

TRACK TIME

By: Brant D. Nystrom



Welcome back to *Track Time*. This month I'll touch on three subjects: sports car racing at the Indianapolis motor speedway, the new racetrack at the *National Corvette Museum (NCM)*, and the upcoming *Driver Education (DE)* event at Putnam Park. For starters, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) hosted their annual *Kroger Super Weekend at the Brickyard* July 24-27. This event combines sports car and NASCAR racing events into one incredible weekend. Practice, qualifying, and racing for the following series makes up the event:

- Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge
- TUDOR United SportsCar Championship
- NASCAR Nationwide Series
- NASCAR Sprint Cup Series



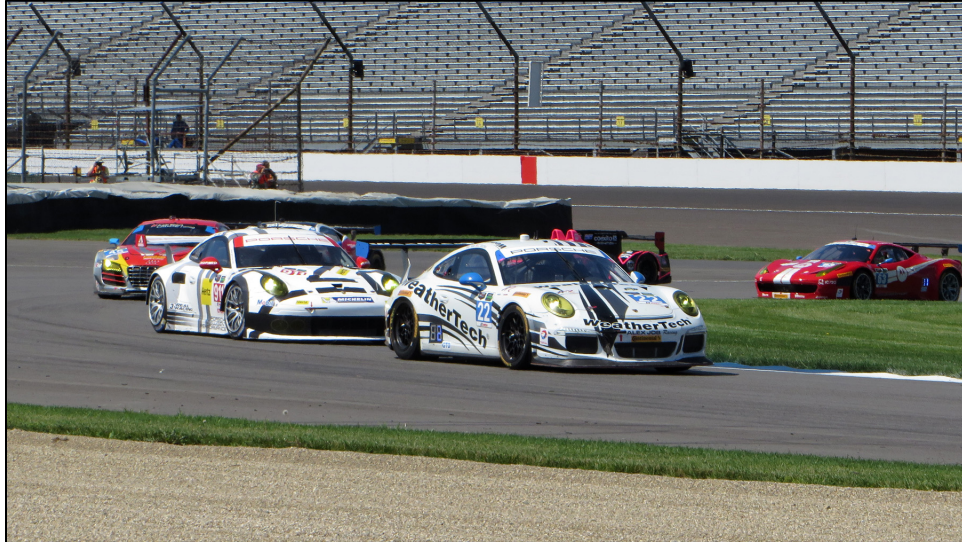
The Pagoda at Indianapolis Motor Speedway

In spite of the NASCAR action that dominated the weekend, I attended with a focus on the sports car series. Both the Continental and TUDOR series are fantastic to watch, but the premiere TUDOR series features factory racing teams on track with open cockpit prototype cars and the earthshaking power of the Daytona prototypes.



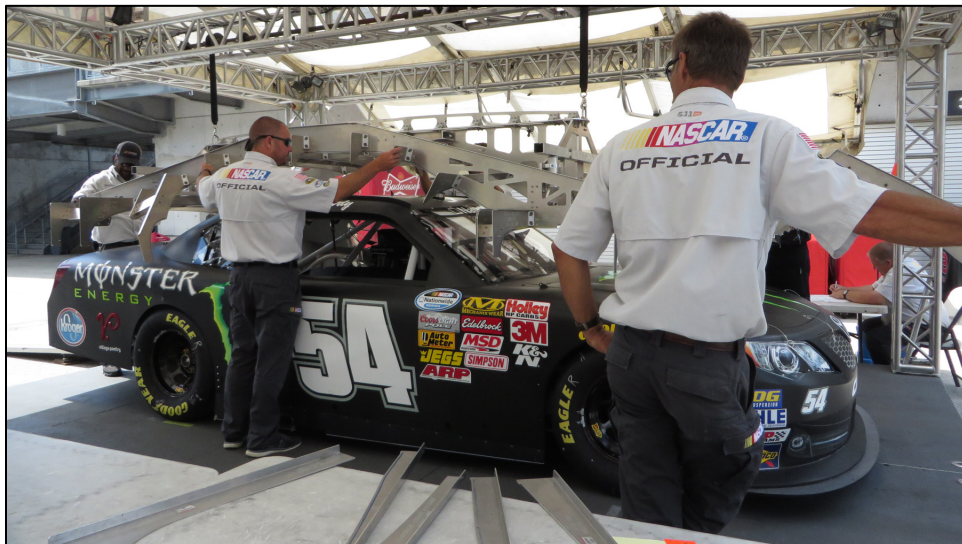
Porsche Factory Car #912 – Drivers Patrick Long and Michael Christensen

For Porsche fans, not only were the two Porsche factory supported cars on grid, but the Falken Tire RSR was competing as well as a number of Porsche 911 GT America cars running in the GTD class.



Porsches on the IMS Road Course

The racing action at Indianapolis was fantastic, and it was really exciting to see all of the classes of cars out on the track. Additionally, the ability to see the differences between sports cars, prototypes, and NASCAR machines up close and first hand was enlightening.



