

Mincomp's Corner

June, 97



Went racing with Mincomp Mini a couple of times since the last Mincomp's Corner. The first race was April 27th at Buttonwillow Raceway Park. The weekend had its ups and downs, in the first practice session on Saturday morning I came in early having broken a C/V joint at the threads where the nut is, not at the bell where they usually break. Then in the first qualifying session I noticed that I had lost about 300 RPM so I came in to find that I had broken a crankshaft. It broke at the c-clip groove so the motor was still running but the flywheel wasn't spinning. Changed the motor and went out for qualifying on Sunday morning and

went quite fast, I did set a new track record, but right now with this track being new, track records are being set just about every time it's raced on. My speed gauge was set against the times of the GT4 and GT3 cars. The race was pretty uneventful, there were five GT5 cars entered for this race, Joe Huffaker borrowed the Foretech Mini so as to get qualified for the Runoffs in the event that he can get his new rear drive Mini built but Mike Kearney had given him strict guidelines to follow and one of them was not to race me. Joe retired after just a few laps with a suspension problem and as I said the race was pretty uneventful...I won.

The second race was at Willow Springs May 25th, what can I say Willow was at its worst it was pretty warm but definitely not as hot as it could be and it was windy. The worst wind I have seen at Willow, the fact is at times it was just plain unsafe to be on the track.

It really did bring out the worst in my aerodynamic brick. The entire weekend the transmission would occasionally pop out of 2nd gear, so I would simply hold it in going around turns 5-6. In the race, one lap I neglected to hold it in gear and it popped the motor over revved severely and basically all but stopped running. In the end I received my first DNF in longer than I can remember.

bio gilmore