



Aerial view of Motorsports Ranch Houston.

CVAR Oktoberfest

Motorsports Ranch Houston, Texas

Sep. 30-Oct. 2, 2016

– story by Don Gwynne

Perfect weather and more than 115 entrants spelled a fun and successful weekend of CVAR racing at Motorsports Ranch Houston. Event Chair Mike Briggs did a fine job of

The **GERMAN FEATURE** on Sunday morning had 18 entrants, of which 15 came to the line and 13 were classed as finishers. Carl Janin sat on pole in his white #13 Porsche RSR, with Bassam Al Haddad alongside in his #131 white Porsche 911. When the race started, Bassam jumped into the lead, and led every lap except the one that counted most, when Mark Gohlke forged into the overall lead in his red/white/blue #123 Porsche 914/6. Janin finished in third overall, only to be penalized 30 seconds for failing to report to a black flag. He was far enough ahead of the next car that the penalty didn't

and white Porsche 914. Doug Oliver placed eighth overall to take an unopposed win in the B Sedan class driving his white and blue #140 BMW 2002.

The **GROUP 2** Championship Points race was a battle all the way between polesitter Chris Duroy in his blue #73 MG Midget and Randy Riney's black #100 MG Midget. Duroy eventually took the checker ahead of Riney to win overall and the FP class. Scott Barrett finished an excellent third overall after starting way back in tenth in his yellow #10 Austin Healey Sprite to win the FP2 class. Berkeley Merrill won the EP class in his silver #12 Porsche 914.



photo by Tom Giertz

#6 Anthony Nigro, 1972 Porsche 914; #614 Mike Floyd, 1973 Porsche 914.

organizing the event. A special 30-minute feature event was a race for German cars (only), with 15 of them coming to the line (13 Porsches, 1 BMW, and 1 NSU).

During lunchtime on Saturday, exhibition rides in race cars were immensely popular, with more than 50 workers and spectators enjoying the opportunity to see "what's it like out there." On Saturday night, the rousing race party was hosted by Mike and Keri Briggs.

change the finishing results, however. Sorting the finishers by CVAR class designations, Al Haddad won the C Production class, Mark Gohlke won the FIA class, and with a fourth overall, Mike Floyd's yellow #614 Porsche 914 won the E Production class. Anthony Nigro won the EP2 class in his black



photo by Tom Giertz

#12 Berkeley Merrill, 1972 Porsche 914/4.

The **GROUP 3** Championship Points race for Group 3 Formula Vees had a large field of 28 cars, with Dallasite Dwight Calkins sitting on the pole in his red #87 Lynx. Alongside Calkins was Charlie Hearn in his red #62 Vee. After the green flag, William Wolff jumped into the lead driving his white and blue #68 Zink after starting on the second row. Wolff led for about three laps before Hearn took the lead all the way to the checkered flag for the win. Nathan Baldauff carved his way up through the pack from 12th to second. Then came a DQ of Hearn's #62 for contact, giving Baldauff the overall win, and a second place finish for Wolff.

Nine drivers came to the starter's orders for the **GROUP 4** Championship Points race, with Robert Merrill leading all the way from pole to checker in his yellow #159 Huffaker Mk 1 Formula Junior, for the overall win and the FJr1 class win. It is a front-engined car, powered by a Ford 105E engine. Mike Vecellio placed



photo by Tom Giertz

#105 Terrance Swonke, 1972 MG Midget; #87 Duncan Charlton, 1967 NSU 1200TT.

second overall to win the VB class in his black and white #112 EMPI Crusader. John Furlow Jr. placed third overall driving his red #38 Abarth Allemano to win the VC class. The SFP "Spec Sprite" class win went to Eddie Dick in sixth overall driving his gold #54 Austin Healey Sprite. Allen Johnson took an unopposed win in VA class in his red #5 MG TD Special. Edward Copley proved to be the class of the **GROUP 6** field in his red #43 Ralt RT1.4. He started on pole, and led all but one lap, to take the overall win and the FA class win. Rick Wark mounted a challenge to Copley, charging up from the last row to lead the third lap, but was re-passed and eventually finished a creditable third overall and second in FA class. In between Copley and Wark at the finish line was Greg Smith in his red #6 Swift DB1 for the FF3 class win. Jeff Langham took the FF1 class win, in fifth overall, driving

seventh on the grid to finish third overall and second in CP. Cynthia Trifilio started fifth overall in her blue #55 Fiat 124 Sport Coupe and finished same, to win the B Sedan class. Crowd favorite Chris Langley's blue and white #99 Yenko Stinger won the DP2 class in sixth overall.

