

Factory Five Racing in the Wine County June 26-27, 2010

One can hardly imagine a more beautiful place to race than Infineon Raceway. Located deep in the heart of the Napa Valley, in the California Wine County, the track winds up and down the hills of Sonoma, CA, and provides racers with turn after turn of challenging and fast sweepers, esses, and hairpin turns.....Just the right place for a group well-prepared Challenge Series racers.

The FFR field would find six spec cars on grid, with Rick Anderson, Tim Konkol, Tom Coon, Sern Clementson, Jeff Awender and Karen Salvaggio all suiting up for the 8:00 AM warm-up. The event was sold out three weeks in advance, and racers knew that the track would be full of race cars for every session. Morning warm-up was a mix of four race groups, and the spec racers found themselves in a field of over 100 cars for the warm-up. NASCAR Sprint Cup raced at Infineon last weekend, and as a result, the racers would tackle a different, longer configuration, known as Infineon "Long 7." Everyone successfully navigated the session, and each vowed to be first on grid for the qualifier, in an attempt to find at least a small measure of open track.

Qualifying was completed in a 68 car field, with the American Iron (Extreme), Camaro-Mustang Challenge, Honda Challenge, GTS, and the Performance Touring/Super Unlimited cars all vying for clean track. At the end of the session, the qualifying times were:

Karen Salvaggio 1:58.579
Rick Anderson 1: 58.895
Jeff Awender 2:00.080
Tim Konkol 2:00.551
Sern Clementson 2:04.281
Tom Coon 2:15.343

The grid was set, and as determined by the NASA race director, it would be a standing start for the FFR and CMC cars.



Throughout the day, the racers would have plenty of time to work on cars and catch up with each other, as there were at least 4-5 hours between sessions. As promised, Mike Easton (ACMikee) dropped off two beautiful wild boar hams, which he had smoked, and were ready for a 3 hour slow grill. Diane Anderson put on her chef hat, and fired up the grill mid-afternoon. The racers would be tempted with the wafting aroma of finely cooked ham all afternoon. At 5:30 PM, it was time to suit-up at take to the track for the final race of the day.

Karen was on pole, with Rick, Jeff, Tim Sern, and Tom all gridded up on the front straight for the standing start. As the started\r raised the furred flag, the spec racers revved their engines, and when the green flag fell, it was off to the races for the Factory Five Challenge Series cars. Karen got a great jump on the field, and was threading the needle through the CMC field by the top of the hill. Not to be bested, Rick Anderson would stay hot on her heels, and both racers found themselves

halfway through the CMC field by Turn 3. Tim and Jeff got a great launch as well, and battled through traffic to keep the distances close. Sern drove a clean, great race, and continued to drop his lap times. Tom Coon would turn his best laps ever; proof that the SIM racing was paying off.

After a great qualifying time, Jeff would run into the racer's bad luck early in the race, when a loose screwdriver (of all things), which had inadvertently been left in the trunk, bounced around and "landed" just right, so as to short across the inertia switch and kill the car....I know, I know, afterward, we all asked him, what's that switch still doing in your car???? Anyway, Jeff was able to coast the car to the exit road, where he was unceremoniously towed to his pit area. A quick repair, and he was ready to run, but too much of the race time had passed, so he elected to sit out the rest of the race.

Karen would battle hard throughout the race, knowing the "Rocket" Rick was in relentless pursuit. Rick maneuvered traffic skillfully, and stayed ahead of Tim, Tom and Sern, and at the checkered it was Karen for the win, and setting a new track record in the process. Rick would take second, Tim secured the third podium spot, followed by Sern and Tom. The #28 would need some minor repairs as a result of some wheel to wheel "rubbin'" with a CMC car. A new rim, and Andy doing some racing magic to repair the bent exhaust, along with some help from spec racer and friend John Marsey, had the 28 ready to go in the morning.

Saturday Race results

1st Karen Salvaggio 1:57.747
2nd Rick Anderson 1:58.890
3rd Tim Konkol 2:01.814
4th Sern Clementson 2:04.013
5th Tom Coon 2:15.114
6th Jeff Awender DNF

Saturday evening, the group would enjoy a fantastic BBQ feast of Wild Boar ham, wild rice, and Summer Salad. The ham was awesome, and the group topped it off with root beer floats for a yummy dessert. Of course, there was the obligatory offering of several bottles of local vino, including some from Rick Anderson's personal collection. Jeff Awender broke out the popcorn machine later in the evening, and the group enjoyed watching outdoor "movies" from the Challenge Series racer's in car cameras. Mikee, Andy, and the safety crew came over to enjoy some feast and festivities, and the party went on well into the night....Needless to say, a good time was had by all!

Race Results

Saturday Qualifying:

<http://www.mylaps.com/results/showru...315&perclass=1>

Saturday Race:

<http://www.mylaps.com/results/showru...316&perclass=1>

Sunday Qualifying Race:

<http://www.mylaps.com/results/showru...317&perclass=1>

Sunday Race

<http://www.mylaps.com/results/showru...318&perclass=1>

Sunday Race Group A & B Overall Race Results
<http://www.mylaps.com/results/showru...318&perclass=0>

Sunday Race Report

As is the tradition for the FFR/CMC group, the grid for the AM Qualifying Race was set as an inverted start, based on Saturday's race finishing position. Tom Coon would lead the group to the rolling start, however, the group never had the chance to "form up", as the CMC cars ahead of the FFR's took a strung out, rolling start, and the race was on before the FFR field even took the front straight! Talk about gas and go! Rick Anderson got a great jump, and rocketed into second place going up the hill. Karen would be close on his heels, with Jeff, Tim and Sern battling it out. Tom would hold the lead through 2 and drag race forward with Rick slipping into the lead by three. Not to be ditched in the heavy field of traffic, Karen hung on to Rick's bumper, and would pursue for several laps, while Rick nipped ahead. Jeff and Tim duked it out the entire session, and Sern would find himself improving laptimes and picking off CMC cars the whole session. A bobble by Rick in the Carousel would give Karen the opportunity she had been waiting for, and allowed her to slip by on the inside. At the checker, it was Karen winning the AM qualifying race, and besting her own track record by .5 seconds, which had been set the previous day. Rick Anderson broke into the 1:57's as well, and all FFR racers would set their own personal best laptimes.

Qualifying Race Results

1st Karen 1:57.281
2nd Rick 1:57.709
3rd Tim 1:59.410
4th Jeff 1:59.636
5th Sern 2:03.024
6th Tom 2:10.579



Sunday PM race was hot, hot hot. Under a blazing sun on pre-grid, the FFR's would again line up behind the CMC racers for the standing start,

and would take the same green flag. At the start, Karen got a great hole shot, and went to the lead, weaving through CMC cars with Rick close behind. Jeff and Tim would again battle it out the whole race, while Tom and Sern kept tabs on the main pack, closer than ever, and dropping laptimes the entire race. All driver's did them selves proud out there in the huge field, but the standout performance of the race has to go to Tom Coon, who dug deep, and dropped three seconds from his previous best lap! That's one heck of a gain in one race session, especially considering the large number of cars and all of the on track action....Looks like Tom found the Go Pedal!!!

Rick would pursue the entire race, and in the process, would turn the best laptime in the session. All would race clean and safe. At the checkered it was:

1st Karen 1:58.610
2nd Rick 1:58.577
3rd Tim 1:59.361
4th Jeff 2:02.662
5th Sern 2:03.270

6th Tom 2:07.141

Next Event: Ca Speedway August 31-July 1, 2010 CA

See you at the track!