



Cal Club US Majors Tour Willow Springs Intl Raceway

February 20/21, 2016

By Bill Haneline

Willow Springs in February is known for its frigid cold and wind. But, Mother Nature plays tricks and the track was blessed with really nice weather and some great racing to go along with it. Saturday's racing starts off with...

Race 1 FA, FB, FC, FE, FM, P1, P2

On the pace lap the FC of Phoenix's Jim Bryant stops on the pace lap and continues, but the field is waved off. Bryant is able to continue and when the field comes around to start their 2nd lap the green flag is waved for the first group and then later for the FC group. Scottsdale's Tim Day puts his P1 Stohr WF-1 into the lead ahead of Modesto's Jim Davenport in his pole sitting P1 Norma. The FC field lead by Rancho Palos Verde's Tim de Silva in his '01 Van Dieman takes no time what so ever to catch the field in front of him and starts carving them up. But hot on his wing is Downey's Tom Hope in his '03 Van Dieman. On car the FC's are not going to catch is the car starting last in the first group... Santee's Gary Hickman in his self built FB Phoenix. Hickman has no qualifying time, which is the reason for starting last in his pack. By the 2nd lap of racing Hickman has moved up 9 places and has only one car between him and the leading FB of Draper Utah's John LaBrie. LaBrie is also driving a Hickman built Phoenix. On crossing the line to complete lap 5 Davenport now leads Day. With Davenport and Day racing each other so hard LaBrie and the P2 of Las Vegas' Jeff Shafer start to catch them. On lap 8 Day starts to drop back and next lap the charging Hickman assumes 3rd place. Further back in the field the charge by both de Silva and Hope continue and on the same lap are 7th and 8th overall. On lap 11 Hickman crosses the line ahead of Day. As Davenport pulls his lead out to 13 seconds on lap 12 de Silva starts to pull away from Hope also. On lap 18 the checker is waved for Jim Davenport, who finishes 27 seconds ahead of 2nd place Gary Hickman. In 5th is the winning P2 '04 Radical of Jeff Shafer. Tim de Silva in his winning FC finishes 6th overall. In 16th is the winning FA driven by Bakersfield's Ed Lever. Vacaville's Jeff Reid wins FE and a few

positions behind him is Newhall's Austen Charles in his winning FM. There were several track records set led by Jim Davenport in P1 with 1:14.832, P2 – Jeff Shafer 1:18.135, Tim De Silva in FC with 1:18.186, and Austen Charles in FM with 1:28.621.

Race 2 SRF3 and SRF

Bakersfield's Mike Miserendino sits on the pole by .35 seconds over Lake Forest's Lee Fleming. For SRF Oakdale's Jake Pipal has that pole spot back in 18th overall. When the green waves 3rd place qualifier Todd Harris from Portland jumps into the lead going into the first turn. But part way around Willow Miserendino takes back the top spot and in 3rd is TJ Acker from Saugus. Fleming has a first lap spin and drops back to 20th and pulls into the pits in a few laps later. By lap 4 Miserendino has a 2 second lead over Harris. Next lap the race for 2nd is tightening up as Olympic Valley's John Black has caught Harris and Acker. Acker has second place on lap 6 but he is moved back to 3rd by Black. Today's races are not as important as tomorrow's, but none the less many drivers treat them as a pro race it seems. But, not this group, they start finding their spot and this results in a non-exciting race! When the checker is thrown to complete lap 17 Mike Miserendino wins by 3 seconds over John Black. Back in 3rd is TJ Acker then Todd Harris in 4th and finishing in 5th is West Lin Oregon's John Tipton. Jake Pipal easily wins SRF.