Last race of the weekend was for the big thunder, **GROUP 1**. Phil Mulacek thrilled everyone by bringing out his real-deal, blue #27 427 Cobra. Phil led from flag to flag to take the overall win and the A Production class win. CVAR President Herb Hilton likewise ran in second overall from flag to flag, to win the A Sedan class in his yellow #17 Mustang. Second A Sedan and third overall was taken by Alain Vinson in his white and red #2 Mustang. Joe Robau won the B Production class in fourth overall



photo by Tom Giertz

#62 Charles Hearn, 1969 Lynx B; #110 E.O. Barron, 1963 Kellison.

his blue and silver Merlyn Mk 20A Formula Ford. Just behind Langham came David Bell for the FF2 class win in his blue and yellow Lola T-342, in sixth overall.

A relatively small field of just nine **GROUP 7** cars came to the line, with Little Rock's Louis Gladfelter on the pole in his white and yellow #19 Datsun 510. Alex Sargasso's C Production silver #39

Datsun 240Z sat alongside. After 15 minutes of close racing, Smargiasso finished first overall to win the C Production class, with Gladfelter winning the B Sedan class in second overall. Tom Taff muscled his orange #24 Porsche 914/6 up from



photo by Tom Giertz

#83 Russ Rosenberg, 1966 Yenko Corvair; #99 Chris Langley, 1966 Yenko Stinger; #90 David Lasco, 1965 Shelby Mustang.

driving his white #11 Corvette. Twelve other Group 1 cars were entered for the weekend, but didn't come to the grid for the final race for various reasons. Their loss.

CVAR's first race in 2017 will be a return to Motorsports Ranch Houston on Feb. 24-26, 2017, for Spring Driver's School and Races and the Cooper/Lotus Pablo Gonzalez Memorial Challenge.



photo by Tom Giertz

#14 Jim Barron, 1972 Lola T240; #73 David Bell, 1974 Lola T-342.

ENTRANTS LIST

GROUP 1

DRIVER/CAR

- M. Baker/1971 MGB GT
- S. Coleman/1969 Ford Boss 302
- M. Gohlke/1970 Porsche 914
- H. Hilton/1967 Ford Mustang
- C. Janin/1974 Porsche 911 RSR
- G. Kopecky/1973 Porsche RSR
- D. Lasco/1965 Mustang Shelby



photo by Tom Giertz

#10 Scott Barrett, 1969 Austin Healy Sprite.

- C. Lemmons/1965 Ford Mustang
- J. Robau/1964 Corvette
- J. Sandberg/1969 Corvette
- K. Schrader/1971 DeTomaso Pantera
- J. Sharp/1971 Camaro
- A. Vinson/1966 Shelby Mustang GT350
- B. Whitehead/1965 Ford Mustang

GROUP 2

DRIVER/CAR

- S. Barrett/1969 Austin Healy Sprite
- M. Briggs/1972 MG Midget
- D. Charlton/1967 NSU 1200TT
- S. Coleman/1972 MG Midget
- M. Coleman/1972 MG Midget
- C. Duroy/1970 MG Midget
- M. Floyd/1973 Porsche 914
- D. Foreman/1971 Porsche 914
- P. Glawe/1966 Austin Healey Sprite
- D. Hilton/1971 MG Midget
- J. Jones/1972 MGB

