



Cal Club Farewell Summer Classic Divisional/Club Race 9-13/14-14

By Bill Haneline

Buttonwillow Raceway Park

This is the last SoPac Divisional race of 2014. Many drivers are using the Divisional path to qualify for the RunOffs at Laguna Seca this year and this was their last chance to meet the four weekend participation requirements. "Participation" is setting a wheel on track at least once during the weekend whether it is practice or a race. Also "Farewell Summer" was hardly that with temps in the low 100's to Sunday's upper 90's!

Race 1 SM

Starting off Saturday racing is our Spec Miata group and San Diego's Clement Lee sits on the pole with Carlsbad's Steven Champlin beside him. When the green is waved Lee jumps out into the lead followed by Champlin into the first turn. Crossing the line to complete the 1st lap Lee has a 4 second lead! In second it is Champlin followed by Glendora's Wesley Mollno and Arcadia's Ramon Niebla. Close on their tail is San Diego's Curtis Gong. As the laps click off Lee continues to pull away from the field and Gong works his way up to second. With 4 laps complete Lee has a 9 second lead and sounds like he's taking it easy. Back behind him drivers are really battling. With 6 laps complete Lee drops back to 4.4 seconds ahead of Gong, Mollno, and Champlin. Soon Champlin starts to drop away from Gong and Mollno but an off and on in the Bus Stop increases that gap. A couple laps later Mollno also has an off and on at the Grapevine and drops back from Gong. With 4 laps left Lee has put the pedal to the metal and sets his fastest lap and also has moved out to 11 seconds ahead of second. Champlin is turning in some good lap times and is closing in on third place Mollno. With 3 laps left Todd Launchbaugh is catching up with 5th place Francis Hu but a spin takes care of that and he pits. As we get near the end Lee really backs out of it and when he takes the checker he is 1.9 seconds ahead of second place Curtis Gong. Finishing in third is Wesley Mollno, fourth is Steven Champlin, and in fifth is Huntington Beach's Francis Hu. Clement Lee also sets a new lap record.

Race 2 Wings And Things

A temperature of 97° awaits the start of this race. Woodland Hills' Ehud Nahir in his P1 Elan has the pole with Buttonwillow's FC mounted Les Phillips beside him. When the green waves Nahir takes the lead with Huntington Beach's Chris Emanuel taking the second spot in his FA. There are several 2 car classes out there and in FM rookie Terrance Carraher from Grover Beach leads Ed Lever. In SRF Riverside's Denny Fosdick leads Don Palla. Los Angeles' Mark Edwards leads Charlie Turner in FV. On lap 4 Lever takes the FM top spot and Don Palla takes the SRF lead. On the 6th lap Emanuel is able to take the top spot away from Nahir and Phillips is not far behind either. With 4 laps left Nahir slows allowing Phillips to take the 2nd spot. When the checker drops it is Chris Emanuel taking the top spot in his FA. In second is the FC driven by Les Phillips. 3rd is P1 winner Ehud Nahir. 4th is our P2 winner Robert Kazen from Fallbrook. 5th

is the lone FE entry of Redmond, WA's Cameron Robinson. Pacific Palisades' Ed Lever wins FM, Jim Stewart from Pacifica wins FF, Bakersfield's Don Palla wins SRF, and Mark Edwards wins FV. I'm sure just about every class set a new lap record.