Race 3 EP, FP, HP, GTL, STL, BS

Leading the pack around is pole sitter Tom Tuttle from Windsor in his GTL Midget. Beside him is the FP Midget of Petaluma's Joe Huffaker. The actual 2nd place qualifier is Oscar Jackson Jr. in his STL CRX. But, this is a split start and the street tired cars start in the back. When the green is shown Huffaker has the GTL Midget of Hermosa Beach's Brian Linn right on his tail as the field charges thru turn 1. With 2 laps completed it is still Huffaker and Linn out front but now the EP cars of Goleta's Brandon Droese and Santa Barbara's Wayne Graham start showing their rotary power. On lap 4 Graham has assumed the lead and Jackson has moved all the way up to 5th overall! But, shadowing Jackson is the STL Integra driven by Concord's Andrie Hartanto. On lap 8 Jackson has taken over the 2nd overall spot and Hartanto is all over him in 3rd. Next lap Hartanto takes over the second spot from Jackson and starts closing in on Graham's Mazda RX3. Huffaker sits back in 4th and has a good view of the battle in front of him. I mentioned earlier some drivers treat today's "qualifying" races as "pro races"? Well, we have it going on right now! Even in B-Spec there is a battle going on for first between Acton's Jeffrey Barrow in his Fit and another Fit driven by Long Beach's Calvin Tam. Barrow and Tam exchange places a few times until 2 laps from the end Barrow spins in turn 4 and is hit by Tam. Tam and Barrow both continue with Barrow only making it 1 more lap. Up front Graham has Hartanto all over him and Jackson decides to back off. When the checker waves on lap 16 Wayne Graham in the old RX3 wins EP and only .6 seconds back is Andre Hartanto in his winning Acura. in 4th is the winning FP Midget of Joe Huffaker and only .6 seconds behind him is the winning GTL Midget of Brian Linn. 9th overall is the T4 winner Tom Wickersham from Piedmont in a RX8. Coto de Caza's Jason Isley easily wins HP in his Yaris. Back in 26th is B-Spec winner Calvin Tam. 2 lap records this time... Andrie Hartanto in STL with 1:33.989 and Tom Wickersham at 1:37.065 for a new T4 record.

Race 4 FF and FV

Small field, but it doesn't mean not any racing! Top qualifier in FF was Chuck Horn from Los Gatos in his Swift DB6. A top in FV is Rocklin's Aaron Meyer in a '99 Protoform. When the green flies Horn leads and Ed Erlandson from Burbank in his DB6 is a close 2nd. For FV it is a big battle! Across the line to complete their first lap the Vee battle is lead by Tustin's Tim Harris and right behind him is Meyer. With 3 laps complete Erlandson is only 1 second back from Horn and in FV Harris still leads with San Clemente's Skip Streets now in 2nd. Next time across the line to complete lap 4 Erlandson has closed in to within .4 seconds and Streets leads Harris. L.A.'s Mark Edwards has taken 3rd away from Meyer. This all changes when Harris hits a spinning Streets in turn 5 and Edwards takes over the lead. Both Streets and Harris' race is over, especially Streets whose rear wheel is missing! Edward's lead is short lived as Lafayette's Ron Wake is the new leader. Edwards takes back the lead on lap 12 and Wakes takes it back again next lap. The leader still has his mirrors full of Erlandson and when they take the checker on lap 16 Chuck Horn beats Ed Erlandson by only .9 seconds and first across the line in FV is Mark Edwards with Ron Wake only .19 behind. Even closer is Aaron Meyer, who had a great run out of turn 9 and is only .18 behind Wake! Only 1 lap record and that is Ed Erlandson turning 1:27.667.

Race 5 T1-3

On the front row is Shingle Springs' Marc Hoover in his potent Miata. Beside him is Ross Murray from Marina del Ray in his '04 Viper. When the green waves surprisingly the Viper cannot get the little Miata going into turn 1. As the Miata pull away from the field the top T2 car is Indian Wells' Guy Drier in his '12 Mustang. For T3 Tom Wickersham easily leads with his '11 V-6 Mustang. Hoover continues in the lead until lap 4, when he slows and pulls in the pits. Murray and Escondido's Ken Davis in his '06 Vette now have 1st and 2nd. The race settles down as the laps tick off and the only race going on is for 3rd in T2 between Menlo Park's Lynn Griffiths in her '08 Mustang and the '04 Vette driven by Rancho Palos Verde's Carl Fung. On lap 17 Ross Murray takes the checker 17.5 seconds over Ken Davis. In 3rd is the winning T12 of Guy Drier. 4th oa is T3 winning Tom Wickersham. Lynn Griffiths beats Carl Fung across the line by .9 seconds. Ross Murray set a lap record at 1:26.739 and Tom Wickersham set a T2 record at 1:32.546.

