

Rally in Raleigh: 2019 MidEast NSX Meet

By John Komar



The Annual MidEast NSX Meet

in 2019 saw some friendly skies, despite a dismal weather forecast that changed day-by-day leading up to the weekend of the event. With the exception of two brief periods of drizzle on Friday afternoon (that unfortunately interrupted an impromptu repair during our dinner at Ruckus Pizza – more about that later) the weekend was dry and mostly sunny with some 80+ degree days.

What began in 2014 as a fairly local North Carolina event has grown into a multi-state regional gathering that truly lives up to the “MidEast” name. This year’s event saw 39 NSXs and owners from seven states: Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. (Yes, Michigan! Thank you, Robert Mick.)

As in previous years, many of the NSX owners attending this year were new to the MidEast Meet, while a core group of individuals who have attended all of the Raleigh-area meets were on-hand to continue many of the traditions that have developed for the annual MidEast NSX Meet. We even attracted former owners who enjoy seeing the friends they made during their NSX ownership.



A personal observation from my NSX ownership and the many, many NSX events I have attended: While the opportunity to see so many terrific cars is an attraction, the owners and their friends keep me coming back for more. These cars just seem to gravitate to good people.

The MidEast NSX Meet began on Friday, May 3, with an afternoon car clean-up at the host hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn. A nice wash station was set up in the rear parking area by the hotel staff. The Hilton served as the headquarters hotel for NSXPO 2013. It’s a great facility and the hotel provides a parking area for our exclusive use.



Another every-year event is Rush Hour Karting, which is an indoor kart track with Honda-powered karts. We arrived about 3 pm on Friday afternoon, and this year we had about 14 NSXs parked in front of the track. The staff of the kart track expressed their delight in seeing our cars. This year Louis Burguillo and AJ Aviles battled for best lap time, with Luis finally besting AJ.

tools, parts and the mechanics needed were on hand. So just after dinner at Ruckus, Jay and Luis proceeded to make this repair, deterred only by two brief periods of rain that blew through the area.

Next on the agenda was another MidEast tradition, dinner at Ruckus Pizza in nearby Cary. Robert Royster, owner of a 2002 Berlina Black NSX, own several Ruckus restaurants in the Raleigh area. The Cary location has an outdoor eating area that overlooks a parking lane where we can look at the long line of NSXs during dinner. This provides ample opportunity for continuous back and forth between dining and viewing the cars. This year we had just under 30 NSXs lined up for dinner. Several NC1s found their way to Ruckus from North Caroline, South Caroline, and Pennsylvania.

The original spark for the MidEast NSX Meet in 2014 came from participants of NSXPO 2013 who started an after-hours cruise night in the Raleigh area. Jay Bozeman, Darrin Paley, and Alec Fields were the main instigators. It has become tradition during the MidEast NSX Meet to find some cruise-nights during the event. Since these night-time cruises have been disappearing, we created our own at a local Sonic Drive-In on Friday evening. Unfortunately, because of the great weather, when we arrived at Sonic the parking lot was full. After a bit of discussion and some searching, we found an alternate location with more parking and took off for the Char-Grill, a burger-and-fries restaurant in Raleigh.

Saturday Events

A not-so-desirable tradition has been Jay Bozeman repairing one of the NSXs. He's usually assisted by Luis Burguillo; they are both very talented NSX mechanics. This year, Bill Schumard attended with his month-old 1995 Brooklands Green NSX. Evidently the previous owner had replaced the clutch master cylinder — and acquired, but did not replace, the slave cylinder. Fortunately, Bill had the cylinder, and all the

Saturday would be the big day for the sixth annual MidEast NSX Meet. The day started early, after breakfast, with a visit to Road Scholars, a high-end restoration shop and exotic car dealer located in Durham that specializes in Porsches.

Charles Stanley, Director of Marketing for Road Scholars, gave a brief background about the





development of the facility and then conducted a tour of the restoration shop. Interestingly, several of the principals of Road Scholars are former NSX owners. Several multi-million-dollar Porsches, Ferraris and other exotic cars graced the showroom area.

Stanley also related a story about restoring a rare car owned by the Porsche family in Germany. They shipped the car to the states to be restored by Road Scholars with the stipulation that the car would be entered into the Pebble Beach Concours... and must win its class. Not too much pressure there! They did restore the car and did win their class at Pebble Beach.

Our next stop to Southpoint Acura, a Hendrick dealership that is located in Durham with a group of other Hendrick brands that include Porsche, BMW, and Mercedes. You may recall that Rick Hendrick

purchased the first production NSX in 2017 at auction for \$1.2 million. As we rolled into the complex, we drove past the Porsche dealer that was having its monthly Cars and Coffee. I noticed many heads twisting to see the line of NSXs driving by.

The Acura dealer had cleared an area in the front of the showroom so that we could all park together. Upon our mid-morning arrival, they had coffee, breakfast rolls, fruit, and cheese trays waiting for us. At lunch we enjoyed hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, chips, and drinks also provided by the dealer. The entire staff as well as a few of the technicians mingled with the NSX owners. Just after lunch we had a door prize drawing for several NSX models, both first and second generation. Several NSX owners went next door to see the crowd of cars attending the Porsche event.

In the showroom was a 918 Spyder valued at around \$3 million.

Next, to a new location for our meet: A newly created facility established by a local businessman, Payman Bazooband, who also owns an exotic car dealership in Raleigh. The CECC (Carolina Exotic Car Club) is a private, membership-only club and storage facility which combines an active social club with secure climate-controlled storage, on-site maintenance and repair, detail, private event venue rentals, catering, enclosed transport and more. It has become one of the premier exotic car destinations in the Raleigh area. We browsed their two showroom storage areas and then settled into the bar/lounge area for, well, a little lounging.

After the tour of the Carolina Exotic Car Club, we drove back to the hotel for some rest before heading out to dinner at City BBQ. This restaurant had just opened a month before our first MidEast NSX Meet and features

some very excellent southern BBQ. It's become our go-to spot for the final meal of the weekend event. City BBQ has ample, open parking that allowed our group to stage an impromptu NSX show which attracted quite a few car enthusiasts to stop and talk with us about our cars.

An alternate evening event that several owners participated in was a newly opened movie-and-dinner theatre, CinéBistro, showing Avengers: Endgame.

After a short drive back to the Hilton, most participants retired for the evening in the lobby of the hotel for drinks and talk after a long day of fun NSX togetherness.

Thanks to all who helped organize and run this event. Everyone was excited about the MidEast Meet 2020, but in the meantime, we hope to see everyone this fall at NSXPO 2019 in Washington DC. 🇺🇸

