



Chicago, August 20, 2009, NASA Midwest, Inc.

Mid Ohio Sports Car Course/August 15-16, 2009/NASA Great Lakes

Performance Touring Race Report

Sun, a few white puffy clouds, more sun, high temps and humidity all mixed together for an exciting weekend racing at MidOhio Sportscar Course.

PTA – Saturday and Sunday’s race seemed to be missing something! Robert Stout, in the Lucas Oil Pro Challenge car, had a “get together” with a disabled car during practice Friday. As a result, Robert got a trip to the hospital and a severely shortened car. Suffering an ankle injury, along with cuts and bruises, Robert returned to the track with the aide of a cane. Thankfully, there were no broken bones. There is nothing like being short in the tooth. Matt Carlyle did not trust his Pfadt Racing Corvette enough to race opting for Time Trials instead. Carlyle’s car has been evacuating many fluids recently. Enter Chris Herrick and Kumar Viswalingam. Herrick, in his brown C4 Corvette ran in front Saturday and Sunday. Glad to see Chris back in the mix. This was Kumar’s 1st run with NASA’s Great Lakes Region. His yellow Firebird stayed close to Herrick’s Corvette, but could not gain enough ground, giving Herrick a pair of wins.

PTB – Brian Faessler, driving a Paul’s Automotive Engineering Fox Body Mustang, was the lone competitor in PTB. Brian recently acquired his competition license and was accumulating some quality seat time. Faessler showed a marked improvement from Saturday to Sunday and actually competed on street tires. Come on back, we need some Mustangs in Performance Touring!

PTC – Jeff Diffenderfer’s Mazdaspeed MX5 ran extremely well at MidOhio. All the nagging issues that seemed to plaque the car this year were dissipated. In Sunday’s race, Diffenderfer smashed the class’s track record of 1:41.243 with a time of 1:39.312. Almost two full seconds is astonishing. Nice driving Jeff! Bo Lemastus, driving his recently purchased Honda S2000, was a welcome sight to the PTC class. This was Bo’s first event with NASA. Bo was visibly more comfortable in his new car, as the race progressed, and will push the class forward in the future. Welcome Bo!

PTD – Ron Dodson came to MidOhio looking for a less eventful weekend than the previous two. He got his wish. Dodson, driving his Acura Integra, pulled out to a comfortable lead Saturday and ran away with the win. Trying to catch him was Patrick Smith, in his supercharged Mazda Miata, and Colin Botha in his Honda Civic. Smith and Botha had a battle royale the entire race with Botha taking 2nd place. Very exciting! Sunday’s race started in similar fashion except Dodson was behind the Smith/Botha action.



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Smith had to pull out early due to a mechanical issue and Botha left early due to a “thought process” issue. This gave Dodson his second win of the weekend.

PTE – Where should I start with this month’s edition? The August event was our biggest of the year so far in this highly competitive class. Seven cars competed Saturday and eight on Sunday. The Saturday race saw Brian Makse, in the Pakistan Express Honda Civic, jump out to a good lead. He stayed there until an unfortunate incident with a couple closely competing PTD cars ended his race. Steven Eich, driving his Nissan Sentra SE-R, stepped into the lead. Eric Waddell, in the E4 Safety Honda Civic, ran out of engine eleven laps in. That let a 2nd and 3rd place battle form between the other Pakistan Express Honda Civic and Green Baron Racing’s Dodge Neon. The Civic, driven by Faisal Ahmad, and the Neon, driven by Jack Baruth, put on a good show. Ahmad’s Civic bested Baruth’s Neon. Robert Keller seemed to lose interest in the race and decided to take his Maxda Miata 4-wheeling. Sunday’s race saw one of the closest contests of the year. Makse and Eich provided the excitement. Running nose to tail and trading positions the entire race was very exciting to witness. Eich eventually won by 2/10ths of a second. Waddell was impressive driving a borrowed car to a 3rd place finish. Baruth and Ahmad were battling again with Ahmad taking a slight lead toward the end. The handling seemed to leave Ahmad’s car giving Baruth 4th place. This was another very exciting weekend in Performance Touring’s most competitive class.

PTF – Aaron Lorton showed up in his Chevy Cavalier and mixed it up impressively with all the other classes. It is always great to see Lorton’s car on the track. He now has two more wins under his belt.

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