Race 6 GT1-3, STU, AS

Poway's Mike Lewis in his GT1 Jaguar has the pole and sitting beside him is the GT1 Corvette of Penngrove's Frank Emmett. When they get the start Lewis quickly pulls out an increasing lead over Emmett. By lap 4 Lewis has almost an 11 second lead! In GT2 Las Vegas' Robert Kahn's Vette has a decent lead over Merced's William Brinkop's Vette. On lap 7 Kahn starts to drop off the pace and hands over the GT2 lead to Brinkop. In GT3 Santa Barbara's Wolfgang Maike's Toyota Paseo leads Alpine's Mike Henderson in his 3rd Gen RX7. For STU Oscar Jackson Jr. has a big lead in his FRS over Rylan Hazelton's Honda S2000 from Soquel. In AS the Mustang of Los Angeles' Chris Qualls easily leads Allison Palitz from San Leandro in her Mustang. On lap 11 Brinkop is passed by the Porsche GT3 of Dylan Doherty from Fallbrook for the GT2 lead. From there everything settles down and the checker waves on lap 18 for Mike Lewis. Dylan Doherty wins GT2, Wolfgang Maike wins GT3, Oscar Jackson wins STU, and Chris Qualls wins AS. During the race Robert Kahn turns a lap of 1:23.528 to set a new GT2 lap record.

Race 6 SM

Last race of the day belongs to Spec Miata. Sitting on the pole is Daniel Langon from Alamo and beside him is Clement Lee from San Diego. The big surprise is San Diego's Dakota Dickerson, who starts way back in last with no qualifying time. Dickerson is the 2015 Cal Club Rookie of the Year. When the field gets the green flag and heads into turn 1 Langon gets a couple wheels off at the exit and promptly drops back to 4th. Taking over the lead is Chandler's Dean Busk and hot on him is the pack led by Lee. Next lap Lee is passed for 2nd by Mesa's Steven Powers and Dickerson has moved way up to 6th. On lap 4 Powers gets by Busk and takes over the lead. The pack of Powers, Busk, and Lee swap positions and pull away from Langon in 4th. Lap after lap you never know who is 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Finally on lap 10 Powers gets the lead and Langon falls off at turn 1 handing over 4th to Dickerson. On lap 16 the checker is held up for the tight pack of 3 coming at them and waved for Steven Powers, who beats Dean Busk over the line barely. The gap is .087 and .247 back from Busk is Clement Lee. 4th is Dakota Dickerson and 5th is Daniel Langon. Clement Lee does set a new lap record with 1:36.547. An interesting sight amongst the Miata's was one without a roof! Yes, it is legal to run without a roof in SM. El Cerrito's Tao Takoaka must like blue skies overhead!

Saturday Night after the races was a great free spaghetti dinner provided by Cal Club and cooked up by the terrific snack bar at the track.

Sunday feature races

Race 1 FA, FB, FC, FE, FM, P1, P2

On the front row is Jim Davenport in his P1 and beside him is Tim Day in his P1. Another split start with the FC's getting the second green flag. When the field takes the green Day assumes the lead and Davenport is a close 2nd. In FC crossing the line for the first lap is Tom Hope closely followed by Tim de Silva and Los Gatos' James Hakewell. On lap 2 the big one happens in turn 9 with cars going everywhere and of course, the famous huge turn 9 dust cloud. The FC of Peter West and the P2 of Robert Rich came together to start the big mess and they are the only ones left and one of those, West, had gone up and over a berm! On lap 5 a full course yellow comes out because of turn 9 and Davenport spins and is stalled on course at turn 3. When the green comes out on lap 9 Gary Hickman in his FB is in 2nd and in 3rd is the P2 of Jeff Shafer. For the FC battle Hakewell leads de Silva and Hope. On lap 12 de Silva assumes the FC lead from Hakewell and Hope is right on both of them. Next lap Day is passed by Hickman for the lead. Hickman's lead only lasts for 2 laps when Day takes it back. In FC de Silva is pulling away from Hakewell and Hope. On the next to last lap Day waves Hickman by in turn 8 and also Shafer gets by him. On lap 20 the checker comes out for Gary Hickman's FB and 2.2 second back is P2 winner Jeff Shafer. A distance back is FC winner Tim de Silva. For 2nd in FC Tom Hope beats James Hakewell across the line by a scant .166 seconds. Ed Lever wins FA and further back can be found the FM winner Austen Charles.

