

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO

Top Private Driving Clubs in USA

Summary: This guide is meant to educate residents of the island on private road course clubs similar to that being proposed to replace the Amelia River Golf Club. These clubs cater to the super rich who want to have a private place where they can race their latest acquisition. Though all these driving clubs are in isolated locations, most seriously disrupt area residents with noise and lower property values. No driving club like that being proposed has been built in or near residential neighborhoods like here on Amelia.

SPRING MOUNTAIN MOTOR RESORT re(built 2004)

- Pathrump NV, one hour from Las Vegas in open desert
- 6.1 Road Course on over 600 acres
- 350 members
- \$60,000 initiation \$6,000 annual
- 16 track days per month
- 80 lots for private condos at \$350,000 each
- Draw – Ron Fellows Performance Driving School/country club/repair shop
- Comment - most important business of community

CLUB MOTORSPORTS (built 2017)

- Tamsworth NH, 50 miles from Concord
- 2.5 miles with 15 turns
- 240 members
- \$25,000 initiation fee \$2,500 annual
- Open 150 days per year
- Trackside condos planned
- Draw is elevation changes in the hilly countryside
- Comment – residents 3 miles away declare noise is “in your face” litigation ongoing

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY (rebuilt 2000)

- Alton, Virginia (near NC border outside Danville)
- 4.2 mile road course
- 300 members
- \$3,000 initiation \$3,200 annual
- 18 driving days for members, remaining days for school and testing events
- Private villas near track with high end \$485,000 each
- Draw is history of great drivers karting track and skeet shooting
- Comment - no noise limit, 1,300 acre heavily wooded area, no nearby neighborhood

MONTICELLO MOTOR CLUB (built 2008)

- Thompson New York (1.5 hours from NYC)
- 4.1 mile track that can be divided into 2 courses
- 475 members
- \$90,000 initiation fee, \$13,700 annual

- Unlimited driving days
- No onsite condos or villas, but “mansions” built by members adjacent to course
- Draw - Max speed of 170 on straightaway
- Comment – “stop the noise campaign” initiated by locals, noise is “unlivable”

ATLANTA MOTORSPORTS PARK (built 2013)

- Dawsonville, Georgia (hour outside Atlanta)
- 1.8 miles with various configurations
- 450 members
- \$37,500 initiation fee, \$150 per month fee
- 140 days of driving
- Luxury garages for lease
- Draw - “gentlemen driving” with high speeds and separate karting track
- Comment - located in heavily wooded thinly populated remote area

PALMER MOTORSPORTS CLUB (built 2015)

- Palmer, Massachusetts
- 2.3 miles with 214 turns and 190 feet elevation changes
- 50 members
- \$22,500 initiation, \$2,500 dues
- 30 days driving per season per member evening driving allowed
- Trackside villas being considered
- Draw – weekend warrior driving
- Comment – noise litigation ongoing, “there is constant drone”, track was approved based on a scientific estimate of noise, estimate fell far short of reality.

THERMAL CLUB (built 2014 on former navy airport)

- Thermal, California (2 hours east of LA) cited as an example by developer
- 4 separate courses each over about 1.2 miles, combinable, 400 acres
- 115 members current 500 maximum
- \$85,000 initiation, \$14,000 annual
- Members must build or own condo/villa with garage
- Condo sites \$700,000 and villas \$2.2 million (198 sites current, more planned)
- Features “resort like amenities”, auto shop, adjacent airport for private use
- Draw – car loving cognoscenti focus on exotics, e.g. McLaren, Ferrari, Porsche, etc.
- Comment – noise limit 106db. 18 foot high sound wall, outside neighborhoods had home values significantly diminish and sales are flat (as of March 2018)

PALM BEACH DRIVING CLUB (rebuilt 2008)

- Palm Beach Florida, surrounded by wildlife management area
- 2.2 mile course
- Unknown member number
- \$22,000 initiation and \$5,500 annual on sliding depreciation scale
- No garage or condos on site
- Year round driving days and nights
- Draw – karting and access to nearby Palm Beach International Raceway

- Comment – located in JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area near PB Airport

“The rich get the benefits and the rest get the problems”