

RACING LINES

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Club Racing's season ends at Roebing Road

The Tarheel Chapter hosted the BMW CCA Club Racing season finale at Roebing Road Raceway near Savannah in conjunction with the Vintage Drivers Club of America in December. Weather reports called for cool temperatures and rain on Saturday and Sunday; these reports, unfortunately, caused some late cancellations, reducing racer participation.

But the weather reports were not incorrect.

Twenty-three BMW CCA Club Racers started the race weekend with a test day on Friday. Saturday included morning practice sessions with qualifying and the 60-minute endurance race in the afternoon. Sunday included a morning qualifying session and an early-afternoon sprint race.

Saturday was cool, and rain began to fall in the morning. Seventeen cars took the green flag for the 60-minute endurance race.

Despite the wet weather, the race was incident-free with no yellow flags; the racers avoided the dreaded full-course yellow. Rick Maxson in his D-Modified E30 M3 took the overall win, ahead of I-Prepared winners Craig Lippe and Evan Darling in an E36 M3. Harold Petit won C-Mod with a fifth-place finish in his E46, finishing ahead of J-Prep winner Dan Parker in his E36 328is.

After the end of the endurance race, the racers were treated to a cookout in the paddock. This was a great way for the racers to end the day—and a great time for class winners to take advantage of those all-important bragging rights!

When the racers arrived at the track on Sunday morning, Turns Six and Seven were under water and impassable. Ponds had also formed in the low-lying areas of the paddock. This

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Roebing Road Raceway				
12/12 Distance: 35 Laps				
Pos.	Class	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 DM	Rick Maxson	E30 M3	01:30.8
2	1 IP	E Darling/C Lippe	E36 M3	01:33.6
3	2 IP	J Crist/J Clay	E36 M3	01:33.7
4	2 DM	Nuttaniel/Gerry Sparks	E36 325i	01:32.5
5	1 CM	Harold Petit	E46 M3	01:34.7
6	1 JP	Dan Parker	E36 328is	01:36.6
7	3 IP	Tom Mellon	E36 M3	01:35.8
8	2 JP	Dennis Pippy	E30 M3	01:39.1
9	3 JP	Shane Kleinpeter	E36 325i	01:38.8
10	4 IP	Alan Davis	E30 M3	01:42.1
11	1 BM	B Dige/J Robinson	E12 M535i	01:41.2
12	3 DM	A Curtis/P Tiley	E30 325e	01:43.4
13	1 Sp E36	Edgar Ramia	E36 328is	01:44.4
14	2 Sp E36	Thomas Tice	E36 325is	01:49.7
15	3 Sp E36	Gary Clark	E36 325is	01:49.6
16	1 KP	M Hinkey/J de Haro	E30 325is	01:45.9
17	1 SE30	Al Kaiter	E30 325is	01:50.4

12/13 Distance: 17 Laps				
Pos.	Class	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 DM	Gerry Sparks	E36 325i	01:32.7
2	1 IP	Tom Mellon	E36 M3	01:31.8
3	2 IP	Craig Lippe	E36 M3	01:33.4
4	3 IP	Jason Crist	E36 M3	01:33.1
5	1 JP	Dan Parker	E36 328is	01:34.7
6	2 JP	Shane Kleinpeter	E36 325i	01:35.6
7	3 JP	Dennis Pippy	E30 M3	01:38.1
8	4 IP	Alan Davis	E30 M3	01:40.3
9	1 Sp E36	Thomas Tice	E36 325is	01:39.8
10	2 Sp E36	Edgar Ramia	E36 328is	01:40.8
11	2 DM	April Curtis	E30 325e	01:43.0
12	3 Sp E36	Gary Clark	E36 325is	01:46.1

Club Racing crowns 2009 national champions

The Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Racing series announced its national champions in January. There were four repeat winners: Dave White, competing in Continental Challenge with BimmerWorld in 2010, scored his third straight J-Prepared title in 2009; Peter Carroll won again in C-Modified; Ralph Warren repeated in H-Stock; and Nerces Mavelian, who won the J-Stock title in 2008, won in B-Modified. The other seven 2009 champions were first-time winners.

To qualify for a national title, a racer has to finish at least eight races at four different events. Each racer's top eight finishes are counted toward the title. The champs are presented here in order of class size, starting with I-Prepared, the class with the greatest number of competitors in 2009.