Race 2 SRF3, SRF

Wonderful weather again today as the Spec Racer's take the green flag. Mike Miserendino jumps out front and decides to give the rest of the field a lesson in why he is a multiple time SRF National Champion! Behind him there is a great battle for second with John Black, John Tipton, TJ Acker, and others. With 4 laps complete Miserendino has a 2 second lead over Black, who has Tipton less than a car length behind. Jake Pipal leads SRF. It would be great to see Pipal move up to SRF3 to see how well he would compete against the top dogs. Soon Tipton passes Black for 2nd and both of them have Acker steaming right up to them. On lap 10 Black again assumes the second spot with Tipton and Acker right up on him. Not only is 2nd thru 4th close there is a huge battle behind them between Lee Fleming, Todd Harris, and Steve Fogg. On lap 13 Tipton takes back 2nd from Black and next lap Acker finally gets past Black and sets his sights on Tipton. With one lap left Acker passes Tipton and gets 2nd place. When the checker is waved Mike Miserendino wins by a large 7.3 seconds. TJ Ackers barely beats John Tipton by .063 seconds and only .2 behind is John Black. For the terrific battle for 5th Lee Fleming takes that spot by a scant .121 over Todd Harris. Jake Pipal easily wins SRF.

Race 3 EP, FP, HP, GTL, STL, BS

When the green waves Oscar Jackson in his STL CRX takes the lead followed by the STL Integra driven by Andrie Hartanto. Hartanto passes Jackson and pulls out a lead coming into turn 3. On lap 2 the GTL Datsun 510 of Tracy's Troy Ermish works his way into 2nd place ahead of Jackson. On lap 4 Jackson takes back 2nd and the leading FP of Brian Linn jumps to 3rd. For EP the '92 Prelude of Redondo Beach's Bernardo Martinez has the lead and runs in 6th. On lap 6 Hartanto continues to walk away from the field and Linn moves up to 2nd overall, but only for a short time as Jackson passes him next lap. One car that looks like a major handful is the badly oversteering EP 2nd gen RX7 of Surrey, BC's Kale Swifts running in 13th oa. Finally a huge save in turn 8 makes him think about taking that turn flat out and he starts to drop back. Jackson has some sort of issue and drops all the way back to 6th on lap 10. Linn takes back 2nd and Martinez is 3rd with Ermish right on him. 2 laps later Ermish captures 3rd and holds that for 3 laps and starts dropping backwards. Meanwhile Jackson has found speed again and 3 laps from the end moves back into 2nd with Linn now in 3rd. With the white flag waving Martinez's Honda sounds like it lost top gear and starts smoking badly. When the checker comes out Andrie Hartanto beats Jackson across the line by a huge 20 seconds. In 3rd is the winning FP Midget of Brian Linn. In 6th is the winning but heavily smoking EP winner Bernardo Martinez. Right behind Martinez is GTL winner Troy Ermish. Tom Wickersham in his RX8 wins T4. Jason Isley easily wins HP in his Yaris and today Jeffrey Barrow wins B-Spec. Andrie Hartanto sets a lap record on his way to a win with a 1:33.593.

Race 4 FF, FV

At the green Ed Erlandson, who has been having fuel pressure issues assumes the lead over Chuck Horn. In FV it is another big battle between Skip Streets, Tim Harris, Aaron Meyer, and Mark Edwards. Yesterday Ron Wake finished 2nd but today a big off at turn 9 results in a flat tire. With 5 laps complete Erlandson's lead is decreasing as Horn starts to close in. 3 laps later Horn takes the lead away from Erlandson. In FV Streets leads Harris and Meyer by an uncomfortable amount. On lap 10 Erlandson spins at turn 4 but is far enough of 3rd place Guy Tolomeo from Pescadero to keep 2nd place. After 13 laps Streets and Harris have pulled out a good gap from Meyer. The best race so far during this is between

the Vee's of Rancho Cucamonga's Kim Madrid and Mission Viejo's Charlie Turner. They are swapping spots and never more than a car length apart. With 2 laps left Harris is without power and everybody is pretty spread out except for Turner and Madrid. They are glued together! When the checker comes out Chuck Horn beats Ed Erlandson by 38 seconds. In FV Skip Streets beats Aaron Meyer by 3.2 seconds. For the Turner/Madrid race it is Charlie Turner across the line first and only .75 seconds ahead of Kim Madrid. There is a new lap record set by Chuck Horn at 1:27.17.

