



Pitster Pro Canadian National Mini RoadRacing Series:
CMA National Event
Round #1 Stratotech Park, Fort Saskatchewan
Hosted by the AMRA
May 18-20, 2007



It has been said that someone above loves Mini RoadRacers. This statement has been used mostly in reference to the good weather that seems to accompany mini roadracing events. This year a 'trial' was presented to the racers, those who persevered and overcame the near freezing temperatures during qualifying were rewarded on Race Day with near perfect spring weather. Race Director Robert Vose started the Saturday qualifying sessions under unfriendly racing conditions: Ambient temperatures of 5°C with cold Alberta winds meant an even colder race track.

157 class entries formed the grids for the premier event of the Pitster Pro Canadian National Mini RoadRacing Series.

At each round of the National Series the host club strives to maintain its individuality with distinct ways of determining pole position for the main event. The AMRA is fortunate to be the recipient of a grant from the Parks Foundation Calgary in 2006 which allowed for the purchase of a transponder timing system. With this equipment firmly in place riders were given 10 laps in which the fastest time was used to determine position for the main event on Sunday. A first experience for many riders, most quickly adopted different strategies for the hot lap system: a few competitors went out for one or two hot laps while others did the whole time, another approach was to hold back from the pack and then run one hot try to catch –up lap. Whatever the game plan the system worked well for all: fastest qualifying lap was set by AMRA President Jay Fox with a 1:07.9 on his Honda RS85 the next fastest lap was 1:10.2 set by CIMRA President Steve Graham on his CR85 Motard.

2007 is a year of change for the machine classes in the CNMRA series. New class names like Spec Super sport, created questions for the riders. A little direction was all that was needed and apprehension turned to thrills when riders realized that they could now race in most cases twice as often throughout the day as compared to the 2006 season.

Machine Classes:

Spec Supersport was dominated by young Peter Lenz on his MetraKit 50 (Mini GPX 1:11.2). The youngsters' skills allowed him to run laps while the race was fought between the Saskatchewan Mini RoadRacing Association (SMRA) members: Bodie Edie (1:15.2), Geoffrey Gerbrandt (1:14.9) and John Lenz –no relation to the younger, (SMRA President 1:16.1). Spectators thrilled as the racers fought corner after corner for all 10 laps on their Honda NSR 50's. The tight technical corners of the home track have skilled the Saskatchewan competitors well, the roomier apex's of the Stratotech Park arena flowing perfectly under their machines. Bodie age 11 proved that the youth are more than contenders once again for the 2007 season as he earned a 2nd followed closely by 16 year old Gerbrandt with a 3rd place.

Ladies Class had some of the best racing of the day between two young ladies: Wynona Dobbs (15 years old) and Kayseas Redsky (17 years old) both on Honda's NSR 50's. These competitors diced it up like a couple of old pros while entertaining the cheering crowd. Young local superstar racer 15 year old Meagan Rotor had the best seat at the track while following the two to fill out the podium.

The old school Thunder Class was dominated by pre race injured AMRA President Jay Fox on a '02 XR100 followed by Greg Graham from the CIMRA on an equally old XR100. 17 year old Matt Bagshaw on a DRZ125 filled up the 3rd spot on the podium. Spec Classes remain crowd and rider favorites as the unmodified machines focus on the talents of the rider.

The Pitster Pro Formula Thunder Class was dominated by young Lenz (1:10.3), but the excitement was brought by the SMRA club youth rivals Bodie Eddie (1:09.5) and Geoffrey Gerbrandt (1:11.7).

Pitster Pro's own Jared Ali chose Geoffrey Gerbrandt as recipient of the "Best in Class" award for his fortitude in the weight struggle he had to overcome racing against the young Bodie throughout the event. It has been noted by many that Geoffrey despite being only 16 years of age can commiserate with the adults when it comes to racing with the smaller in stature youth group.

The Pocketbike Class was again a great draw for the fans and had some intense action with the recognizable names from the 2006 season. Glen Peterson, Brendon Schmidt and Ryan Ottenhof proved once again the smaller machines are true giants on the track.

