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NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
5250 Grand Avenue
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Chicago, April 13, 2011, NASA Midwest, Inc.

944 Spec Season Opener, Mid-Ohio, April 9-10

944 Spec went from zero to four cars from last year to the season opener in 2011. Two new rookie drivers who just completed competition school that weekend, a seasoned GTS-1 driver and a seasoned driver who just returned from a three-year west coast respite made up the field of 944 Spec cars competing for the fame and fortune at the first round of racing of the NASA Great Lakes season.

Qualifying Saturday was a little on the damp side, but spirits were high. On pole for the first race was Shannon "Lightning" McCue in the Red Beast, followed by Brad "The Man" Raum in the purple Barney mobile, then rounding out positions three and four were Sam "The Orange Baron" Grant and John "The Bear" Armstrong. 944 Spec ran in the Lightning group with GTS-1, Spec E-30, PT and Spec Miata. At the drop of the green flag, Brad in The Barney Mobile made a run for the front of the pack and led the race for a total of three turns before Lightning McCue darted in for the lead and closely followed by Sam The Orange Baron and John The Bear. The Barney mobile succumbed to power loss issues in the second lap of the race and retired the car for the day waving to The Orange Baron and The Bear as they drove by. Dejectedly (watching from the spectator area) Brad The Man watched the veteran and two rookies display some excellent driving skills navigating traffic and staying out of trouble to finish the race unscathed in that order. Saturday night was a great celebration for 944 Spec as it was the first time on the podium for all three drivers. Ear to ear grins were evident as the drivers were off to a great start for the 2011 season.

Sunday Brad and Shannon opted out of qualifying to get the cars ready for the upcoming race. Sam in the Orange Baron got his first pole in qualifying and John The Bear was right by his side. After a great start, Lightning McCue repeated Saturday's performance and bolted to the front of the pack in short order. All four drivers remained in close proximity for the first several laps and then Lightning McCue opened up his lead and wasn't seen by the rest of the pack for the remainder of the race. The Barney Mobile held second place for a short time, before loss of brake pressure slowed Barney down a bit in the braking zones and The Orange Baron made a great pass for second and never looked back. The Bear ran a great tight race. Traffic from the other race groups mixed things up a bit and it was a great experience for all. Congratulations to Lightning McCue for back to back wins followed by Sam The Orange Baron, Brad in the Barney Mobile and John The Bear.

All in all it was a great kick-off for 944 Spec. in the Great Lakes Region and all the drivers are looking forward to the next round.



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For complete results and lap records, please see www.nasagreatlakes.com.

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