

Mincomp's Corner

May, 98



If you'll recall, the Mincomp Mini- Mini Mania Mini had a tough time at the first race weekend at Phoenix International raceway last January, also if you'll recall a new braking system was the primary culprit. Well, after getting the 64 GT5 car back to shop and much time spent fussing about the brakes and other repairs required, I decided to do some pre race weekend testing. I should have done this originally, but I didn't have the time.

The next race was Firebird Raceway near Phoenix. Richie and I got away and spent the day Friday running laps, and for the most part getting the brakes and the chassis dialed in was rather uneventful. In fact the problem I anticipated was the rear brakes locking up, but in the end the real effort was spent with too much front breaking. But this is a good problem as problems go. We also discovered that the trusty muffler that I have used had developed a problem, the problem being killed horsepower, I practiced and qualified with the Mini unmuffled and was right at the legal sound limit so I reluctantly decided to reinstall the muffler for the race so as not to run afoul of the sound meter and be disqualified.

As for the Mincomp race report, this event was as good as the previous races were bad. Only two GT5 cars were entered, the other being a new Nissan 200SX driven by David Murimoto, who came down from Colorado with a lot of promise that never materialized. Our results were quite good, we qualified really well. In fact it was one of those qualifying grids that had people with odd looks on their faces saying this Mini shouldn't be faster than these other hypothetically faster cars. The race went real well. There was some bumping and banging going on around me but I managed to keep myself out of it. I won the race, lapping the Nissan 3 times and set a new lap record by just shy of a second. Although the Mini seemed lazy getting off the corners I still ran times equal to when it was off. This has me the driver a bit bewildered because I know what the tach was reading and I know what I was feeling. I was using a bit more RPM during the race than I did in qualifying...go figure.

bio glasses