

Canadian National Mini Roadracing Series

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BC Tour, Canada: Round 4 of the six round Midwest Motosports Canada Ltd sponsored Canadian National Mini RoadRacing Series took place over the August long weekend in beautiful province of British Columbia.

Round 4-August 1st-2nd: Recently proclaimed 'RoadRacing Days' by the Mayor of Quesnel BC, local host group Central Interior Motorcycle Racing Association (CIMRA) entertained 106 class entries on the beautiful yet secluded Caribou Kart Raceway located on aptly named Race Road in Quesnel.

Festivities started early in the week as competitors started arriving Wednesday to get a taste of the coveted race track that would set the stage for the weekends competition. Local competitor Ryan Appenrodt was eager to share the track with fellow racers from across the country, ready to share the fast line around his home track to the competitors who were making their first trip to the mini roadracing oasis. With over two full days of practice before qualifying Friday afternoon competitors had the opportunity to become well acquainted with the 4 storey drop in elevation coming out of corner 2, tricky corner 4 at the bottom of the hill and the hairpin in corner 10.

Timed Qualifying started at 4 pm Friday with local temperatures sitting around a basking 37 degrees Celsius. First up was the Formula GP Class with pole earned by local racer Dave Viskari with a 45.31 lap time. The Motard class ran with the Formula Gp for Qualifying and local rider Ryan Appenrodt took Motard pole with a 45.71 time. Next up was again Ryan Appenrodt and his AMRA sponsored CBR125R in the Formula Supersport class who earned his second pole with a 47.43 a full second over his competition. Extremely competitive spec racing class, the Thunder class was the next up: AMRA's Rob Ross earned pole with an impressive 49.44. The Thunder field was extremely tight with 2nd place through 7th place separated by less than half a second! Trevor Timmer from Kelowna earned pole in the Thumper class, Roland Sturt Smith earned pole in Spec Supersport Class primarily a Honda NSR50 class, Roland's Yamaha YSR80 has continued to dominate this spec class. Ryan Appenrodt took his third pole in his third competitive class in the Formula Thunder Group. The Intermediate class pole was earned by local racer Marjie Robertson. The next class up was the Spec Over / Under 21 Classes, running together for the Qualifying sessions pole was earned by AMRA's Chris Wilson in the Spec Under Class and the Spec Over 21 was earned by Roland Sturt Smith. The Pocketbike Open and 40cc grids were determined by a 4 lap qualifier with Chris Mah retaining his undefeated pole position followed by the Pelletier brothers in second and third in each class. The Ladies class was dominated by the Ham Family from White City Saskatchewan with four of the eight competitors coming from the newest Royal Roadracing Family: Robyn Ham earned pole beating out her two sisters and Mother. Last class of the day was the Formula Over / Under 21 Class. This class allows competitors of all ages to compete head to head but still be pointed separately. Veteran Ex PCMRA Prez Paul Ludwig earned pole with a 45.37 followed by Ryan Appenrodt with a 45.71 lap time.

Immediately following qualifying the host club gathered competitors for the 'Red Neck Challenge'. A tradition started in Quesnel, the 'for fun' event can be any combination of bizarre rules, rules often thought up it seemed after an evening of 'camaraderie'. This year's event boasted similar rules as the 2008 competition: 4 riders, 1 bike, all riders once around the track, one rider at the end of the grid area to run the hot pit to kiss a stuffed pig, (the same pig that started the competition five years ago!) In 2008 organizers surprised the challengers by riding double around the track, this year several competitors readily jumped three up on the

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thunder work horses! The Ham Girls, Brooke, Robyn, Jana with teammate Tracey Marshall seemed to have an early advantage with all four girls under a 100lbs, but the home town team, despite the much larger displacement on the poor motorcycle, charged around the race track with three riders on there bike followed by a fast lap with one rider! Goal complete! all four riders around the track, one bike. The stuffed pig remains in Quesnel hands for another year!

Saturday-Race Day: Beautiful Blue Skies promised to supervise the day's activities adding another 37 degree day to the challenges the racers faced. A full schedule of events at the Midwest Motorsports National includes 23 heats, several classes running twice. Only the Demographic Classes, the Formula and Spec Over/Under 21 classes being one heat shoot outs.

The days schedule started with Heat one of the Formula GP Class. Jay Fox takes the hole shot and the early lead and continued to lead the remaining 12 laps, followed by fellow AMRA Executive Rob Ross and PCMRA's Stuart Johnston in third. Heat 2 is essentially a redo of the first heat, with Fox, Ross, and Johnston again filing out the top three. With the win and the 15 points for first place Fox stretches his Formula GP Championship lead over Rob Ross by 5 points.

The 2009 Pocketbike Open Class and Pocketbike 40cc has been dominated by Edmonton's Chris Mah. Round 4 of the National series only added to Mah's domination with another 15 points to his record in both classes. Pelletier brothers have been trading 2nd and 3rd places all season in both classes. After this event Daniel leads the Pocketbike 40cc class by 4 points. In the Pocketbike Open Class the twins Pierre and Daniel are tied with 44 points each going into the fifth round at Chilliwack.

The Motard Race seemed to be contest of wills between Young Gun local Ryan Appenrodt and Veteran Paul Ludwig. Despite Paul's best efforts Ryan led all 12 laps of the first heat. In the event of a points tie the second race determines the winner, Paul had to make sure he won the second heat. Sure enough Paul led all 12 laps of the second and determining heat. Third place position was rounded out by CIMRA's Vic Lewington.

