Facebook so I was able to see what class was on track and when they were actually green, which was super helpful to verify that I was actually watching countable racing.

The track was pretty flat overall through the desert but it had a small hill down one of the straightaways that gave me some nice photos with the mountains in the background. I was able to see probably about one third of the track from that vantage point, the rest of it being back behind the pit area and garage buildings.



I was expecting to see some sort of Miata or GT class since that's what I'm usually used to seeing at SCCA events but these were formula cars of some variety and carried a good bit of speed around the track, and there were a good number of them out there too, probably 20 split between two classes running together.



Nothing terribly exciting, but it's nice to count a nearby road course without going far out of the way and it was neat seeing the unexpected formula cars on track.