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WORLD OF BMW

THIS ISSUE:
WHITE LIGHTNING M3
CHRISTINA NIELSEN
IMSA AT LIME ROCK

Brown, Ogrodnik lead the pack in Pittsburgh



Roy Hopkins scored three class wins at PIRC in his venerable 2002.

The 2015 Historics at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex were notable because it was the first event to compete on the new South Course. We looked forward to the 2016 Historics because not only would we again run the full 2.87-mile course, but the new section of the track now had all the curbing installed.

Another first for the 2016 Historics was three days of racing instead of two; the bill consisted of a 25-minute race on Friday, two races on Saturday—one twenty minutes and one 50 minutes—and a 25-minute feature race on Sunday

afternoon.

Unlike the past few Historics, BMW CCA Club Racing had its own run group for this weekend. The 29-car field for the first race on Saturday was probably the largest BMW-only group the Historics had seen.

The weather forecasts worried those teams that showed up for Friday's racing. Every prediction was for rain throughout the day. Fortunately, every prediction was wrong. The temperatures stayed cool due to the cloud cover, but the rains never came. In fact, the entire weekend was

dry. Todd Brown's #80 C-Modified E30 M3 was the fastest ride of the weekend, taking first overall on Friday, in the 50-minute race on Saturday, and in the Sunday feature race.

E36 M3 racer Kevin Ogrodnik, who always brings a fast car to Pittsburgh, was the I-Prepared class winner in all four races; he also took first overall in the Saturday morning sprint race. Dan March swept I-Sport in his E36 M3, while Will DiGiovanni scored three wins and John Paton scored one in M3T, the all-E30 M3 class. Spec E30 went to 325is

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racers Rick Dravecky twice, Don Stevens once, and Will Schneider once.

One cool aspect of the Historics at Pitt Race is that we often see more BMW 2002 race cars than we do at other venues. As many as five of the classic 02s were on track at one time. Class winners in 02s were Roy Hopkins, with three E-Modified wins; Wade Wilson, with three D-Modified wins; and Adrienne Hughes, with one D-M win.

Solo class wins went to Joseph Cudby (328i) in Spec E36, Ali Salih (330i) in Spec E46, Robert Thoman (E46 M3) in GTS3, Matthew Wasilewski (E36 325i) in GTS2, Steve Liadis (E46 M3) in H-Sport, and Raymond Peterson (E30 325is) in K-Prepared.

Hospitality throughout the weekend for the BMW CCA racers was provided as always by the BMW CCA Allegheny Chapter. Race organizer Brett Sutton arranged the Bobby Rahal BMW hospitality tent where drinks and snacks were available throughout the weekend, and the teams enjoyed lunches on Saturday and Sunday. The lunches were sponsored by BMW CCA club racer and I-P contender Bob Perritt.

Meredith Croucher was the competition steward; Bruce Smith, Clement Schmitt, and Mark Connolly were tech stewards; and Larry Fletcher was the timing and scoring steward.—*Scott Blazey with Brian Morgan*

Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Race at PIRC
7-9-2016 Allegheny Chapter Feature sprint 27 laps

Overall Position	Position in Class	Class	Driver	Model	Best time
1	1	CM	Todd Brown	E30 M3	01:52.4
2	1	IP	Kevin Ogradnik	E36 M3	01:53.8
3	1	GTS2	Matthew Wasilewski	E36 325i	01:55.9
4	2	IP	Steven Fiore	E36 M3	01:55.7
5	3	IP	Bob Perritt	E36 M3	01:57.3
6	1	IS	Dan March	E36 M3	01:58.8
7	1	Spec E46	Ali Salih	E46 330i	01:58.5
8	4	IP	Chad Waddell	E36 M3	01:58.7
9	1	GTS3	Robert Thoman	E46 M3	01:59.9
10	2	IS	Wayne Dobson	E36 M3	02:02.4
11	3	IS	Francois Metivier	E36 M3	02:02.9
12	4	IS	Randy Hassett	E36 M3	02:02.8
13	1	M3T	Will DiGiovanni	E30 M3	02:03.3
14	1	Spec E36	Joseph Cudby	E36 328i	02:03.2
15	1	HS	Steve Liadis	2002	02:02.7
16	2	M3T	Phil Abrami	E30 M3	02:06.6
17	1	SE30	Rick Dravecky	E30 325is	02:11.0
18	1	KP	Raymond Peterson	E30 325is	02:11.5
19	1	DM	Wade Wilson	2002	02:04.0
20	5	IP	Dennis Pippy	E36 M3	01:56.8
21	6	IP	Scott Blazey	E36 M3	02:07.2
DNF	--	SE30	Will Schneider	E30 325is	02:12.3

* Results for the feature sprint are presented here. Results for all races are posted at www.bmwccaclubracing.com

Three winners return to Calabogie



Isi Papadopoulos (shown here at NJMP) took two overall wins at Calabogie.

