

11/10/23: Central Arizona Raceway

When I planned what is apparently becoming my yearly November trip to the southwest I planned to spend a weekend in Phoenix for Nitrocross at Wild Horse Pass. I was really excited to see that Central Arizona Raceway was running on the same Friday and Saturday as Nitrocross. I was a lot less excited to find out that Nitrocross had changed from afternoon to evening races, overlapping exactly with Central Arizona Raceway.



I left as soon as Nitrocross ended on Friday and drove 45 minutes to the track. In the dark it was hard to figure out how to actually drive into the parking lot, and Google steered me down sketchy dirt roads on a couple different occasions before I figured it out. There was no one at the ticket booth so I walked in and found a seat in the top row of the grandstands. They had a covered section and an uncovered, and both were quite steep, affording good sightlines. It was a decent crowd but there were plenty of seats available everywhere.



The pits were located behind the track and the track itself was wide with no walls and a lot of runoff area outside the turns. There was nothing inside to obscure visibility and the lighting was good.



I ended up arriving in time to watch most of the sprint car feature. It appeared they were under a red flag when I showed up, having completed only two laps. There were 18 ASCS Southwest sprint cars still on the track when I got there.

The racing was not dusty at all, and pretty single groove, not a lot of passing going on. The surface was pretty smooth other than a small rut in three and four that biked a couple cars up a short ways, but no incidents as it went green the rest of the way. Had I arrived 14 minutes later than I did I wouldn't have seen any racing at all, but as it was it worked out well.