- J. Kelleher/1962 Lotus Super Seven
- A. Kurshudian/1972 Porsche 914/4
- C. Langley/1966 Chevrolet Yenko Stinger
- T. McLaren/1969 MG M6 Midget
- B. Merrill/1972 Porsche 914/4
- A. Moore/1964 Austin Healey Sprite
- D. Nicholson/1971 Triumph Spitfire
- A. Nigro/1972 Porsche 914
- G. Perser/1966 MGB
- S. Pinkston/1957 VW Beetle
- B. Pinkston/1966 VW Beetle
- R. Reed/1972 Porsche 914
- G. Reed/1967 MG Midget
- R. Riney/1972 MG Midget
- R. Rosenberg/1966 Yenko Corvair
- P. Sandy/1959 Austin Healey Sprite
- P.D. Sohn/1972 MG Midget
- T. Swonke/1972 MG Midget
- G. Valdes/1972 Triumph Spitfire
- D. Vick/1964 Triumph Spitfire
- A. Vinson/1966 Morris Cooper

GROUP 3

DRIVER/CAR

- E. Barron/1972 Pegasus Pegasus
- H. Barron/1972 Caldwell D-13
- E.O. Barron/1963 Kellison



photo by Tom Giertz

#193 Jose Iturbe, 1972 Porsche 911.

- H. Barron/1969 Kellison Mach 1
- K. Barron-Fuller/1969 Zink C4
- D. Calkins/1972 Lynx B
- D. Fisher/1972 Lynx B

- B. Griffith/1969 Warrior
- C. Hearn/1969 Lynx B
- A. Hughes/1970 Zink
- F. Iqbal/1972 Caldwell D13
- M. Jones/1968 Nash Scrambler



#449 Kirby Schrader, 1971 DeTomaso Pantera.

- B. Liming/1968 Zink C-4
- E. Lovay/1970 VW
- D. Medowell/1969 Zeitler
- W. Murphey/1969 Lynx Fv Lynx B
- D. Phillips/1969 Zink C-4
- J. Revenaugh/1967 Zink C-4
- B. Revenaugh/1967 Zink C-4
- M. Rogers/1968 Bobsy Vega
- S. Smith/1968 Zink
- M. Strong/1969 Zink C-4
- L. Thacker/1972 Autodynamics Caldwell D13
- J. White/1965 Zink C-4
- W. Wolff/1968 Zink Z-5
- M. Wolff/1965 Autodynamics Mk 2
- B. Wright/1964 Zink
- E. Ziegler/1967 Beach 5C

GROUP 4

DRIVER/CAR

- E. Dick/1967 Austin Healey Sprite
- J. Furlow Jr./1959 Abarth Allemano
- A. Johnson/1952 MGTD Special
- G. Mefarlane/1960 H-Modified Thundermug
- R. Merrill/1959 BMC Mk 1

- H. Noble/1962 MGA Mk II
- D. Turner/1964 Austin Healey Sprite
- M. Vecellio/1963 Empi Crusader
- J. Williams/1972 Austin Healey Sprite
- R. Williams/1959 Austin Healey Sprite

GROUP 6

DRIVER/CAR

- A. Acemyan/1969 Beach T11F
- N. Baldauff/1969 Beach T11F
- J. Barron/1972 Lola T240
- D. Bell/1974 Lola T-342
- T. Blakeney/1972 Royale RP-16
- E. Copley/1980 Ralt RT.1.4
- J. Kelleher/1980 March 80A
- J. Langham/1972 Merlyn Mk 20a
- D. Mock/1969 Merlyn Mk 11a
- S. Robinson/1969 Winkelmann
- L. Romine/1968 Lotus 51
- G. Smith/1986 Swift DB1
- D. Waldrop/1982 Van Diemen RF82
- R. Wark/1972 March FA

GROUP 7

DRIVER/CAR

- B. Al Haddad/1971 Porsche 911
- A. Fawcett/1968 Lotus Eln
- D. Fawcett/1970 Lotus 7
- L. Gladfelter/1971 Datsun 510
- P. Gormly/1970 Ford Escort
- J. Iturbe/1972 Porsche 911
- J. Kish/1973 Porsche 911E
- M. Lovay/1969 Datsun 510
- D. Oliver/1975 BMW 2002
- R. Pink/1972 Datsun 240Z
- A. Smargiasso/1972 Datsun 240Z
- C. Stutzman/1970 Datsun 240Z
- T. Taff/1971 Porsche 914/6
- C. Trifilio/1971 Fiat 124 Coupe
- J. Zittner/1970 Porsche 914/6



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