The 2016 race event was the tenth anniversary of BMW CCA Club Racing at Calabogie Motorsport Park (CMP). The track is about a 90-minute drive from Ottawa, nestled in the rolling hills, lakes, and streams that Canadians refer to as cottage country. It is one of those tracks where the family loves to come along because of the recreational opportunities that abound in the area.

Calabogie is a challenging course designed by Alan Wilson. It features every type of road-racing feature one would want, from fast straightaways to high-speed sweepers to hairpins, climbing turns, off-camber turns, and so on.

Friday was mostly for racer practice, with a 100-point race to end the day. Just before the race, the rains came—or should I say the deluge came. But as quickly as it rained, the sun came out and things started to dry—so tire choice became an issue. The Green Mountain Boys (I-Prepared E36 M3 racers Matt Noonan and Greg Teese and M3T racer Stephen Earley) chose to go with full wets; the rest of the field prayed for the sun and chose dry tires.

At the start, the wets were the better choice, and Noonan and Teese headed for the front. But several laps in, as the line dried out, they slowed and began the search for puddles to keep their tires cool. John Dimoff (C-Modified E36 M3) went on to victory, but he would not start the other races due to a broken transmission.

On Saturday, under beautiful skies, we had a 150-point feature race. With some great and tenacious driving, Steve Gailits (C-M E21 320i) held off Isi Papadopoulos (C-M E36 325is) for Gailits' first outright race win. I managed to win M3T, the other contested class in the race, in an E30 M3.

On Sunday, another beautiful day in

cottage country, we had two races—a 100-point race and a 150-point race. In the morning race, Papadopoulos went on to win overall. Noonan won I-P, and Ron Checca took the class win in M3T.

The final race of the weekend was one of the most exciting in recent memory. While Papadopoulos and Gailits raced for the top two spots, six racers—encompassing D-M, I-P, I-S, and M3T classes—fought for third place. Throughout the 35-minute race, third place was swapped, and everyone ran virtually bumper-to-bumper the whole time. Congratulations to Charles Benoit, Matt Noonan, Greg Teese, Paul Janusauskas (D-M E30 M3), and Ron Checca for racing hard and racing clean; they demonstrated why BMW CCA Club Racing has such high standards for driver skill, with an emphasis on safety and machinery preservation—and fun. As veteran Checca said afterwards, "Now, *that's* racing!"

David Brown was the competition steward, Steve Capello was the tech steward, and Larry Fletcher was the timing-and-scoring steward.—*Phil Abrami*

Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Race at Calabogie Motorsports Park
7-16-2016 Ottawa & Patroon Chapters Feature sprint 15 laps

Overall Position	Position in Class	Class	Driver	Model	Best time
1	1	CM	Stephen Gailits	E21 320i	02:17.2
2	2	CM	Isi Papadopoulos	E36 325is	02:17.8
3	3	CM	Daria Khachi	E30 M3	02:20.9
4	1	DM	Paul Janusauskas	E30 M3	02:27.1
5	1	IP	Matthew Noonan	E36 M3	02:26.6
6	2	IP	Gregory Teese	E36 M3	02:27.0
7	1	IS	Charles Benoit	E36 M3	02:27.4
8	1	M3T	Phil Abrami	E30 M3	02:30.9
9	1	HS	Steve Mertz	E36 M3	02:31.0
10	2	M3T	Stephen Earley	E30 M3	02:36.5
11	1	JS	Bob Martin	E30 M3	02:42.0
DNF	--	M3T	Ron Checca	E30 M3	02:27.5
DNF	--	CM	Louis Payant	E30 M3	02:30.1

* Results for the feature sprint are presented here. Results for all races are posted at www.bmwccaclubracing.com