The I-Prepared title went to North Central region racer **Bill Heumann**, who, like Dave White, will be racing for BimmerWorld in Continental Challenge in 2010. Heumann won the title in his E36 M3, often doing battle with the runner-up for the title, Vern Anderson, who was champion in 2008. Heumann began his season with a trip south to Winterfest at Sebring, and then raced at VIR, Mid-Ohio, BeaveRun, and Road Atlanta. He won nine of the seventeen races in which he competed.

I-Prepared drew 76 racers in 2009. The next largest classes were C-Modified and J-Prepared with 53 racers each. The titles in both classes went to repeat winners.

Peter Carroll of Canada, racing an E36 M3, scored his second straight C-Modified national championship. Carroll ventured far south over the course of the season, beginning his year at Winterfest and running at the Road Atlanta O'Fest race in October. Closer to home, he raced at both Mont Tremblant and Calabogie, and he also competed at Mid-Ohio, Watkins Glen, and VIR. He won six of the 21 races he ran. Second and third in

C-Mod also went to Canadian racers; Allan Lewis was second in his E36 325is, and Mark Marquis was third in his E36 M3.

Dave White of the South Atlantic Region won his third straight J-Prepared title in his E36 328i, winning ten of the twelve races he ran. He raced at Mid-Ohio, VIR, and Carolina Motorsports Park, and finished his season with a three-race sweep at the Road Atlanta O'Fest race.



Peter Carroll won his second straight C-Modified championship in 2009.



Dave White won his third straight J-Prepared national championship.



Bill Heumann won the national title in I-Prepared, Club Racing's largest class.

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Rick Maxson, shown here at Road Atlanta, won the enduro at Reebing Road in December.

BRIAN MURPHY

area is known as “the low country,” and it certainly is. To say it was wet is an understatement. The morning track sessions were delayed until 10:30 to allow time to move the water off track. Track workers used buckets to clear the submerged turns and allow the track to open.

Twelve cars took the green flag for the

sprint race. Gerry Sparks took the overall victory in his D-Mod E36 325i, followed by I-Prep winner Tom Melton (E36 M3). Dan Parker scored another J-P win, while Tom Tice claimed victory in Spec E36. Once again, despite the conditions, the sprint race was incident-free.—David Bradyhouse

D-Modified, the fourth-largest class with 48 competitors, went to Pacific Region racer **Brett Strom**, who won ten of the twelve races he contested. Strom did all of his racing in the West, running at Auto Club Speedway, Buttonwillow, Willow Springs, Thunderhill, and Phoenix International Raceway. Brett edged out 2008 champion Mike Akard, who raced his S50-powered 318i.

The title in **J-Stock**, with 23 competitors, went to North Atlantic Region racer **Dave Hellman**, who ran his E30 M3 at Summit Point,

Watkins Glen, and the two New Jersey Motorsports circuits, Thunderbolt and Lightning. Hellman won nine of the ten races he ran.

K-Prepared, home of the budget-racer's E30 325i, can always be counted on for close wheel-to-wheel dicing. Twenty-two racers contested the class in 2009; the title went to North Central Region racer **John Negus**, who won ten of twelve races, competing close to home at Mid-Ohio, Nelson Ledges, and BeaveRun, and journeying to Road Atlanta for his epic battles with Mike Hink-



Pacific region racer Brett Strom won the national title in D-Modified.

JOE FOSTER



Dave Hellman of the North Atlantic Region won the J-Stock national championship.

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RACING BRIEFS

Riley-BMWs finish second, third at Daytona

The Chip Ganassi Racing Riley-BMW of Scott Pruett, Memo Rojas, Max Papis, and Justin Wilson finished second overall and second in the Daytona Prototype class in the Grand-Am Rolex 24 at Daytona. The car was on the lead lap, just over 52 seconds behind the race-winning Action Express Racing Riley-Porsche of Joao Barbosa, Terry Borcheller, Ryan Dalziel, and Mike Rockenfeller. The Ganassi prototype was leading the Riley-Porsche with just over 2½ hours left in the race when Justin Wilson exited the track and went to the garage to check a vibration. The team sent the car back out with no repairs, but it never regained the lead. The Crown Royal/NPN Riley-BMW of Scott Tucker, Ryan Hunter-Reay, Lucas Luhr, Richard Westbrook, and Christophe Bouchut finished third, four laps behind the first two cars.

