



# RING FREE GOES RACING – AGAIN



## 2007 Rolex Vintage Festival

LIME ROCK PARK, CT

De ja Voux all over again – not quite. The events that took place at the 2006 Rolex Vintage Festival at Lime Rock was a once in a lifetime experience. We left this 2007 event with a mixed bag of emotions as well as a damaged right front fender and some scars along the right side.



Jan and Steve Francis

We missed our friends of the Historic TransAm group however Ken Epsman and TomMcIntyre were here but not with their TransAm cars. We made some new friends in our Group 7 class. Steve Francis drives a 1966 Mustang and GT350 drivers Jim Santimore, Ken Kenworthy and Bob Aliberto. Over the winter we had Cobra Automotive upgrade our transmission with close ratio gears so we were anxious to see if there would be any improvement in lap times.



Jim Santimore

We did not complete one lap in the first practice session as a faulty connection at the 41 year old fuse block caused a loss of power to the electric fuel pump.

The second session was going very well as Jan was able to break into the 1:07s bettering his previous fastest time. Working on Mark Donohues trailing brake approach into the Big Bend, the inside front wheel was locking up and on the last lap of the session blew exiting the Big Bend. The car went off course into the Armco on the right side exiting



the turn. The right front fender and headlight bucket were pretty well damaged and will need to be replaced. A few scrapes on the door and some scrapes and dings on the rear quarter should not be a problem. Fortunately no suspension or chassis damage, all sheet metal. This was the first time since we owned the car we sustained any damage which would require the replacement of any sheetmetal.



It was not a good weekend for Mustangs. Bob Aliberto got a wheel off in his GT350 along the No Name Straight and Ken Kenworthy went off trying to avoid Bob. Both cars sustained front end damage. Bob was not able to continue the weekend however Ken was back on Monday for the race.



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John Galt Films, Inc. was at Lime Rock shooting a documentary series called *Classic Racers* about vintage auto racing around the world. Our Group 7 was one of three classes they chose for in-car cameras. Bob Aliberto was to have the camera in his car however since he could not continue the weekend Alexander Davidis, the producer and director asked us if we would be willing to be the Group 7 camera car.



Jan's interview with Producer/Director Alexander Davidis.



*Classic Racers* will cover six vintage events from around the world. The shows are scheduled to broadcast in the USA on Cabelvision's channel 724 and DISH Networks' Channel 9473 at 8:00 with re-runs at 11:00 pm and 2:00 pm Eastern Time. Each show will be dedicated to one event; 1) Porto's Street Circuit, Nov 20; 2) Silverstone, Nov 27; 3) Nurburgring, Dec. 4; 4) Laguna Seca, Dec 11; 5) Lime Rock, Dec 28; 6) Spa, Dec 25. Another unexpected honor at Lime Rock for #72.

Guest speaker at the Banquet was Mr. John Bishop formerly of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and later became founder and President of the International Motorsports Association (IMSA). Mr. Bishop approved me for my IMSA license back in 1971 after running the IMSA Camel GT race at Summit Point W. VA. in which Jan and I finished 5th in Class. It was Mr. Bishop in 1966, then the Executive Director of the SCCA, who conceived the idea for the Trans American Sedan Championship Series.



Frank Dobias, John Bishop, Murray Smith, Mrs. Bishop, John Fitch

### RACE DAY



The Donovan Motorcars Jaguars ran away from the field. Starting 16th we finished 13th in the 15 lap event.

