

2011 July
Buttonwillow

A NASA region with a growing class of Spec E30's and cloudless 95 degree weather would not be the only story for the weekend at Buttonwillow! There would also be one of tough battles and an ever changing track conditions! 10 competitors would show up to play in the sunshine and, play they did.

Saturday morning warm-up went off without a hitch. 10 cars would take to the track for qualifying. 3 first time racers would join us for a weekend of racing bliss!

Dave Reed or "Mr. Buttonwillow", as his peers would come to call him this weekend, went out in the qualifying session and laid down the pole winning time of 2:18.805.

1.	David Reed	2:18.805
2.	Allan Hauser	2:19.476
3.	Chris Donnelly	2:19.664
4.	Matthew Thiemann	2:19.983
5.	Steffen Thompson	2:21.970
6.	Vogel Boys Racing	2:22.333
7.	Frank Reed	2:22.754
8.	Team Sykes Racing	2:22.788
9.	Rius Billing	Transponder failed
10.	Midnight Oil	did not qualify

The SE30 field was much tighter time-wise to each other compared to the last time they were here. This is especially impressive considering we have a couple new drivers to the group!

After a solid standing start, Dave Reed would maintain the lead into turn 1. Before there could be any further racing, behind them was to be an incident leading the 2nd group of Spec Miatas to their green flag. The pole position and 2nd place starting cars would get together on the front straight and one car would end up in the tire barrier.... the race was stopped with a full course caution and the decision was made to do a complete restart displaying the red and yellow flag. This caused considerable confusion in the SE30 group as nobody had ever seen a restart before! The lineup for the start was a little messy but the restart would go off without a hitch and once again, the group would clear turn 1 cleanly with Dave Reed once again claiming his spot up front and would run a flawless race for the full race distance.. The group would race nose

to tail for the first couple of laps. The field would develop into 2 groups of cars where the racing very hard through the first part of the race.

The ever changing track conditions and low-grip levels found in key turns would catch a few drivers out. Car 22, Rius Billing thought he had a tire going down so he made a pit stop and had it checked. He would return back to the race but would finish 1 lap down. Steve Stepanian rented the #3 Midnight Oil for the weekend (and the 3hr Enduro) and would keep it on track and have a good battle to the end and finished an impressive 4th. Steve's own car is being built by Midnight Oil and is slated to be finished for the next event so this was a good way to get his feet wet. New drivers Matthew Thiemann and Steffen Thompson also made a good showing, finishing 6th and 8th respectively.

Saturdays Results:

1.	343	David Reed	2:18.758
2.	320	Allan Hauser	2:18.872
3.	59	Vogel Boys Racing	2:22.332
4.	3	Midnight Oil	2:22.116
5.	25	Chris Donnelly	2:20.526
6.	21	Matthew Thiemann	2:20.662
7.	11	Frank Reed	2:22.994
8.	67	Steffen Thompson	2:22.555
9.	75	Team Sykes Racing	2:24.206
10.	22	Rius Billing	2:19.49

Saturday night included 4 E30's entries into the 3 hr. enduro for the E3 class. Everyone finished and a great time was had by all! Post-race festivities were a great time and went well into the night. The clock struck 12 and the party ended. Sunday would be a long day!

Sunday morning bright and early and the pits were alive with action.

We were told in the drivers meeting that we would have a qualifying race! The results from Saturday's race would be the starting grid for the qualifying race. All 10 cars lined up for the race and as the green flag dropped, a familiar gold car shot to the lead heading into turn 1. The car 343 driven by David Reed would once again lead wire to wire, closely followed by Allan Hauser. The story of this race would be Rius Billing, who started the race from the last spot and would charge thru the field and work his way up to the 3rd spot before time ran out! Steffen Thompson would claim the 4th spot and making his first appearance in SE30 was

Geoff Sykes in the 75 car finishing 5th. He would also reset the lap time record with a blazing 2:17.396 backing up his morning warm-up lap of 2:17.381!!

Sunday Qualifying Race Results:

1.	343	David Reed	2:18.278
2.	320	Allan Hauser	2:18.591
3.	22	Rius Billing	2:18.023
4.	67	Steffen Thompson	2:21.244
5.	75	Team Sykes Racing	2:17.396
6.	3	Midnight Oil	2:20.938
7.	21	Matthew Thiemann	2:18.893
8.	11	Frank Reed	2:20.229
9.	59	Vogel Boys Racing	2:20.815
10.	25	Chris Donnelly	2:20.351

Sunday Race:

The anticipation for this race was very high! Drivers were prepping for the race in ways not yet seen in SoCal! This time out, the E30 group would not have a pace car to lead them to the starting line for their standing start. So, David Reed decided that he wanted to get back to the starting line very quickly to get this race started! It was like watching a Mother Duck scurry quickly across the road and all the little ducklings scrambling to keep up! The cars lined up and the flagman dropped the green to another fantastic start from the group and clean entry into turn 1 without issue. Once again, the one they call "Mr. Buttonwillow" David Reed would keep the lead going into turn 1. But now the guys are calling him "Pace Car".

On lap 3 Rius Billing would hook a left rear tire on the rumble strip exiting the last turn leading onto the front straight and would spin to the inside hitting the wall, damaging the front and rear of the car. The steering was broken and would not continue. A full course caution was required to remove his disabled car from the track.

Once the race resumed, David Reed would lead the group into turn 1. Battles were had all over the track and it was hard to keep up with everyone but Geoff Sykes in the #75 car started 5th and would work his way thru the cars to get to the #2 spot and claim his first podium spot! He would also reset the track record in much hotter conditions with a 2:17.345! Matthew Thiemann would also move up a few spots to claim his first ever podium spot in only his 2nd race!

By far the hottest battle on the track was the battle for the 7th spot. Hotly contested by Steve Stepanian in the Midnight Oil #3 car and Frank Reed, Frank really wanted that 7th spot! They battled nose to tail racing hard and very clean, lap after lap until the checkered flag flew! Both drivers congratulated one another after the hard fought race.

Other than Rius Billing having his "off" and the damage to his car, it was a great weekend for Spec E30 Racing. Hopefully Rius can make repairs and make it out to the next event at California Speedway at the end of July. All 3 first time racers did a great job, as well as our returning drivers. The competition level of all the drivers tightened up a notch and I expect to see more of this at our next event at AAA Speedway.

Sunday Race Results:

1.	343	David Reed	2:19.236
2.	75	Team Sykes Racing	2:17.345
3.	21	Matthew Thiemann	2:19.889
4.	320	Allan Hauser	2:18.758
5.	59	Vogel Boys Racing	2:20.257
6.	67	Steffen Thompson	2:20.329
7.	3	Midnight Oil	2:22.732
8.	11	Frank Reed	2:22.554
9.	25	Chris Donnelly	2:20.500
10.	22	Rius Billing	2:19.406