Rum Bum notches one-two at Daytona

Matt Plumb and Gianluis Bacardi won the first race of the Continental Sports Car Challenge season in their new Rum Bum Racing Grand Sport E92 M3. In the waning laps of the race, Plumb battled with Charles Espenlaub in the Fall-Line E92 M3 that he shared with Charles Pulman. Plumb got by for good with four minutes left in the 2½-hour enduro. Another Fall-Line E92 M3, shared by Terry Borcheller and Andrew Hendricks, finished sixth.

Both M6s finish Rolex 24

In the GT class at Daytona, the Turner Motorsport M6 of Bill Auberlen, Joey Hand, Boris Said, and Paul Dalla Lana finished eighth, and the Corsa PR1 M6 of Max Hyatt, Jeff Westphal, Thomas Merrill, and Rob Finlay finished eleventh. The class win went to the Mazda RX-8 of Sylvain Tremblay, Nick Ham, Jonathan Bomarito, and David Haskell. A full report on Daytona will appear in the April issue.

BimmerWorld second in Continental Challenge race

Seth Thomas and Bill Heumann finished second in their BimmerWorld E90 328i in the Street Tuner class in Daytona's Continental Challenge race, just over a second behind the class-winning Honda Civic Si of Lawson Aschenbach and David Thilenius. It was BimmerWorld's first Continental Challenge race after switching from the World Challenge Series. Two more BMWs finished in the top ten in Street Tuner; the RRT Racing 328i of Barry Battle/Michael Dayton finished eighth, and the V-Pack Motorsport 330i of Sam Schultz/Ari Straus finished ninth.

X3s fourth and fifth in Dakar Rally

A pair of 3.0-liter twin-turbo diesel X3s run by Sven Quandt's X-Raid team finished fourth and fifth in this year's Dakar rally—which runs nowhere near Dakar. A trio of Volkswagen Touaregs took the top three positions. Overall winners were Carlos Sainz/Lucas Cruz. The fourth-place X3 was driven by Stephane Peterhansel, with co-driver Jean-Paul Cottret, and the fifth-place car was driven by Guerlain Chicherit with co-driver Tina Thörner. Run in South America for the second year in a row, the Dakar Rally began in Argentina, crossed into Chile, and then returned to Argentina for the finish.

ley. Hinkley, the 2008 K-Prepared champion, edged out Negus at O'Fest, but finished second in points this year.

Like K-Prepared, **Spec E36** can be counted on for close competition. With nineteen racers contesting the class, the 2009 title went to North Atlantic Region racer **Jason Briedis**, who won twelve of the fourteen races he ran in his E36 325i. Jason raced at VIR, Mid-Ohio, Summit Point, Mont Tremblant, Thunderbolt, and Road Atlanta.

H-Prepared, with eight competitors in 2009, went to Pacific Region racer **Rolando Saldana** in the same E46 M3 that Ralph Warren took to the title last year. Saldana ran at Phoenix International Raceway, Auto Club Speedway, Thunderhill, Buttonwillow, and Willow Springs, running solo in class in all ten of the races that he ran.

Nerces Mavelian won the J-Stock title in 2008 in an E30 M3. In 2009 he raced a supercharged E36 M3 in **B-Modified**, winning the title with twelve wins in twelve races. Mavelian, a South Central Region racer, ran at Motorsport Ranch, Texas World Speedway, Mid-Ohio, and Road Atlanta. Just four competitors ran in B-Mod; Mavelian ran solo in all but one of the twelve races.

Pacific Region racer **Ralph Warren** took both the H-Prepared and H-Stock titles in 2008. With Rolando Saldana doing most of the racing in the H-Prepared car in 2009, Warren focused on the **H-Stock** 135i, scor-

ing his second straight title in the class. Running solo for all of his fifteen wins, Ralph did most of his racing in his home region, competing at Willow Springs, Phoenix, Auto Club Speedway, Thunderhill, and Buttonwillow. He also ran in the O'Fest races at Road Atlanta, finishing well up in the pack. Car-owner Scott Cary drove the 135i from southern California to Road Atlanta and back.

I-Stock was won by **Charles Benoit** of

Canada in his E30 M3. With two racers, I-Stock was the smallest class in which a title was awarded in 2009. Benoit ran solo in all ten of his races, running at VIR, Calabogie, Mont Tremblant, and Watkins Glen.

No title was awarded in Super-Modified, where nine racers ran in 2009; in E-Modified, where seven racers competed; in F-Modified, with two racers; and E-Stock, with just one. ♦



North Central Region racer John Negus took the K-Prepared title in 2009.



Jason Briedis won the national title in the competitive Spec E36 class.

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