Race 3 IT, STL, STU, Pro 7, GTL, B-Spec, and Production

Our first start is waved off by the starter and Clement Lee and Todd Launchbaugh in their Miata STL cars bring the field around again and they take the green. In the first turn Wesley Mollno gets his Miata major sideways and collects it averting a big mess! Lee motors away like he did earlier in SM. Ramon Niebla takes over the 2nd spot and Mollno takes 3rd. Launchbaugh drops to 4th. In 6th is our lone S944 driven by Palm Desert's James Foxx. Behind him is the lead ITA driven by Las Vegas' Thomas Smith. In 10th is the lead STU driven by Las Vegas' Dale Shoemaker. At the halfway point Lee has a 10 second lead over Niebla. Clovis' Jim Bishop has moved his STL Celica up to 4th overall. With 5 laps left Mollno is all over Niebla for the 2nd spot. They come up on some lapped cars in the Esses and enter the Sweeper where Mollno has a big off and drops back. Also Foxx has a lot of smoke come out of his Porsche and he parks it safely out by the Bus Stop. With 3 laps left Bishop starts to mount an attack on Mollno for the 2nd position. With 2 laps left Bishop out brakes Mollno going into the first turn but overcooks it. Mollno gets beside him and they have a drag race to the beginning of the Esses. Toyota power wins this one. Niebla spins in the Bus Stop area handing over 4th to Launchbaugh. When the checker waves for Clement Lee he is 27 seconds ahead of Jim Bishop. In 7th is found our ITA winning Miata driven by Thomas Smith. In 10th is our winning HP CRX driven by Riverside's Cory Markos. Winning GTL is Long Beach based Craig Carter. Pro 7 is won by Dana Point's Richard Shea. Mission Viejo's Bobby Beyer wins B Spec in his Yaris. Having made it over half way, James Foxx wins S944. Lap records... HP Cory Markos, ITA Thomas Smith, GTL Craig Carter, STL, Clement Lee, Pro 7 Richard Shea, and STU it's Dale Shoemaker.

Race 4 SP, GT1, GT2, GT3

It is 100°, so it will be interesting to see if there's any attrition happening during this one. The great sounding 3 rotor GT1 RX7 of Richard Gray has the pole position with Bruce Powers in his SP Cougar beside him. When the green waves Gray Spins in the first turn with everyone missing him and at the exit of that turn the leading car of Powers spins! Josh Pitt in his SP Monte Carlo takes the lead spot. When they cross the line to finish the first lap it's Fellows, Ca's Pitt followed by Irvine's Scott Graham in his GT3 RX7, and Santa Barbara's Wayne Graham in his GT2 RX7. Next lap Graham's GT3 Mazda drops down to limp mode and the other Graham and Gray jump ahead of him. On the 3rd lap Gray passes Graham at Sunset and now has 2nd. Fallbrook's Denise Longwell in her GT2 BMW moves past Graham on the next lap taking the lead GT2 spot. Graham sounds like a gearbox problem and parks it at the half way point. Gray is now catching Pitt and only has a 2 second lead. With 5 laps left and only 1 car length between the leaders at start/finish Gray makes a big mistake at the first turn and spins out into the dirt and Pitt is slowing with a lot of smoke exiting his Monte Carlo. This now moves Longwell up to the lead spot in her beautiful looking orange BMW. Denise Longwell takes the checker and over 2 minutes behind her is the only other running car driven by Palmdale's Bruce Powers. Attrition is the real winner in this race! Lap records...GT2 Wayne Graham, SP Joshua Pitt.

Day Two Race 1 SM

The temp is 92° when the green is waved and again Clement Lee takes the lead. Down in the Esses there is a lot of dust and emerging out of it is the spinning car of Steve Stavely. When the cars cross the line on the first lap it is Clement Lee followed closely by Curtis Gong, Wesley Mollno, Steven Champlin, and Todd Launchbaugh. On the second lap Launchbaugh removes himself from the top 5 group by spinning in Sunset. By the next lap both Lee and Gong are pulling away from the field. Lee soon starts stretch his lead over Gong and a distance behind him is Mollno. At the half way point Champlin is slowly gaining on Mollno. Mollno has a pretty big off at Phil Hill and Champlin is able to assume the 3rd spot. With 4 laps left there's not many battles going on except for Todd Launchbaugh is really catching Ramon Niebla. Launchbaugh catches Niebla at the end of the back straight and promptly loses it in the Grapevine. Niebla has to do an evasive maneuver and goes off and on there also. When the checker comes out it is Clement Lee crossing the line 10 seconds ahead of Curtis Gong. In 3rd it is Steven Champlin, 4th is Wesley Mollno, and 5th is Angela Swan. Lee also sets another SM lap record. Lee's Miata has won its 3rd race of the hot weekend as he is also running it in STL.

