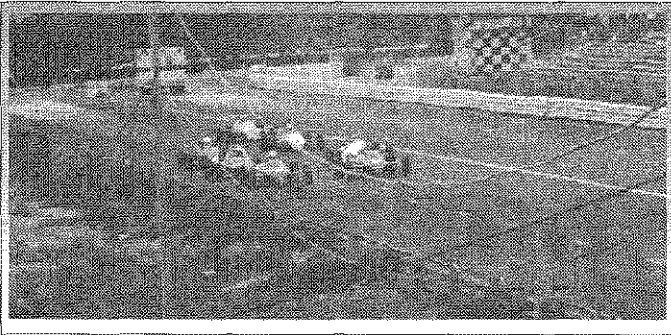


Déjà Vu All Over Again: July Regional Race

By Ed Kemper

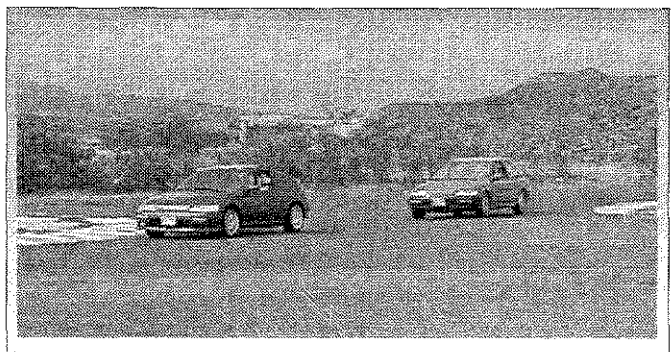
The July 1st regional race and Solo 1 competition did not see any new players, but did have at least one driver shift to the Formula Ford division. Wes Aihara bought Tom Burke's car and has temporarily shelved the Honda CRX. Ron Mishima made it back to Solo 1 after a long rebuilding process on his Porsche 911. The truly exciting news is that there are five racers who want to take our next driver's school so that they can jump into wheel to wheel racing. The date for the school will be announced shortly.



The formula race had the usual cast of characters with the new addition of Wes. Unfortunately, Tom Ito was sick the day of the race and had to withdraw. The closed wheel event was limited to 3 entries because of various maladies that had stricken a number of racers. With Ron Mishima back there were 3 Solo 1 competitors. At the end of the day, a good 12 track day entries appeared and enjoyed themselves.

Qualifying was waived by the door bangers since they had figured out the order anyway. But the formula guys wanted the qualifying time and took it. Dave Goto was the fastest by the slimmest of margins with a 57.558. Steve Timpson was 2/10s of a second back, followed by Stephen Hirsuna with 58.3, then Alan Zane in the low 59 range, followed by Wes Aihara with a flat one minute. For various reasons, neither Bill Clutter nor Bob Sato (in a 2000cc Ford) chose to qualify.

The sports car and sedan race was familiar. Scott Schulte (Porsche 911) had the pole, Lee Guertler (240z) was second in line after having to go off the track to change his oil pan. Jim Kellar (VW Rabbit GT-3) was third.

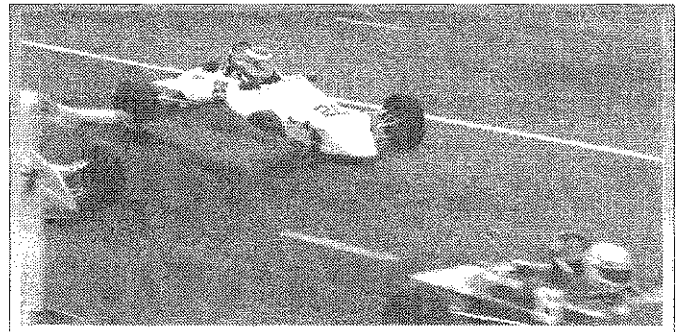


At the green flag, Guertler took off and got by Schulte in turn one. But not for long. Schulte got by him before the end of the first lap. After that the order stayed the same with some excitement with Guertler spinning at turn one at the end of the straight.

The Formula Ford race also had its déjà vu aspects. First and second place was a nose to tail affair between Goto and Timpson for the entire race. Timpson got by about halfway through the race at turn one. But not to many laps later Goto went by him when some traffic got in the way. The end result was a Goto first over Timpson by three quarters of a second, much like the last race.

Meanwhile further back, Bill Clutter was in the third spot, but spun just before the sweeper and Hirsuna got by only to be repassed on lap eight. On the next lap Alan Zane had to pit and was out of the race. Likewise on the 12th lap Clutter was down and out at turn one.

At the start Bob Sato was doing one of his patented jump



ahead from last place routines only to have mechanical problems, which let him only complete 17 laps. Our new Formula driver, Wes, simply drove a clean race and finished fourth.

With Ron Mishima's Porsche 911 back after some engine modifications, it was expected he would be better than before in Solo 1. Although he thought that the engine was not up to its full potential, he nevertheless took the fastest lap with a 1.01.622. The remaining two drivers finished much as they did in the last event. Chris Messer, in his Camaro, turned in a 1.02 and our recently retired Commander-in-Chief, Lindsay Akamu ripped off a 1.04 in his Porsche.

With more track day racers showing up and a great deal more interest in the wheel to wheel program hopefully, the next race on September 2nd will not necessarily be déjà vu all over again.