

Anderson Sweeps Thunderhill! April 24-25, 2010

Eight spec racers made their way to the challenging Thunderhill Raceway for the third round of the West Coast Challenge Series. Perfect weather greeted racers, with temps in the mid-70's, blue skies, and the greenery around the track made it feel like we were racing in paradise.

In attendance were Rick Anderson, Mike Beeler, Tim Konkol, Ron Stebles, Jeff Awender, Sern Clementson, Tom Coon and Karen Salvaggio. Saturday qualifying had Rick securing the pole position, followed by Karen, Jeff, Tim, Mike, Ron and Sern. Ron Stebles experienced a radiator failure in impound following qualifying, and Ron spent the rest of the day visiting just about every parts store for 100 miles around looking for a replacement....Ron would miss the race, and eventually find a radiator in the early evening, and have it installed by lights out at 11:00 PM.

At the start of the race, Karen got a jump on Rick and the two drag raced to Turn 1. Jeff, Mike, Tim and Sern would be battling close behind. Karen came out in front, with Rick, Jeff, Tim, Ron, and Mike in the chase. Early in the race, Rick made an amazing move on Karen going through Turns 14-15 and onto the front straight, and rocketed into the lead. All the while Jeff maintained his third position and all racers continued to improve their lap times and work through the traffic. Tim, Ron and Sern



had some terrific mid-pack battles, as well as some drama watching fellow CMC drivers flying off the track and doing some "agricultural" racing. Karen spent the rest of the race in hot pursuit of Rocket Rick, closing the distance to within a car length, only to have Rick work traffic flawlessly and maintain the lead...When the checkered flag dropped, it was Rick by 3+ car lengths, followed by Karen, Jeff, Sern, Ron, Tim, and Mike.



While chasing Rick, Karen turned the fast lap in the race with a 2:04.443, missing the lap record by a mere 3/10ths...Dave's record of 2:04.1xx would stand....Special note in Challenge Series history...David Borden posted a smokin' 2:03.xx racing on Kumhos back in the day....Very fast indeed!!!

Saturday Race Video: <http://www.vimeo.com/11386890>
Salvaggio FFR #28

Saturday Race Results

1st Rick Anderson 2:04.531
2nd Karen Salvaggio 2:04.443
3rd Jeff Awender 2:08.481
4th Tim Konkol 2:08.668
5th Sern Clementson 2:12.765
Mike Beeler DNF
Ron Stebles DNS



Mike Beeler suffered a thrown engine belt due to loose power steering pump bolts. Fellow spec racers Jeff Awender, Dave Standridge, and Rick Anderson assisted with the repairs and also accomplished some much needed suspension fine-tuning, had Mike ready to go for the morning's race....Awesome support!!!



The "After Race" Report

Factory Five Racing legendary builders and craftsmen Russ Thompson and David Borden took a ride up to Thunderhill for the afternoon in Russ's beautiful Coupe, and it was great to have their support and encouragement at the track!! All were glad to see fellow Challenge Series driver,

former West Coast Champion and FFR National Champion Dave Standridge, who came up to support all of the racers, and stayed for the evening festivities. Talk about outstanding support from the FFR community!! Thanks!!!

Sunday Report

All racers were up bright and early on Sunday morning and ready for pre-grid at 8:40 AM....Karen had experienced clutch/tranny issues all during Saturday's race, with the clutch howling and tranny grinding pretty good by the end of the race. Without a new tranny to install or a new clutch, Karen made the tough decision to sit out Sunday's racing and not take the chance of the clutch disintegrating on track.



In qualifying, it was Rick Anderson with the "stunt" driving of the day, when at the start of the qualifying race, Rick's hood blew off the car, narrowly missing Mike Beeler and Tom Coon, who both had to take evasive action to avoid disaster. Seems Rick became star-struck with Jud's GTM (David Borden's former beauty), having stopped his race prep to do a ride along with Jud.....No harm, no foul though, and our own AC Mikee (Mike Easton), who serves as lead safety at Nor Cal NASA events, had the honors of collecting the completely unscathed hood from the front straight-a-way...Seems the hood lifted perfectly flat off the car, and landed without a scratch. Quick thinking from NASA officials brought a full course yellow, and when Rick return to his pit after the qualifier, he found the hood standing up, leaning against his trailer with a baseball bat on top of it that Mikee had left there so Rick could smack himself with it....👹...Rick can chime in here, but he says our cars drive like pure cr** without the aero advantage of the streamlined hood...Kinda like a big, parachuting airdam....Rick still managed to win the qualifying race, but needless to say, Jeff bested him for fast time...That darn rookie Jeff Awender would, again, be nipping at his heels!



Sunday Qualifying

Rick Anderson 2:05.578

Jeff Awender 2:04.791

Tim Konkol 2:08.432

Mike Beeler 2:09.359

Ron Stebles 2:10.182

Tom Coon 2:13.294

Sern Clementson 2:11.621

The race found Jeff Awender on pole with his smokin' fast 2:04.791...At the green, Rick and Jeff battled it out, with Tim Konkol, Mike

Beeler, Ron Stebles, Tom Coon and Sern Clementson all driving the wheels off their cars and setting their best laps of the weekend. Mike Beeler again faced near disaster in the first laps of the race when his battery broke loose in the trunk, and began sliding around wildly, pulling the wires out and shorting out the car. Mike would, for the second time in the weekend, again be hauled in on the hook....Talk about some not so good luck!



In the heat of battle, Jeff and Rick would be drag racing down the front straight, dueling for position going into Turn 1, and running close on the bumper of former Challenge Series driver (and now CMC2 racer) Robert Walter. As the three entered Turn 1, Robert brakes for the turn, and a front caliper literally explodes

off the car, causing Robert to fly straight off track and all the way up the embankment in a spectacular cloud of dirt, grass, and dust ...Jeff and Rick escape unscathed, and go on to finish the race. Everyone raced clean and fast, and at the checkered it was:

Sunday Race

Rick Anderson 2:05.203

Jeff Awender 2:05.743

Tim Konkol 2:05.422

Ron Stebles 2:07.584

Tom Coon 2:13.412

Sern Clementson 2:13.746

Mike Beeler: 2:08.618

Next West Coast Challenge Series Event: Willow Springs May 22-23, 2010