



HUILA



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From The Driver's Seat



By: Scott J. Schulte

I wanted to include an article covering last month's regional Wheel-To-Wheel race in this newsletter. I was hoping that one of the other club members was going to submit an article for publication, but no one did. So I thought that I should write one. But the problem is, that although I attended and participated in this event, I have no idea of what happened! What I mean, is that during a race weekend, my team and I are so focused on what we are doing--car tuning, set-up, track conditions, qualifying, and race strategies, that we are not paying much attention to the event as a whole. All I know of this event is what I saw from my small corner of the paddock, and from the driver's seat.

What I did see started with a driver's meeting which began closer to it's scheduled time of 8:30am than usual. There was a slightly smaller than usual field of cars, nineteen in total--including closed wheel, open wheel, and Solo I race participants. There was a heavy rain which started during the driver's meeting, and left humid air, and a large volume of water on the track. But, within an hour our great

volunteer work staff, with the help of some crew members, and people from Hawaii International Racing School had the track dry, clean and ready for action.

We ran our typical two, twenty minute practice sessions, a twenty minute qualifying session, and a twenty lap race. (New for this event, was a twenty five lap race for the open wheel cars. It was discussed, and decided in the driver's meeting, that because of the disparity in speed between some of the cars, that the slower cars were not able to race long enough before the checkered flag fell to the lead cars.)

My main objective this race, was as always, to win my class, Radial Sedan, and to finish first in the closed wheel race group. Fortunately, I have had some success with these goals over the past several years. (Winning occasionally is what makes writing those big checks for maintenance and repair parts less painful.) My main competition in the closed wheel group is Iain Waugh, driving his highly modified GT-3 Mazda RX-7. Although

(Continued on page 2)