The Spec Supersport Class: Another unmodified spec class providing a showcase for the riders skills. Unfortunately, when a 'jump start' comes into play then your skills don't count for much. Despite leading all ten laps of the first heat Roland Sturt Smith and his YSR 80 were penalized 5 positions for an untimely start. Heat 1 results were Ryan Appenrodt, Chris Wilson and rounding out the top three was Stuart Johnston. Heat two once again saw Roland lead each lap, this time with a clean start. Second place was followed up by Chris Wilson and third place was earned by Jay Fox. Overall results found AMRA's Chris Wilson in first, Roland in second and Fox in third. Wilsons win over Fox gives him a 6 point advantage going into Round 5.

The Intermediate Class: A unique class based strictly on ability not age, saw newcomer to roadracing Marjje Robertson earn her first win in both heats. Sharon Ham, Queen of the Ham Family finished in third in her first heat but stepped it up a notch in the second heat moving to the silver place position. Trevor Timmer, a motor cross rider in the process of transitioning to pavement came in second, then third place in the determining heat. Congratulations to all our beginner racers! It's great to see you on the track!

The Ladies class formed up with eight riders on the grid. Sam McManus from Calgary got the hole shot and lead the heat. Robyn Ham ran in second followed by twin sister Jana Ham and in forth by elder sister Brooke Ham. Red Neck Challenge teammate Tracey Marshall brought up fifth place to be followed by Mom, Sharon Ham. This class is a perfect example that mini roadracing can be a sport for everyone!

Both the Thunder and Thumper Classes ran together but were pointed separately. Rob Ross had an incredible race for both his heats on his TTR125 Spec Thunder Machine leaving the competition a full half lap behind in both heats. Cody Conrad followed in second place with Jay Fox chasing him for the final 9 laps. Heat two, with Ross well ahead in first place left the field to sort itself out. Conrad fell into an early second place holding of Dave Viskari who fell to Jay Baloch in lap 3 as Baloch took over third place. Viskari continued to hold off fifth place Chad Swain for two laps succumbing in lap 5. Baloch passed Conrad on lap 6 for second followed by Swain now in third. On the next lap Swain overtook Baloch to finish in second place. Overall results saw Rob Ross with Gold, Chad Swain with Silver and Young Cody Conrad with a well earned third. The Spec Thunder class is not the fastest class in the CNMRA, but it is the class that many riders learn the most from, with each rider on identical bikes it takes the machine out of the equation and allows the rider to focus on his skills. This is the class that has help create many champions.

The 12" Thumper Class lined up with its larger brothers, the 17" wheel Thunder Machines for the first heat. Roland led the first 10 laps of the heat on a borrowed motorcycle, followed by Kelowna's Trevor Timmer and rounding up the third coveted position was Midwest Motorsports First Lady Tracey Marshall. For Heat 2 the Thumper Class ran without the Thunder class. Roland led the first half the race, only to hand the lead over to Trevor for the final half of the heat. Again bringing up third place was Tracey Marshall on her Midwest NRG machine. After the fourth round Ian McWhirter maintains a near insurmountable lead with a 22 point lead over now second place Tracey Marshall, Third place is rounded out by Roland Sturt Smith.

Bodhi Edie retains the track record set in 2008 with a 43.3 second time, 2009 times were almost a full second off the pace set by Edie in '08. "Having the kids at the track makes the adults faster as well" shares Jay Fox CNMRA/AMRA President, "Last year I broke into the 43's chasing Edie around the track! This year I set the fastest lap with a 44.3."

Round #5 of the Canadian National Mini Roadracing Series takes place the following weekend in Chilliwack BC at the Greg Moore Raceway.

Thanks to all our sponsors: Midwest Motorsports Canada, Canadian Powersports Group, CNMRA, AMRA, CIMRA, SMRA, PCMRC, PSRA

2009 Midwest Motorsports National Mini Road Racing Series Top Three After Round 4:

Formula 80: Jay Fox, Calgary Alberta, Rob Ross, Calgary Alberta, Jay Baloch, Calgary Alberta

Motard: Ian McWhirter, Calgary Alberta, Geoff Gerbrandt, Martensville, Sask, Ryan Appenrodt, Quesnel BC

Thunder: Jay Baloch, Calgary Alberta, Matt Bagshaw, Calgary Alberta, Rob Ross, Calgary AB

Formula Thumper: Bruce Holowaty, Regina Sask, Patrice Lambert, Edmonton Alberta

Thumper: Ian McWhirter Calgary AB, Tracey Marshall, Calgary Alberta, Roland Sturt Smith, Surry BC

Formula Thunder: Cody Conrad, Calgary AB, Ryan Appenrodt, Quesnel BC, Rob Haynes, Calgary AB

Spec Supersport: Chris Wilson, Calgary Alberta, Jay Fox, Calgary AB, Emil Peev, Saskatoon Sask

Form Supersport: Bodhi Edie Warmen Sk, Chris Wilson, Calgary Alberta, Ryan Appenrodt, Quesnel BC

Under 21 Spec: Chris Wilson, Calgary AB, Matt Bagshaw, Calgary Ab, Geoff Gerbrandt, Martensville, Sask

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Formula under 21: Cody Conrad, Calgary AB, Geoff Gerbrandt, Martensville, Sask, Dylan Jones Delta BC

Spec Over 21: Jay Boloch, Calgary, AB, Jay Fox, Calgary, AB, Ian McWhirter, Calgary Alberta

Formula Over 21: Ian McWhirter, Calgary Alberta, Jay Fox, Calgary, AB, Rob Ross, Calgary Alberta

Pocket Bike Open: Christopher Mah, Edmonton, Pierre Pelletier, Edmonton, Daniel Pelletier, Edmonton

Pocket Bike 40cc: Christopher Mah, Edmonton, Daniel Pelletier, Edmonton, Pierre Pelletier, Edmonton