

What's all the racket about? Nature's relaxing rhythms destroyed by noise

By DAVID LOWENSTERN • November 4, 2010

I've read so much bias in the news about the organization Track Racket wanting to "ruin the local economy" because it's asking for the New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville to keep the noise down to a tolerable level for those living near the track.

I haven't seen one article in the news that states that Track Racket wants to stop operations at the NJMP. The racetracks are already built. They can't do anything about that. All they want is for noise levels to adhere to city ordinances. What's wrong with asking for that? If new tracks are built, Track Racket doesn't want those tracks not to generate excessive noise levels, either. NJMP officials seem to be willing to negotiate. Why aren't local politicians willing to listen?

I don't see how lowering the noise level of the racetrack will have any negative economic impact on the city of Millville. I think that argument is hogwash. There's no connection between noise level and negative economic impact. It's just an argument that someone fabricated to bring fear and emotion into this issue for their own gain. It is a tactic that has taken hold, especially in these trying economic times. But it has no basis.

If there has been any negative economic impact on the city, I would say there's been a negative impact on the value of people's homes that live near the track. So have some consideration for those people who only wish the noise-level ordinance is adhered to.

I think it is only fair for city and NJMP officials to listen to those who live near the racetrack and have to endure excessive, or any, noise. If you don't live near the track and you don't hear the noise, please respect other citizens of your community who live near the racetrack. They have rights, too.

Economics shouldn't be our only motivator. Quality of life and quiet enjoyment of our natural resources should be highly considered also.

Here's a strong side note:

I've been boating on Union Lake for more than 10 years. I go there for fun, peace, quiet and solitude. There have been osprey, bald eagles, great blue herons and other wildlife to watch and listen to.

Sometimes, it was just wonderful to escape and only hear the quiet and the wind and water.

That has all changed now. Most weekends, along with the sound of the wind and water, I can hear the constant high-pitched whir of the cars at the racetrack. This is not a natural sound. This is not a peaceful, relaxing sound. To me, this sound is stressful. It doesn't give me reprieve from everyday noise and stresses. My relaxing peace and quiet on the weekends is gone!

Saturday morning, Oct 23, was the worst. The car racing was so loud, that at first, I thought the cars were racing on Sharp Street. It was really loud and horrible to listen to.

This past Saturday, I went to Union Lake to go kayaking. I started to put my boat in the water when I heard that sickening loud sound of cars racing in the distance. Instead of kayaking there, I packed up my boat and decided to go somewhere else instead. I started to wonder how many other people have thought about packing up and going somewhere else.

After boating, I usually eat somewhere in Millville, or buy a meal to eat at the lake; but this time, I didn't. I started to wonder how many other people have done this. I may be only one person, but there could be others who have stayed away.



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It really makes me sad that one of my favorite and local nature retreats is now sickeningly overrun with racecar racket.

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