



*NASA SoCal Region, 2009 Season, ROUND 3
Buttonwillow Raceway Park, Buttonwillow, CA*

*Weekend Racing Recap
27/28 June 2009*

The SoCal CMC racing gets HOT, HOT, HOT!!

Drivers, crews, and fans alike were feelin' HOT HOT HOT for SoCal's third CMC race of the season, which was also a crossover event with NorCal (their fourth event). Temps were over 100 by noon both days. In-car thermometers showed 120's to 130's on the dashes, 170+ on the asphalt, and 180+ on the floor boards. Not to be deterred, many drivers braved the heat and had an exciting weekend of racing. A total of 6 CMC and 5 CMC2 cars joined the races – nice car count!

SoCal CMC'ers welcomed back Kevin Margetta from his tour of duty with the military – we thank Kevin for his years of service with the US Navy.

BUTTONWILLOW WEEKEND RACE SUMMARY:

- + 3 CMC/CMC2 **races** toward championship points
- + 6 total race group sessions with 2 hours of track time!
- + 5 **CMC2 cars** including one rookie
- + 6 **CMC cars** including one rookie
- + 2 CMC2 pole position winners for the weekend – **Nick Steel** (Sat), and **Dave Brown** (Sun)
- + 2 CMC winners for the weekend – **Derek Tisinger** (Sat R1, Sun R3), and **Kevin Margetta** (Sun R2).
- + 2 CMC2 race winners for the weekend – **Nick Steel** (Sat R1 and Sun R3), and **Dave Brown** (Sun R2)
- + Mechanical, engine and heat issues took it's toll on the field.

SATURDAY QUALIFYING - Pat Stone was the man to catch, taking pole with a 2:15.372, 3+ seconds faster than Jeremy Bua who qualified second with a 2:18.751, followed closely by Derek Tisinger (2:18.815), Team Hollywood's Ginsberg suffered a minor mechanical failure, losing an upper rear control arm bolt but still managed 4th (2:19.709), Kevin Margetta (2:20.003), and Don Lariviere (2:22.929). In CMC2, Nick Steel took the pole with a 2:10.586, followed closely by Dave Brown driving for team Brown/Chicca with a 2:10.821, and Charles Weeks (2:14.810), Mike Plum (2:15.690), and Larry Klamecki (2:17.770).

SATURDAY RACE #1 – Saturday's race (with 64 cars across all the classes!) was plagued with yellow flags, mechanical issues, and an unfortunate incident that damaged several cars.



Saturday grid. Don Lariviere's #13, Kevin Margetta's #63, and Adam Ginsberg's #5.



More of Saturday's grid – Derek Tisinger's #57, Jeremy Bua's #4, Pat Stone's fast #50, Charles Weeks #76, and in the background, Larry Klamecki's #77.

In CMC, Stone took the early lead, followed closely by Bua in second, and Tisinger in third. After two laps of great racing, several classes had cars begin breaking or spinning, and the yellow flags came out.

Four laps of full-course cautions bunched up the field, with multiple classes just inches from each other including CMC, CMC2, Super Unlimited, AI, and FFR. As the pack approached the straight, Larry Klamecki (CMC2) slid off the track backwards through the dirt. The cars were 4-wide, barely past Klamecki when the green flag waved. From a spectator view, suddenly an orange Mazda was sideways across the middle of everyone, Stone slid through the infield, and others drove around the mess either mid-track or in the dirt. When the dust cleared, Pat was in the infield, and the orange Mazda was in the wall.

Officials determined that the Super Touring Mazdas (who were running for third and fourth in their class) were trying to pass Stone and Bua (who were running first and second for CMC). They collected each other, hitting Stone's car hard in the left rear panel and sending him spinning into the dirt, while one of the two Mazdas crashed into the wall. Fortunately, all drivers were unharmed. Stone was able to continue racing, although a blown radiator hose (possibly caused by the accident) led to an overheating problem that kept the #50 Mustang from running to its fullest potential.

After the incident Bua led CMC for a few laps, with Tisinger close behind. Tisinger waited for Bua to make a mistake, then passed to take first place, with Bua in second. Meanwhile, Team Hollywood's Adam Ginsberg and Kevin Margetta were neck and neck behind them. Ginsberg earned a hard-fought third with a blown head gasket, followed by Margetta, Stone and Lariviere.