Race 5 T1-3

On the pole is Marc Hoover's Miata and Ross Murray's Viper. At the green Murray takes the lead and has Hoover all over him and today Ken Davis' Vette is hanging on to both of them. In T2 Guy Drier's Mustang has a very narrow lead over Chris Qualls' Vette. On lap 2 Qualls is able to place his Vette in the top T2 spot over Drier. As laps click off, Murray's Viper is slow up thru turn's 2 thru 5 and then walks away through 8 and 9. At the half way point the Viper finally pulls away from Hoover and Davis and opens it up more when they mix it up in lapped traffic. On lap 13 Davis is able to take 2nd away from Hoover and starts to close the gap with Murray. On lap 15 Davis is all over Murray coming down the hill into turn 5. With 5 laps left Murray starts to open up a gap on Davis. Davis does start to close up some again but at the checker Ross Murray beats him across the line by 1.6 seconds. Chris Qualls wins T2 by a decent margin over Guy Drier. Tom Wickersham's V-6 Mustang easily wins T3 and sets a lap record on his way with a 1:31.471.

Race 6 GT 1-3, STU, AS

Mike Lewis and Ken Davis sit on the pole with their GT1's. At the green the field looks a little ragged and Davis takes the lead until the first turn, where Lewis takes it away. In GT2 Robert Kahn leads Chuck Mathews and Dylan Doherty. Next lap Doherty's Porsche passes West lake Village's Mathews Vette for 2nd in GT2 and also William Brinkop's Vette passes Mathews for 3rd in class. On lap 3 in GT3 Mike Henderson's Mazda has a run on Wolfgang Maike's Toyota going into turn one and takes the lead. For STU Oscar Jackson Jr's FRS leads Michele Abbate's FRS. On lap 6 turn 9 again claims some cars. This time it is our leader as Lewis comes upon a much slower car at the apex and has a hard nose to tail hit. Lewis continues with bad nose damage and rear corner damage from Davis. The STU Miata of gene Rolfe spins to the inside, but is able to continue with bumper damage. Lewis is able to make it 5 more laps then pits. Davis assumes the lead but on lap 10 Kahn is able to take the lead. 3 laps later Davis parks it and Doherty takes over 2nd place. For GT3 Henderson has a decent 10 car length lead over Maike but as we near the end Maike starts closing the gap. On the last lap Maike really has a run out of 9 and passes Henderson at the start line. Right behind them the checker comes out for Robert Kahn and 10 seconds back is the 2nd place GT2 car of Dylan Doherty. Wolfgang Maike crosses the line 1.7 seconds of Henderson, who was held up by lapped traffic. In 8th is our winning STU car driven by Oscar Jackson Jr. Ken Davis had enough laps in to win GT1. Chris Qualls wins AS in his Mustang. Robert Kahn sets a GT2 lap record at 1:22.168.

Race 7 SM

Clement Lee and Steven Powers sit on the front row. When they get the green the field enters and exits turn one with no dust, not tire smoke, and no damage. As they head to the line to complete the first lap Powers has stretched out his lead to almost 1 second. In 2nd is Lee with Glendora's Wesley Mollno, Dean Busk, and Daniel Langon behind him. On lap 3 Powers lead is about 3 seconds and increasing. Dakota Dickerson has really come up from his 6th spot to capture 3rd from Busk and next lap Busk is moved to 5th by Langon. During lap 7 Lee drops back to 5th and Dickerson is rapidly erasing the advantage that Powers had built up. As the 2 leaders cross the line to complete lap 11 Langon pulls right up on them as they exit turn 1. Dickerson takes the lead and at turn 9 Langon is right on Powers' bumper. At the 14 lap point Clement Lee is starting to move up as he takes 4th away from Busk. On lap 16 Langon makes a big move in turn 9 and dives on the inside of Powers and promptly runs out of room on the outside of the turn. A long trip in the dirt moves him back to 5th behind Busk. Lee is 3rd, but is pretty far behind Powers. On the last lap Busk comes up beside Lee in turn 8 and they touch but no one backs out of it. Up ahead Dakota Dickerson takes the checker .9 seconds ahead of Steven Powers. Lee and Busk come up to the finish line side by side still and Clement Lee beats him across the line by only .04 seconds! Daniel Langon finishes in 5th about 2 seconds behind Busk.

This was a great weekend race-wise and weather-wise. But, who would have ever thought Willow Springs would be this nice in February! Next Cal Club Majors is at Buttonwillow April 29-May 1. And Cal Club has a Divisional/Time Trials on March 12 – 13 at Buttonwillow!

