

May at Willow Springs, ah yes, warm weather with a guarantee of wind, “EasyUps” will be sacrificed! The weather absolutely controls every competitor’s ability to go fast at this track. This weekend would prove to be one of the best weather days at a NASA event here at Willow Springs in years, as a result many class lap records would fall, and SE30 was to be no different!

Saturday morning’s early warm-up was right on schedule. Four drivers would attend this event. Experience at Willow Springs was extremely limited for all four drivers, setting everyone up for a very steep learning curve and very little time to learn the nuances of Willow Springs. Allan Hauser in his white #320 did not disappoint either he went out and set a blistering 1:40.551 which was already 5 seconds faster than the existing 2007 lap record. Mike Vogel piloting his #59 “Vogel Boys” SE30 set a 1:43.869 while the red #22 of Rius Billing set a 1:46.366 to start his weekend. Jeremy Sykes with a car he’d only just taken delivery of didn’t make the morning warm-up.

A couple hours later with the track temps a little warmer and the winds uncharacteristically calm, the qualifying session began. Hauser reset his best lap time by nearly 2 tenths claiming ‘P1’. During Rius Billing’s second time on Willow Springs ever, found a lot of time out there shedding 4 seconds off his morning lap-times to claim ‘P2’. Mike Vogel also found more time on the track qualifying only one tenth behind Billing. Jeremy Sykes joined us for the first his first SE30 race weekend ever to qualify in ‘P4’.

Saturday Qualifying:

1) 320	Allan Hauser	1:40.398
2) 22	Rius Billing	1:42.102
3) 59	Vogel Boys	1:42.248
4) 75	Team Sykes Racing	1:48.649

Race control deemed that it was not possible that SE30 could do a standing start with 4 cars. The group was to start with a traditional “rolling-start” and they took the green flag into turn 1 right behind the Spec Miata group.

The race would start at 1PM. By now it was warmer, yet the wind wasn’t really as much of a factor like it typically is in the high-desert in the afternoon. A good clean start by all cars allowed everyone to get through turn 1 cleanly, the rest of the race remained clean. Hauser was able to lay down a 1:41.322 in the race to claim the Spec E30 Lap Record as well as completing his Rookie license requirements! Billing continued to take large strides and laid down a 1:41.710! Mike Vogel was less than a second behind with his 1:42.648. Team Sykes Racing closed the field out with his best race-lap of 1:53.402.

Saturday results with fastest lap time:

1) 320	Allan Hauser	1:41.332
2) 22	Rius Billing	1:41.710
3) 59	Vogel Boys	1:42.648
4) 75	Team Sykes Racing	1:53.402

Sunday's schedule was to be a little different format but the racing would remain the same! Allan Hauser started his day with a fresh cup of Catalytic Coffee from our latest sponsor. As the sun rose over the desert, Allan stood on his RV's porch in his vintage "Speed Racer" robe and welcomed the morning in all its glory with a cup of Catalytic Coffee's "Midnight Oil" blend in hand!

Hauser would take that energy to the track and managed the fastest lap of warm-up. Patrick Vogel would take over driving duties in the #59 Vogel Boys SE30 and armed with what team Vogel had learned from Mike's post-race download, Patrick was able to immediately get up to speed which resulted in a very quick 1:42.041. Billing still finding his feet at Willow Springs managed a 1:42.934. And Jeremy Sykes in the #75 ran 2 seconds faster than Saturday! The entire field was hoping that the weather just stayed good!

Morning warm-up:

1) 320	Allan Hauser	1:41.039
2) 59	Vogel Boys	1:42.041
3) 22	Rius Billing	1:42.934
4) 75	Team Sykes Racing	1:46.833

Early morning qualifying and the winds were starting to show up, but still not as bad as it could be. Patrick Vogel would claim 'P1' from Hauser, but by only a tenth! Rius Billing improved his personal best time of the weekend by almost a second to claim 'P2' and Jeremy Sykes also improved upon his best lap time of the weekend for 'P4'. Little do they know, the Series Director has decided that qualifying positions have already been inverted for the Sunday afternoon start!!

Sunday Qualifying

1) 59	Vogel Boys	1:40.162
2) 320	Allan Hauser	1:40.273
3) 22	Rius Billing	1:41.383
4) 75	Team Sykes Racing	1:46.548

Because the SE30 field was inverted for the race, the SE30 pole was now Jeremy Sykes! Outside pole was #22-Rius Billing, starting behind Sykes was #59-Patrick Vogel and starting 4th behind the #22 was #320-Hauser. The race start would also show us some of the winds that Willow Springs is famous for.

The race start had the group three-wide into turn-1 and again everyone made it to the other side without incident. Patrick Vogel got to the front and ran away from the group quickly. Hauser took a little longer to get thru the field and set his sights on Vogel, 12 seconds ahead. Those 12 seconds would prove be very difficult to overcome, the checkered flag flew on the field with Patrick Vogel getting his very first SE30 race win of his career in only his second race start! Patrick also won the one pound of Midnight Oil coffee from Catalytic Coffee! Congratulations Patrick!

Sunday Race Results:

1) 59	Vogel Boys	1:41.512
2) 320	Allan Hauser	1:42.282
3) 22	Rius Billing	1:43.411
4) 75	Team Sykes Racing	1:47.647

The Midnight Oil Hard Charger \$100 award goes to Rius Billing for having gained the most time over the weekend. Congratulations Rius!!!

The So-Cal Spec E30 drivers continue to get faster and faster. Every driver got progressively faster all weekend long! It was a great weekend of man vs. track and the elements, and everyone finished out the weekend with running cars and no damage. I look forward to seeing you all again at the next event at Buttonwillow!

Shawn Meze

So-Cal Spec E30 Series Director