

CA Speedway Report

Round Six of the West Coast Challenge Series found the racers returning to CA Speedway for a sizzlin' summer race fest on the high banks. With temperatures in the low 90's, racers were glad for the cool shade of the infield garages as their pit area for the weekend. Challenge Series racers Rick Anderson, Mike Beeler, Jeff Awender, Tim Konkol, TC McNett and Karen Salvaggio arrived on Friday evening, and quickly had their pit area set up for all the weekend racing action. The group was disappointed to learn that Robert Walter would be a last minute scratch due to engine issues.

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This would be Tim Konkol and Jeff Awender's inaugural trip to the high banks, and Saturday morning found both drivers gearing up for their first laps around the 2.8 mile "Roval". Jeff would spend Friday evening wiring up a new set of radios for the car, and Saturday, his lovely wife Jocelyn would assume the new role of spotter. All drivers suited up and headed out to pre-grid for the warm-up at 8:20 AM, but Jeff's first laps at the track would have to wait a bit longer, as the other racers were taking to the track, Jeff would find himself on the opposite end of the infield, and asking directions from a spectator about where to enter the track..."Um, excuse me sir," said the man strapped in a racecar wearing a driving suit. "Can you direct me to the track entrance?" After a bit of a detour, Jeff found the track, and joined the other Challenge Series drivers for a brisk run in the morning sun.

The spec racers would share the track with their fellow CMC and American Iron competitors, as well as the German Touring Series, Pro Trucks, and Super Touring 1 & 2 cars in the largest race group of the weekend. The open qualifying session was run without incident, with TC taking pole, followed by Karen, Rick, Mike, Tim and Jeff. With the grid set, all spent the next few hours making final preparations for the main event to be held at 2:20 PM.

Saturday Qualifying

TC McNett 1:56.122

Karen Salvaggio 1:58.384

Mike Beeler 1:58.566

Rick Anderson 1:58.768

Tim Konkol 1:59.217

Jeff Awender 2:00.150

Challenge Series racers would take the 4th green flag among a 40 car field. At the start, it was TC jumping into the lead as the group sped into Turn 1, with Karen, Rick, Mike, Tim and Jeff in hot pursuit. In every race at CA Speedway, the true "challenge" and test of a racer's skill and conviction is found on the first lap of the race, when 40 speeding cars, running 4-5 wide, and reaching speeds in excess of 130 mph find themselves whoaing down to second gear, and sorting into one lane of race surface to the infield.

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TC would hold the lead on the first lap and throughout the race, and it was Rick Anderson and Karen who would have the classic "chicken" battle to the braking zone. Karen would carry a massive amount of speed into the turn, and barely hung on to stay a gnat's eyelash in front of Rick Anderson as the two snaked to the infield. Mike Beeler caught a great start, and kept the pressure on Rick, while Tim and Jeff battled their way through CMC traffic.

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As the race wore on, TC would secure a 10 car length lead, while Karen would battle it out with Rick for second place. Mike Beeler kept the heat on Rick the entire race, and Jeff and m would turn their best times for the weekend. About mid-way in the race, Jeff would drop a wheel at the Buttonhook and spin the car to a stop some 90 degrees to the track surface. Unfortunately, a CMC2 driver locked up the brakes to avoid the spin, but caught Tim directly in the passenger door and front nose. The impact resulted in a bent steering rack, and lots of broken fiberglass on the right front nose section. Rick Anderson would go out on a mechanical, when a rear axle mounting bracket would break on his car half-way through the race, which resulted in an early retirement from the racing action. At the checkered it was TC for the win, followed by Karen Mike, Jeff, Tim and Rick.

Saturday Race Results

1st TC McNett

2nd Karen Salvaggio

3th Mike Beeler

4th Jeff Awender

5th Tim Konkol

6rh Rick Anderson

After all of the action on track, racers were treated to a fantastic BBQ dinner prepared by our own Chef Julie, and it was EXCELLENT!!! Racers enjoyed a feast of tri tip and chicken, as well as a great antipasto salad and baked potatoes. For dessert, it was some awesome home made brownies and root beer floats

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Needless to say, a good time was had by all. Local FFR owner Ivan (letsgosteelers) came out with his entire family (very cool people), and Marty and Nels Prario joined the group at the track too. Bill Robertson, Frankeeski, AJ, and others made the trip out to the speedway for the day as well. It was great to have the local support!!!! Thanks guys!!!

[B]Sunday Race Report[/B]

After a long evening in the garage, and some fellowship and good food with local roadster owners, racers turned in for the night to be ready for their early morning wake-up call. Sunday brought more blue skies and warmer temperatures. Warm-up went off without a hitch, and the racers gridded up at 11:45 AM for the inverted Qualifying Race,

with the starting order based on the previous day's race finish. With Rick Anderson on pole, the green flag fell and it was Mike, TC, Jeff and Karen all climbing up his tailpipe as the chase was on through the high banks. TC would again speed into the lead, with Karen and Rick battling. Tim, Mike and Jeff would do battle throughout the session, and at the checkered, it was TC for the victory (are you seeing a pattern here?) with Karen, Rick, Mike, Jeff and Tim chasing. Tim would only make two laps though, before falling victim to a leaking steering rack.

Racers were expecting to host a group from the Barstow veteran's home on Sunday afternoon, but a last minute call from the home indicated several members of the group had fallen ill, and the group would have to wait until the next event to see their veteran friends. Dennis Flaherty and his lovely wife Tommie Ann would arrive just in time to take over the BBQ duties, and with the help of Diane, Michelle, Tracy, and others, the racers and crew would be treated to a burgers and dogs lunch.

Racers lined up in order of the qualifying race finish, and it would be TC on pole, with Karen outside pole, Rick, Mike, and Jeff lining up for the main race. Tim would be sidelined again with a leaking power steering race, so it would be five for the green. At the start, Karen and TC would drag race to the back of the CMC cars ahead, and then split the group, with Karen going high, and TC taking the low line through the oval. Karen would snag the lead into turn 3, and hold on to it until the group found their way onto the oval for the second time, when TC would motor by like the rest of the group was tied to a post. Karen and Rick would put up a good chase, and in the course, Karen and Mike would clock personal best laptimes, with Karen dropping to the mid 1:56's, Rick low 1:57's, and Mike in the mid 1:57's...All raced clean again, and TC would grab fast time for the weekend.

1st TC McNett 1:55.817
2nd Karen Salvaggio 1:56.534
3rd Rick Anderson 1:57.126
4th Mike Beeler 1:57.467
5th Jeff Awender 1:59.820

Next Event: NASA Nationals Miller Motorsports Park
Salt Lake City, September 15-18, 2010

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