

# **PACIFIC F2000 RACING**

**PRESENTS FORMULA F2000 F1600**

For Immediate Release

## **Round Five Sees Smrz victorious in His Series Debut**

Buttonwillow, Calif. (May 2, 2015) – Buttonwillow Raceway Park played host to Rounds five and six of the Pacific Formula F1600/F2000 Championship run with the Cal Club Region of the SCCA as part of the SCCA U.S. Majors Tour. Bret Smrz in his series debut won Saturday's round five on the 3.020 mile layout driving a Ford Kent powered Swift DB6. It was the first victory for a Ford powered car since Ethan Shippert's victory at auto Club Speedway in Fontana, California nearly three years ago.



As part of the revised series format, Pacific series drivers were able to compete in the series and SCCA sanctioned events simultaneously. This weekend the Formula 1600 group ran in FF and was grouped with F500 and FV.

The schedule for the weekend began Friday morning with a practice session followed by the first of two qualifying sessions in the afternoon during which Brett Smrz quickly rose to the top of the time sheets to claim provisional pole in his #10, Swift DB6/Ford. Following Smrz was the #11, Wheely Open Racing, Piper DL7/Honda of Denny Renfrow, the #81, LA Prep Inc., Fast Forward Components, Piper Race Cars, Piper DL7/Honda of Alex Kirby, the #99, Van Diemen RF97/Honda of the most recent series winner Scott Huffaker, the #27, BigWheels.net, SmugMug, TwoSeven Design, Piper DF-5/Honda, the #75, Payton Pools, Van Diemen RF99/Honda of Rick Payne and the #8, Artwork by Eli, Porter Racing, 1993 Swift DB6/Honda of Ed Erlandson. Friday qualifying took place in ninety degree temperatures and it was hoped that the Saturday morning qualifying session in cooler temperatures would produce better lap times.

Saturday qualifying was held at 8:00 am in the morning and as hoped times were much improved and it was initially Smrz who held the fastest time until midway through the session Huffaker posted a better lap, good enough for pole, which he held until on his final lap Smrz bettered Huffaker's time by .029 of a second to secure his first pole of the season. This moved Huffaker down to second and he was followed by Renfrow, Kirby, Swanbeck, Payne and Erlandson.

The green flag fell on the race, scheduled for 10:20am, and as the field headed toward turn 1 it was Brett Smrz who took the initial lead with Huffaker second. Alex Kirby was nudged into a spin by Renfrow and as he was spinning the front of his Piper was hit by Swanbeck on his way by and

damaged to severely to continue and when the cars came back to the line it was Smrz with Huffaker in close pursuit followed by Swanbeck, Payne, Erlandson and Renfrow.

As the field came around to complete the second lap Huffaker seized the lead from Smrz at Sunset only to have Smrz retake the lead on the next lap going into the long high speed right hand Riverside turn followed by Swanbeck, Payne, Erlandson and Renfrow. Later on lap three Renfrow got past Erlandson to move into fifth position.

Renfrow continued his move toward the front of the field passing Payne for fourth place on lap four heading into Phil Hill while Smrz retakes the lead lost earlier at the tight left hand Sunset turn just before the main straight.

By lap six Smrz began to increase his lead over Huffaker who had run over a curb at the left hand turn at the bottom of Phil Hill and damaged his left front pushrod causing the car to oversteer badly as he began to drop back into the clutches of Swanbeck who was well clear of Renfrow in fourth, Erlandson in fifth and Payne in sixth have been briefly off course.

The order continued to the end of the race with Smrz taking the victory by a twenty five second margin over the wounded Huffaker. Bret Smrz not only claimed his first series win but also had the fastest lap of the race, good for two bonus points, and with it set a new track record.

Scott Huffaker managed to hold on for second place as he continues to lead in the point standings.

Daniel Swanbeck finished a very close third and claimed his fifth consecutive podium finish.

Fourth place went to Denny Renfrow and with it the trophy for the Master Class win.

Rounding out the field was Ed Erlandson finishing in fifth place and Canadian Rick Payne in sixth.

Round 6 is to be held Sunday at 9:05am.

**F1600 Qualifying:** 1. Brett Smrz, (Swift DB6/Ford-H), 1m21.151s; 2. Scott Huffaker, (Van Diemen RF97/Honda-A), 1m51.180s; 3. Denny Renfrow, (Piper DL9/Honda-H), 1m52.292s; 4. Alex Kirby, (Piper DL7/Honda-H), 1m53.030s; 5. Daniel Swanbeck, (Piper DF5/Honda-H), 1m53.473s; 6. Rick Payne, (Van Diemen/Honda-A), 1m54.755s; 7. Ed Erlandson, (Swift DB6/Honda-A), 1m54.990s.  
Tires: A-Avon, C-Cooper, G-Goodyear, H-Hoosier, T-Toyo.

**F1600 Round 5 (14 laps):** 1. Smrz; 2. Huffaker, +25.032s; 3. Swanbeck, +27.024s; 4. Renfrow, +39.351s; 5. Erlandson, +55.075; 6. Payne, +1m05.491s; 7. Kirby, +14 laps.

**Fastest race lap:** Renfrow, 1m52.705s.

**Master class winner (over 50):** Renfrow.

**Points:** Huffaker, 78, Renfrow, 71; Swanbeck, 66; Kirby, 50; Payne 34, Smrz, 34; Jalen, 18; Erlandson, 17.

The series can be followed at <https://www.facebook.com/pacificf2000racing> and <https://www.twitter.com/PacificF2000>.

For more details go to <http://www.pacificf2000.com> or contact Peter West at 310-363-9444, or by email, [pacificf2000@hotmail.com](mailto:pacificf2000@hotmail.com).