



**nasa**  
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.  
5250 Grand Avenue  
Suite 14-387  
Gurnee, IL 60031

Chicago, July 12, 2010, NASA Midwest, Inc.

### Spec Miata Drivers enjoy BeaveRun

It was an interesting weekend with few of the 13 SM drivers having any real experience of BeaveRun. Despite this lack of familiarity, close and exciting racing was the order of the day. Spec Miata escaped much of the carnage and contact, which unfortunately impacted the other classes and hopes of Patrick Strehl's "clean racing" prize stayed alive for most if not all!

Race #1: Rookie Chris Price qualified on Pole and ran away from Brian Murdick in P2 before fading mid-race allowing Brian to mount an incredible charge back to catch and pass Chris for the lead and eventually the race. The real battle was for P3 through P6 with John Green starting in P3 before dropping off-track at the T10 hairpin on the first lap and then scrapping his way over the best part of 10 laps around Ron Williams, Greg Peluso and Justin Hille to regain P3 and take his first podium spot. Congrats!

Race #2: Chris Price again qualified on Pole alongside Brian Murdick. A missed shifts from the front row caused some chaos but luckily no harm/no foul at the start. Justin Hille jumped into P2 with Brian tucked into P3 and both began to track Chris down for P1. The race between P1 and P2 was close with both Chris and Justin using the entire track and a fair amount of the dirt. Ultimately Justin outdrove Chris to take the lead and his first win.

Race #3: Began with familiar feeling to the front of the grid and a close battle for the first 5 laps with Chris Price chasing Justin Hille for the lead. However, Mother Nature played her Joker with a spectacular cloudburst. Chris Price took the lead from Justin in the rain, keeping it for less than half a lap before his mojo drowned and he hydroplaned off the track followed closely by much of the field, luckily without any damage. It was obvious conditions were beyond "tricky" with standing water on most of the track surface and Black Flags were thrown before someone got properly hurt. Maybe it was the rain and spray, maybe Miata's legendary wiper speed, or possibly the sheer giddy joy of racing in the rain on slicks, but much of the front of the pack missed the first Black Flag before T10 and Pit, only seeing it at the Start or T1. Chris Williams was first to see the Black Flag and pit appropriately, consequently taking the lead for the restart and holding it despite the still treacherous conditions, ultimately slithering around for another 6 laps to take first place. Matt Grant, ran with a dying differential all weekend and still nursed three races out of it, finishing second after the black flag issues in the third race on Sunday, Bob Keller came in third.

Curiously, as the controversy over parity rages on the interweb, it's worth noting that while polesitter for Race #1 and Race #2 was taken by a 1999 1.8, both P2



**nasa**  
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.  
5250 Grand Avenue  
Suite 14-387  
Gurnee, IL 60031

and P3 on the grid went to a 1.6 and ultimately a 1.6 won both races, with in all cases, fast laps separated by less than 1/10 of a second. A vote for Spec Miata parity? Maybe ..... Close clean racing for sure.

Chris William's, one of the season front runners had his car die before the races on Friday, when it sheared exhaust camshaft knocking him out of Saturday's racing. He was able to get back on the track on Sunday, driving his dad Ron William's SM # 01. Team Myrhen very had a good weekend with Bruce (dad) driving the Saturday race and Ryan (son) driving the Sunday races. We also had some newer faces to Great Lakes SM region, with Jim Feniello and Frank Todaro having good races.

Up next is Mid Ohio July 23-25. See you there!

For complete results and a list of lap records, please see [www.greatlakes.com](http://www.greatlakes.com)

Patrick Strehl  
Spec Miata Series Director  
NASA Great Lakes

NASA Contact:  
Bryan Cohn  
Director of Competition  
NASA Midwest, Inc.  
[bcohn@nasamidwest.com](mailto:bcohn@nasamidwest.com)