

Mincomp's Corner

February, 96



On December 1st, my region SCCA, Cal Club (CSCC), opened its new race track facility. Buttonwillow Raceway Park is the official title. It is located nine miles north of the Buttonwillow exit of I5 here in California. This track has been the works for about seven years as my memory serves me. What that means is that every entry fee that I or anybody else who raced a Cal Club Regional or National race has been paying a surcharge for this “dream” to come true. Now I will be the first to admit that I have not been a real big advocate of this project for reasons that were not even always clear to me at the time, but over the last year

or so I have been warming up to it quite nicely.

The grand opening was three days of testing open to Cal Club members, so off I went! If you remember I have been having a bit of trouble with the Mincomp Mini and tire grip, or more precisely, tire temperatures. So I went hoping that the weather would be a little on the cool side as it is typically in the 30-40 degree range. In fact it turned out to be 43 degrees. I tested for two days, and I believe I can say that I have gotten a handle on the cold weather setup. I believe now that I will be going into the 1996 season with a car that once again is handling the way I want it to.

If the management continues with the plans for the track that they have on paper this is going to be one first class facility! Even at its present skeletal stage I would still call it first class! The basic track is three miles long with something like 28 different configurations that can be run. The track can be split and have concurrent races held. The configuration that was run Friday was great, but a lot of people did not like the hair pin, or the “Spike” as we that raced the Riverside Spike would call it. On Saturday we ran what will be called #2. It was an “E” Ticket, a great configuration. There’s a section I call Magic Mountain that will stand your hair on end. It was a blast! On Sunday, course #3 was run. It was #2 run backward, with the infield section removed so you instead ran the long back straight. I didn’t think I would like this course as well and I was right. But it was still great, just a different great!

In all it was a great time, and I actually got some work done!

bio gillars