



## **Mansfield, OH - August 13th & 14th, 2011, NASA Midwest, Inc.**

We had a record turnout weekend for 944 Spec. in the Great Lakes Region in the crossover event with the Midwest Region. Nine cars started and finished the race on Saturday and ten cars started and finished on Sunday. We ran the Pro-Course as a prelude to nationals next month. The weather conditions were a mix for the weekend. Saturday it was bright, sunny and very comfortable for a mid-west August day. Sunday was marked by light and heavy on-and-off showers. There were a lot of last minute tire changes going on before Sunday's race as everyone was trying to determine if the track would stay dry, get a little rain or there'd be a total downpour as we'd seen earlier that day. Sunday's race ended up being just a bit on the wet side and made for some exciting racing.

Eric Kuhn's view - Neal Agran and Eric Kuhns had some great racing up front both days. Agran out-qualified Kuhns by 1/2 second on Saturday, but Kuhns was able to get the jump on the start as Agran was caught out having just decided to try shifting down into second when the green flag dropped. Agran made up or this with some late braking in turn 1, but was caught in the slower lane of the Spec E30 group backmarkers, and Kuhns was quickly able to put some cars between the two, though it wouldn't last. Agran was able to work around every passed car Kuhns threw at him, and remain close, when Kuhns had a bobble going into the carousel before the main straight. Agran took advantage of this, and made a move to the inside on the main straight, creeping up by Kuhns' rear fender before turn one. Kuhns was having none of this, and only left a narrow lane. Agran decided that this was too tight for his comfort, and went to back out, but got a bit loose in doing so, and ended up riding up on the curbing he'd wanted to avoid by backing out, ending in a spin. He had a bit of trouble restarting the car, and ended up behind most of the field, but in a heroic drive, ended up passing them all back, and finished only one second behind of Kuhns.

Agran again out qualified Kuhns Sunday, this time in the rain. Once again Kuhns got a jump on the green, which was waved while the field was in the Keyhole. Kuhns attacked early in the drying conditions, weaving through much of the SE30 field. Kuhns then got a little overly comfortable, just when Agran got the bit between his teeth, and the gap narrowed as conditions again turned rainy. Seeing Agran looming larger in his mirror, Kuhns turned the wick up again, and promptly had a near spin in the high speed turn one. Fortunately for Kuhns, the sight of his bright orange 944 in a large drift angle checked up the traffic between Kuhns & Agran, allowing Kuhns to stay just ahead going into the Keyhole. Agran then made an inside move going into Madness, but seeing a near spin by the BMW on the same line ahead of him, wisely back out. It was nip and tuck until Kuhns was able to put a slower car in between them just before a yellow flag came out. Agran was forced to wait for a couple of corners while Kuhns sped off to claim the win on Sunday.

Although the action at the front was exciting for Neal and Eric, there was also some exciting wheel to wheel racing going on mid-pack with a good mix of Great Lakes and Midwest cars early on in both races.



Joel Karn's view - The race start didn't go so well as I did not get a good start as we could not even see the flag stand when the green flew (GTS1 and Spec E30 were head of us and the bulk of the field). In fact by lap 3 we were starting to get caught up with the faster GTS crowd who started earlier in a split start. I was passed by Dan immediately and lost the position. Angel was balked by two Spec E30s running side by side for most of the race. I was able to get past Angel and that Spec E30 and chase down Dan. I caught back up to him about mid race and had two great runs to pass but each time there was a yellow flag in the corner. Two GTS2 cars had a major wreck in China Beach including one car flipping end over end. This lead to a full course yellow and eventually black flagging the race to end early with me in 4th place. My best lap time was a 1:48:169.

Sunday I was in conservation mode as it was wet and rainy off and on most of the race. Plus, any major damage from off track excursions may put me out from our National Championship race in mid-September. Sunday morning was dry and I ran a nice 1:48,389 and 4th in class. However, Qualifying was in the wet and Mid-Ohio is not a track to take lightly in inclement weather.

Between sessions we would go over track maps, traqmate data and video to discuss driving. Though we are racing – our group would rather help all drivers up their game so everyone can compete. It is just more fun that way and raises the game of even the fastest guys out there. The purpose of 944-Spec is a low budget Porsche racing series but also for driver development as it removes the big spenders from being able to spend their way to faster lap times. When the break in the weather came we all were able to get a photo shoot of the various cars.



Ten Great Lakes and Midwest Region 944 Spec. cars in race form.  
*Photo credit Linda Kuhns (taken while balancing atop of a pile of Toyo tires).*



Although the Midwest Region prevailed this time around it'll be a great motivator for the Great Lakes drivers to hone their skills and continue finding ways to improve the performance of their cars for the next go around.

Thanks to our sponsors including John from A Part Above who made two trips to Mid-Ohio to supply parts to keep us racing. Track support from Bennington Motorsports and the parts from A Part Above saved Ray Freundt from sitting out Sunday's race.

## Race Results

### Saturday

1. Kuhns
2. Agran
3. Pina
4. Karns
5. Blasquez
6. Raum
7. McCue
8. Armstrong
9. Chhikara

### Sunday

1. Kuhns
2. Agran
3. Pina
4. Freundt
5. Karns
6. Blasquez
7. McCue
8. Raum
9. Armstrong
10. Chhikara

Brad Raum  
944 Spec Series Director  
NASA Great Lakes

Eric Kuhns  
944 Spec National Director

NASA Contact:  
Dave Royce  
NASA Midwest, Inc  
Dave@nasamidwest.com



