



Chicago, May 22, 2009, NASA Midwest, Inc.

Putnam Park Road Course/May 16-17, 2009/NASA Great Lakes & Midwest Crossover Event

PT drivers have some serious fun at Putnam Park

A windy, cool, overcast day at Putnam Park did not stop the Performance Touring drivers from going fender to fender. The paddock was a swamp from the previous night's rain. Numerous trucks and trailers had to be pulled out of the grass. The track was, at the least, damp most of the day. Practice and qualifying sessions were managed by the competitors very well. Being a crossover event, some Midwest Region drivers joined in the fun.

PTF

Aaron Lorton showed up driving the yellow Cavalier his wife, Tiffany, drove last year. Tiffany is expecting an addition to the family and can't take the wheel this year. I think Aaron had a plan there. This child will be a driver. Adam Baitis, also from the Midwest Region, proved to be too much for the Lorton team this weekend. Baitis, driving his first generation Mazda RX7, recorded some impressive times. Baitis hopes to be at MidOhio with us later this year. Is this another future PTE car?

PTE

Once again, our strongest PT class was PTE. This class only promises to increase if the rumors are true. (Another Miata and an Acura driven by a couple of unrelated Smith's?) We will see. For now, Honda seems to be leading the season. Saturday's race started behind a Spec Miata melee which spread the field for the entire time. Green Baron Racing's Jack Baruth came out of the pile first and held on for the entire race. The Team Pakistan Express car, driven by Brian Makse, followed for second. Eric Waddell, Bob Keller and Faisal Ahmad finished in respective order after dealing with their own "issues" during the race. Sunday brought perfect racing weather – hot sun and cool air. Makse brought his "A" game and took the win. The E4 Safety car, driven by Waddell, came in second followed by Keller's Miata. Baruth and the second Pakistan Express car, driven by Ahmad, had to bow out early. Where was Kelsey Smith?

PTD

It was great to see Bill Biagi racing his Mustang in PTD. Bill was a former competitor of mine in TTD and has made the jump to wheel to wheel. Saturday was his last race to complete the provisional status. Welcome to the club! Bill also won Saturday and Sunday, although he was the only car in the class. That was fortunate since a bad rear wheel bearing was involved.



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PTB

Brian Domont drove the Meyer Motorsports Mazda RX8 all alone Saturday. Sunday, Kyle Burkhardt, driving the Pajama Pants racing M3, jumped into the class to provide some competition. Roy Lipner would have made it also but had to leave at the last minute to catch a plane. Burkhardt ran a very clean race to complete his provisional status, but . the Meyer Motorsports Mazda was too much. This RX8 was impressive competing in two other classes also. Looks like you found the right engine builder, Eric!

PTA

Matt Carlyle jumped from PTA to ST2 for the weekend leaving the Lucas Oil Pro Challenge car, driven by Robert Stout, to run alone. Stout ran two good trouble free races and is committed to the class! We missed Chris Herrick for a three car class.

Performance Touring continues to grow and build rivalries. I expect growing fields throughout the year!

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