Formula GP is a dual heat class with both Motards and Formula bikes competing head to head. Sunday's first GP event allowed the man & machine team of Jay Fox and his RS to rule the track with 1:07.5 times. Jamie Dingwall on a MetraKit 80 came from the back but could not make the charge on Fox, but kept him in sight for second with 1:07.9 lap times. Roadracer poetry was created by several competitors as they vied for the remaining top position including Matthew Bagshaw on his Yellow TZ (1:08.6) and Jason Boxtart (CIMRA 1:09) with a Silver RS played back and forth for several laps side by side, it was obvious to observers that each had strengths at different points in the track. Bagshaw was strong throughout the esses, but Boxtart had the speed on the magic corner before the start finish line. Ian McWhirter (AMRA 1:08.8) got in the mix on his Motard and increasingly challenged the Formula duo with his incredible cornering ability and follow through. Results at the end of the first race saw Fox with 1st, Dingwall 2nd, and Bagshaw 3rd.

The second Formula GP race saw Fox (1:07.4) again pull the holeshot and maintain the lead for the duration. Jamie Dingwall (AMRA 1:07.9) earned a second place and young Peter Lenz a well deserved third (mini GP X 1:09.7). Overall Formula points saw Fox in 1st, Dingwall 2nd, and Boxtart 3rd.

The Motard class was dominated for both heats by Ian McWhirter. McWhirter played with the Formula GP machines and let the competitors dual it out for the remaining podium positions. This left the work to be done by Peter Lenz and Bodie Edie as they threw their spec Motard machines into corner after corner. After two heats the overall Motard results saw McWhirter in 1st, Peter Lenz 2nd and Bodie Edie in 3rd.

Demographics:

7-10 class: for 2007 the mini roadracing series was able to lower the minimum age to 7 years. An excited Teagan Edie (SMRA) placed 1st followed closely by Cory Matthews (AMRA) and Allyssa Fox (AMRA) placed in third.

New 21 and Under Spec Class: This class allows youth racers to compete head to head on spec bikes against other racers aged 11-21. American Superstar Peter Lenz from Mini GPX commanded a brilliant performance on his MetraKit and earned a first place position with a respectable 1:12.5 lap time. Geoffrey Gerbrant (SMRA) had his work cut out for him as SMRA teammate Bodie Edie diced back and forth to ultimately see Geoff place in 2nd with 1:16.3 time and Bodie in 3rd with a 1:16.5 fastest time. Young Conner Mathews ran a outstanding race on his MetraKit 50 finishing forth.

New: 21 and Under Formula: This class allows the youth racers to compete head to head on the intense Formula bikes without the interference of the older competitors. 17 year old Matt Bagshaw (AMRA) led the pack on his TZ85 as he turned consistent lap after lap with a respectable 1:08.7 fastest lap time. Peter Lenz followed on a KTM 65 Motard (1:10.8) and Charles Nalder (AMRA) took a hard earned third on an YZ85 Motard (1:10.1) to fill the rest of the podium.

New: 21 and Over Spec class had more passes in the final laps than most classes had all day with John Lenz on his NSR50 battling with Jay Fox on a XR100. The two switched positions every corner until the last lap when Lenz put his head down for the win, this again reinforced to Fox whom the 'cornering king' in Western Canada really is. This was all followed up Devin Edie on his NSR50 who enjoyed the action from a comfortable third place.

New: 21 and Over Formula: The front of the pack was lead by AMRA President Fox and his newest toy, the RS85. Jamie Dingwall, AMRA Vice President and former pocketbike guru impressed the crowd as he chased down Fox with his MetraKit. SMRA President John Lenz surprised all when despite starting at the back of the grid as a last minute entry moved cleanly through the field to reel in Dingwall, ultimately earning a second place podium. Much to the chagrin of Fox, Lenz broke cleanly into the 1.06's on a borrowed TZ from Fox's son and usurped Fox's fastest weekend lap time.

A Special Thanks to Pitster Pro, Stratotech Park, ASPRW, AME, CNMRA and all the Volunteers. As always without your contributions the event would not have been the success it was.

It has been said that someone above has blessed Mini RoadRacers. This encompasses not only the weather, but the people who make the whole experience great for everyone. On behalf of the Canadian National Mini RoadRacing Associations any and all are invited to partake in the glory of mini roadracing. More information can be found at www.AMRA.ca.

Bernedette Bagshaw CNMRA