



Lime Rock Park wants NASCAR's trucks

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Camping World trucks racing at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H. Image Courtesy: Matt Wiernasz

LAKEVILLE, Conn. (WWLP) – The last time the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour raced at Lime Rock Park was in September of 2011. The race was won by Todd Szegedy. For NASCAR's K&N Pro Series East at LRP it's been even longer. Andrew Ranger won the series' last appearance on the Lakeville, Connecticut road course in July 2010. In 2008 fans watched Austin Dillion race at Lime Rock along with Westfield's Dale Quarterley. In more recent years financial realities have played a role in NASCAR being a stranger at LRP. But that doesn't mean Lime Rock is no longer interested in NASCAR. In fact, road racing's short track is very interested in hosting a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series event in the foreseeable future.

On Tudor United Sports Car Saturday, Lime Rock Park Public Relations Director Rick Roso told 22News: "We would love to have a NASCAR Truck race here. We think that'd be a perfect fit. There's been no discussions of any substantive sort but that's something that Skip Barber (Lime Rock President & owner) would like to explore. We haven't done a deal. But it's something that's hopefully going to be on the table as we communicate with Daytona. We would have had it last year if we could have. When it makes sense for NASCAR and us, we would like to do

that. We have the facility to handle that. We have the paddock space. We have the pit lane space. We could definitely make it work. It's just a matter of would NASCAR like to have that discussion."

While fans of modified would love to see the NWMT back at LRP, Roso explained the difficulties with having the tour back. He told 22News: "The reason why the mods aren't here is primarily a financial and scheduling thing. The mod teams don't necessarily want to tweak or build a new car for one road course. They would do it if there were two on the schedule, so you've got that as a factor in play. Another is what NASCAR requires, and not unreasonably, but what they require for a purse that the track provides. That number doesn't match up with the revenue generated. So we're willing to talk to NASCAR if there's a way to make movement on a sanctioning fee but in effect it's the purse. We don't think they're asking an unreasonable number. But

with respect to Lime Rock the math didn't quite work. The way you build that event here, it has to be more than just a one off race. You have to have it three, four, five years in a row so it builds momentum. And when you do the math on the numbers it wasn't working. It's not feasible for some of the teams to make the dramatic adjustments to be competitive for one race. But if there were two road course races, that would make sense to them."

There are no road course races on the 2015 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule. The NWMT has raced on the road course at Watkins Glen, New York. NASCAR's K&N Pro Series East will race there next week and at Virginia International Raceway later in August.

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(<https://lintvwwlp.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/continental-tire-sportscar-challenge-action.jpg>)

Continental Tire Sportscar racing at Lime Rock Park. Image Courtesy: Matt Wiernasz