In CMC2, Steel started on pole and remained in the lead throughout the race, followed by Brown and Weeks. Mike Plum and Klamecki were running for fourth and fifth, but Klamecki's slide off the track proved to be too much for him to overcome. The finish, much like the start, had Steel taking the win, Brown second, Weeks third, and Plum in fourth.

SATURDAY NIGHT – NASA SoCal hosted an evening BBQ beer bash for all the racers. Some folks worked on their cars, some called it a night. Others decided to race in Saturday night's 3-hour Enduro, featuring a couple of CMC drivers who continued to fight the heat! Kirk Theis and Jeremy Bua drove the #14 Miata to a #7 out of 14 finish in their class, and 14th finish overall.

SUNDAY QUAL RACE – Sunday's races proved just as exciting, but thankfully, much less eventful! The temperatures made Saturday look cool by comparison, but the drivers persevered. As usual, Sunday's qualifying was a points race with an inverted start, to add to the weekend's excitement.



Getting ready to rumble! Image by Nikki Bua.

In CMC, Margetta and Tisinger shared a close race for first and second, while Stone and Bua fought for third and fourth. Margetta remained in the lead and took his first win of 2009 (congratulations!!), followed by Tisinger, then Bua, Stone, and Lariviere racing for Team Hollywood. In CMC2, Brown and Steel had a very close race from start to finish! Brown broke the "2.10" barrier, winning the race and turning a 2.09.592 lap. Steel took a close second, followed by Plum in third, Weeks in fourth, and Klamecki in fifth.



Sunday CMC2 battle between Nick Steel (#45), and Dave Brown (#33). Image by Ryan Flaherty/NASA SoCal.



Sunday race start. Image by Ryan Flaherty/NASA SoCal.

SUNDAY RACE #3 - Fortunately Sunday's final race was early, before temperatures had a chance to top 110. In CMC, once again Tisinger and Margetta were neck and neck for first and second most of the race, with Stone and Bua close behind. Stone's car began to overheat and Bua passed to move into third, with Margetta in his sites. This time, Tisinger took the victory, with Margetta close behind in second, Bua in third, Pat Stone in 4th and Don Lariviere racing for Team Hollywood taking 5th.



Sunday R3 podium, L-R: Kevin Margetta (3rd), Derek Tisinger (1st), Jeremy Bua (2nd).

CMC2 featured a fierce battle for first and second, all the way to the final lap. Steel and Brown were just inches apart for most of the race, trading the lead several times. Steel passed Brown in the straight on the white flag lap. Steel took the win, Dave Brown in 2nd, Mike Plum 3rd, and Charles Weeks in 4th.



Sunday R3 CMC2 podium, L-R: Dave Brown (2nd), Nick Steel (1st), Mike Plum (3rd).

CONCLUSION - Many thanks to all the drivers, crews, and fans who ventured out to make this a great weekend! And an extra special thanks to Adam Ginsberg for organizing the event, and the Plum Crazy crew for their grid work, race work, radio direction, and (more important this weekend than ever!), the ice waters!

We look forward to the next event – California Speedway on 1-2 August 2009. Don't miss it!

2009 SoCal CMC CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

CMC	Points	Rookie Points	Driver
1	969		Team Hollywood
2	868		Bua
3	863		Stone/Morin
4	494		Tisinger
5	291		Margetta
6	287		Plum
7	285		Pfaff
8	279	279	Lariviere
9	186		TandF Properties
10	0		Brantley
11	0		Donahoe
12	0		Murphy
13	0		Ginsberg
14	0		Smith
15	0		Hamilton
16	0		McClung
17	0		Team Search
18	0		Dunlap
19	0		Santos

20	0		Steel
21	0		Scheller
22	0		Team Prior

2009 SoCal CMC2 CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

CMC2	Points	Rookie Points	Driver
1	990		Steel
2	879		Chicca
3	668		Weeks
4	469		Team Whitelaw
5	466		Klamecki
6	394		Team Schotz
7	377		James Griffith
8	285		Guaglione
9	280		Plum
10	186		Jim Griffith
11	95		TandF Properties
12	93		Bernard
13	0		Simpson
14	0		Team Gekko
15	0		Bua
16	0		Team BAF

For more information, the following websites should be able to answer any of your licensing/rules/racing questions:

www.nasaproring.com

www.nasatx.com

www.americanironracing.com

www.camaromustangchallenge.com

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