Race 2 Formula and Sports Racers

Chris Emanuel has his FA on the pole with Robert Kazen's P2 beside him. Starting in the back is Ehud Nahir in his P1 car with no qualifying time. He moves up to 3rd by the second lap and is rapidly gaining on the leaders. With 5 laps complete Kazen is all over Emanuel and close behind him is Nahir. Up at Phil Hill Kazen slows his pace allowing Nahir to take over second. In SRF Palla tries to pass Fosdick by the S/F line and backs out of it for Sunset and the FV leader Mark Edwards slows letting Charlie Turner past him. With 6 laps left Nahir passes Emanuel going into the first turn and Emanuel repasses him heading down into the Esses. With 6 laps left Emanuel spins in the Sweeper handing over the lead to Nahir. Kazen, the FE of Cameron Robinson, and the FM of Ed Lever also pass him. With 5 laps left Edwards passes Turner for the FV lead. For SRF Palla is still all over Fosdick and next lap Fosdick slows and pulls it off and onto the Zorro's. After Fosdick is parked Palla has a couple separate off and on's! Luckily for Palla the checker comes out and Ehud Nahir wins by 31 seconds over Robert Kazen. Class winners are; Eddie Nahir P2, Robert Kazen P2, Cameron Robinson FE, Chris Emanuel FA, Ed Lever FM, Don Palla SRF, Mark Edwards FV. Lap records...FE Cameron Robinson and P2 Robert Kazen

Race 3 IT, STL/U,BS, FP, HP, GT1, GT2, SP, Pro 7, GTL, T1

Last race of the hot weekend and the Stewards have combined the last 2 groups, which everybody likes because it shortens the day by quite a bit! When the green flag waves Clement Lee and Wesley Mollno jump out front. Bruce Powers in his SP Cougar gets mixed up with those two but wisely decides to back off. After 2 laps Lee is pulling his runaway from the field trick again! On the 3rd lap Mollno gets passed by Powers and Powers starts to gain on Lee. For our 2 BMW's out there it is Denise Longwell in her GT2 BMW leading the T1 BMW of (new entry today) Toby Larsson. On lap 5 Longwell passes Mollno and takes over 3rd. At halfway Larsson moves up to 4th and gets up to 1.5 seconds of Longwell. Over in the I-5 area someone goes up in a cloud of smoke and it's Larsson! Mollno moves back up to 4th. The little B Spec Yaris of

Bobby Beyer, who is running HP today, is having a great time chasing the Pro 7 of Richard Shea and the RX7 just can't lose it! With 4 laps left Powers finally passes the Miata of Lee. Lee's poor Miata finally blows up its engine and he pulls off at the Grapevine turn station with a small fire. Mollno now inherits the STL lead and 3rd place. Finally the checker comes out for Bruce Powers and 27 seconds back is the winning GT2 car of Denise Longwell. 3rd is the winning STL Miata of Wesley Mollno. Other class winners are ITA Thomas Smith, GT1 Richard Gray, STU Dale Shoemaker, HP Cory Markos, Pro 7 Richard Shea, B Spec Bobby Beyer, T1 Toby Larsson, and Brian Linn in FP. Lap records; GT2 Denise Longwell, T1 Toby Larsson, ITA Thomas Smith, STL Clement Lee, Pro 7 Jim Rueff, HP Cory Markos, STU Dale Shoemaker.

This is the last Divisional of the year, but Cal Club's racing continues with The Pumpkin Run Club Race/3D Carbon/Time Trials October 25th and 26th. This will end the road racing part of Cal Club's 2014 calendar.

