

George and McKay Both Win and Set New Track Records

Last year we did RA in March to cold rainy weather, so we changed the schedule and got a lot of heat – but it was dry – except for the little Tornado that whipped through on Saturday evening.

Ten FFC drivers made the trek to Road Atlanta for the 2nd in the East Coast Championship races (NJMP got washed, and oversubscribed in April). And, it did sort of represent the East Coast – from MA, and NH, down to FL, with spots in between.

Saturday's Qualifying saw John George at the top of the board turning a 1:42.721, Paul Arnold, Paul Kaiser, Jim Schenck and Scott McKay were in the 44's, Carl Thompson in the 46's, Peter LeRose in the 48's and Mary Howard and Tom Lavell in the 50's. Andrew Switlyk was in the paddock replacing a blown head gasket and didn't make qualifying.

Instead of being in the Thunder Group the "powers that be" put us in Lightning in our own group (really sweet) – we were the 2nd group for the race. John led from the pole position and never gave up the spot. That left Scott and Paul to fight over the second spot – while doing that, John opened up the gap. Thompson eventually got by Schenck. Jim closed in and made a run to get Carl at the finish line but wasn't able to do it. So it was Carl 4th and Jim 5th. Paul Arnold had problems at the grid and then played catch-up finishing 6th. It was then Mary, Tom, Peter and Andrew.

The Cobra Club in Atlanta had a gang there and they brought great food. They threw a party at Gary Bop's RV and we were treated to Bob's butt (a smoked pork butt), great salads and desert. At the same time the Southeast region held it's BBQ special dinner and awards. Somewhere after the races and before the eating extravaganza at Bob's RV, the tornado – almost anyway – they said it came through the area at 105 mph – came through and destroyed many canopies and essentially "soaked" everyone and everything – it did cool off the 90 degree weather.

Sunday qualifying saw a small group show up and the whole process got "red-flagged" when a Miata hit the wall. So, we maybe had 1 ½ to 2 laps to get a time. But, in that short time John George set a blistering 1:39.507 for the new FFR track record and 1st on the grid. Scott was 2nd and Jim 3rd – both in the 40's. Paul was in the 41's, Carl in the 44's, and then it was Tom Lavell, Mary Howard, and Peter Larose. Andrew Switlyk and Paul Kaiser didn't go out for qualifying.

Our group of 9 was 1st in the Lightning group with our own pace car. It was mayhem at the 1st corner with Paul Kaiser charging from the rear and Tom Lavell jumping past Thompson. John and Scott swapped positions a couple of times in the first few laps and then Scott managed to pull away through slower traffic. Paul Kaiser managed to work his way up to 3rd passing through the gang but not able to catch John. Paul Arnold worked his way up to 3rd before succumbing to a fuel throttle cable problem. Eventually the Yellow, then double Yellow, then Red flag out and the race was stopped. So, Scott took the 1st with John uncontested in 2nd. Paul Kaiser was third, Jim Schenck 4th, Thompson 5th. Peter LeRose was 6th, with Marty Howard and Tom Levell next. Paul Arnold retired with the throttle cable problem. But Paul turned in some very quick times, and when he keeps all the equipment running, he is going to

be a strong contender. It was a pleasure having he and his family and friends as part of our “fun” competitors. Scott also turned a fast race time of 1:39.994 which was good enough for the NASA track record in the Challenge Series.

The next event is Mid-Ohio July 15-17th.

<http://www.vimeo.com/25490046> Saturday race in Jim Schenck’s car

<http://www.vimeo.com/25489485> Sunday race in John George’s car

CWTIII