

## DEL MONTE TROPHY RACE GROUP

Celebrating the Pebble Beach Road Races



## The Del Monte Trophy Race Group at the 2023 Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion

Press release. Laguna Seca, July 20, 2023

The 1947 to 1955 Sports Racing and GT Class which is currently represented by the Del Monte Trophy Race Group has been a fixture at Laguna Seca Raceway since Steve Earle and General Racing Inc. founded the Monterey Historic Road Races in 1974. The Del Monte Trophy was awarded to the winner of the Sunday feature race for most of the seven years that the Pebble Beach Road Races were held in the Del Monte forest. The cars of the Del Monte Trophy Race Group raced at those early 1950s events.

For the 2023 event at Laguna Seca Raceway, the organizers have added front engine 1956 to 1960 Sports Racers and GT cars to the Class. The combined grid presents the sports racing cars that introduced European-style road racing to the US West Coast public after World War II round the pines of the Pebble Beach circuit. Then in 1957 the Del Monte Trophy cars were the first Sports Racing and GT cars to compete at the newly completed Laguna Seca Raceway.

Del Monte Trophy Race Group cars represent half of the 43 car entry at the August 2023 races. They include Jaguar XK-120, C-Type and D-Types, Allard, MG, Maserati and Siata production Sports Cars along with several California Specials. Of particular note are John Mote's 1955 Sorrell Kurtis GMC Special and the 1953 Tatum GMC Special which will be on track together for the first time. The Tatum GMC Special will be driven by Blake Tatum whose father Chuck built and raced the car in the early 1950s. In addition Jeff Abramson will be bringing out the seminal 1950 John von Neumann MG Special.

The 1956 to 1960 Sports Racers showcase the game-changing Chevrolet small block V8 with several powerful Sports Racing Specials along with the early Corvette Production Sports Cars. These will be on track with Lotus 17s, Lotus 11s and Lola Mk1s, some of the first imported purpose-built Sports Racers to be widely available to amateur drivers in the US.

The Del Monte Race Group will have a dedicated lane in the paddock displaying its entries in the context of their California and Monterey Pebble Beach Road Races history.

The combined 1947 to 1960 grid will be a unique opportunity to see on track at the same time the cars that created the new sport of road racing in the US; from the Pebble Beach Road Races (1950-1956) and the huge new spectator interest that resulted; to the construction of Laguna Seca Raceway (1957) and the early race events that made Laguna Seca and the Monterey Peninsula the motorsports destination that it is today.

Photos and entry list available from [marcus@bicknell.com](mailto:marcus@bicknell.com)

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