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NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
5250 Grand Avenue
Suite 14-387
Gurnee, IL 60031

Chicago, April 21, 2010, NASA Midwest, Inc.

Huge Spec Miata Field Takes on Mid Ohio for the Season Opener

We had a great weekend for the NASA Great Lakes opener at Mid Ohio Sports Car Course. More than 30 cars registered in the Spec Miata class. Friday's test and tune was a very exciting due to the snow, but it stopped and the track finally dried out in the afternoon. Chris Price, Father and son team Ryan & Bruce Myrhen, Kyle Webb, and Frank Todaro all graduated from competition school and were all set to race on Saturday. I'm happy to report that they all finished both races. Good Luck Guys!

Saturday morning was cold, but dry and it turned out to be a great day for racing. Qualifying had a very familiar outcome with Brian Murdick taking up where he left off last year. He qualified first with a time of 1:43.366, almost a full second ahead of Dan Fargo of Team Tedlar. John Guthrie qualified third.

Saturday's race saw Brian Murdick battle with David Spencer to win the podium. Spencer was able to stay ahead of John Guthrie to finish 2nd and Guthrie got 3rd. The real story in this race was Randy Shaw in the #4 car. He made contact with another car in the morning's practice. When the car came off the track it looked like his weekend was over. He was able to piece the car back together for qualifying, but it was still in pretty bad shape. He qualified near the back of the field. By race time the car was in much better shape, but still not 100%. He finished an amazing 5th.

Sunday we saw much of the same with Murdick qualifying in front, with Randy Shaw 2nd in his bandaged up '99 Miata. Rick Deerwester had an awesome lap to qualify 3rd. In the race Murdick again held off David Spencer to take the win, and Spencer again placed 2nd. Randy Shaw was able to stay with the leaders with an impressive 3rd place finish in a car that was wrecked 24 hours earlier.

Following this year's safe driving theme, as the Great Lakes Spec Miata Series Director, I am sponsoring the Safe Driver Award. This season's highest placing racer in the region without ANY body contact will be awarded \$500.00. The top 3 finishers for the season are excluded, but anyone else could win this award. I'm happy to report that in our first race of the year on Saturday there was absolutely no body contact. That was a first! Sunday took a few drivers out of competition for this award, but we still had a great race.



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We still have a couple more weekends to use the R888s before we are required to go back to the RA1s. Based on the season opener, we still have a lot of racers still using the R888s.

The next event is May 14 – 16 at Putnam Park. Remember there is an enduro scheduled for Friday. Let's see how many SMs we can get on the track for that race.

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NASA Great Lakes

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