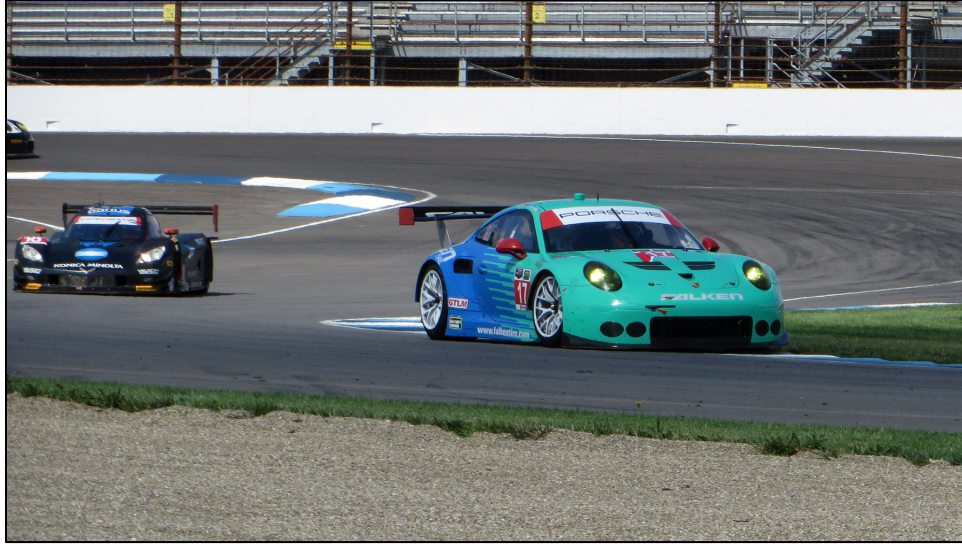
A Big NASCAR Racing Weekend As Well

As for the event organizers and IMSA (International Motor Sports Association), they did a great job. Not only are the facility and racing action top-notch, but accessibility to the entire facility, the drivers and race teams, and the friendly support staff makes this one of the best racing events I've attended.



Your Author with the Porsche Factory Drivers

Race action ended with Joao Barbosa and Christian Fittipaldi winning the TUDOR overall victory in their Action Express Corvette Daytona Prototype, and team Bomarito/Wittmer winning in the top sports car GTLM class in their Dodge Viper SRT Coupe.



Team Falken Tire Porsche 911 RSR

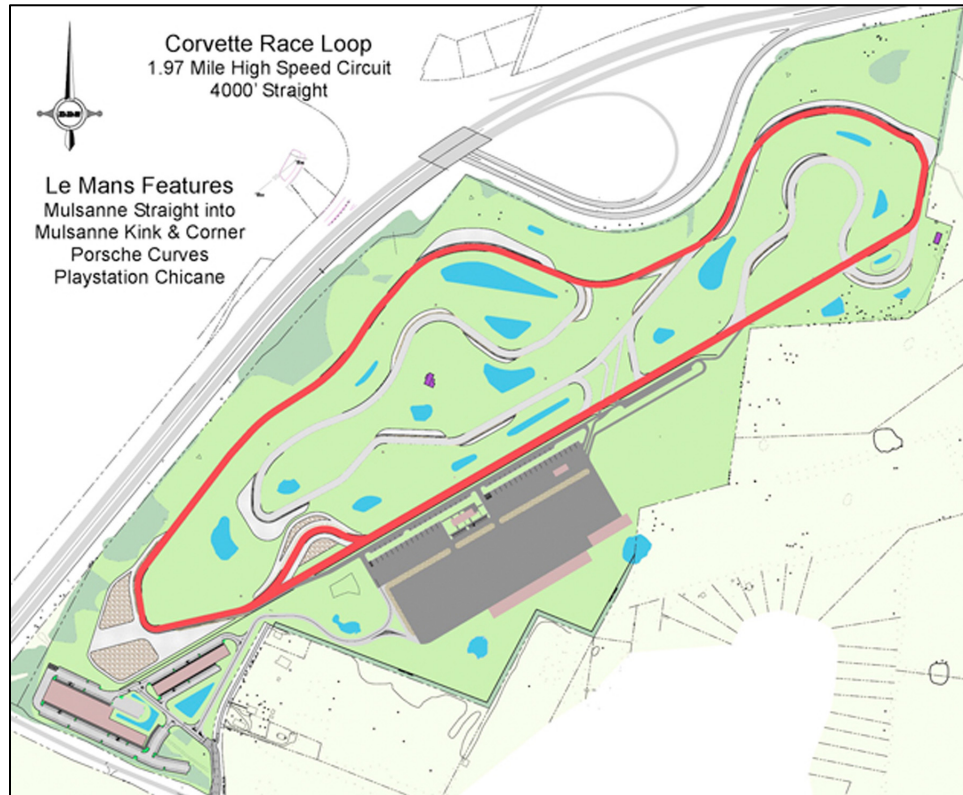
Porsche performed very well, with the factory RSR team #912 car driven by Patrick Long and Michael Christensen finishing 3rd in the tightly contested GTLM class. In the end, I highly suggest this racing weekend to any race fan. We had a great time, and the trip to Indianapolis is only a 3-hour excursion from Lexington.



#912 Porsche on Track to a Solid 3rd Place Finish

The racing action in Indianapolis was fantastic, but now let's shift gears a bit to discuss the opening of a new racetrack that just might become the 'home track' for many of our region's track aficionados. The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY has been constructing a new Motorsports Park over the past year. The track is now ready, and will host its grand opening on August 28th.

The track itself has been developed specifically to allow the Corvette factory race team to practice for Le Mans. As a result the track has replicated many features of the famous track in France. It has multiple configurations, but in its most common form the road course is 3.15 miles in length. The initial phase will consist of a twin circuit arrangement of a two mile / 13 turn west course and a one mile / 10 turn East course which can be combined into multiple configurations. Both circuits will feature technical turns, straights, and elevation changes. These two courses could be used independently for multiple events, or connected together into a unique large course.



National Corvette Museum (NCM) Motorsports Park

Following the grand opening, numerous events will be hosted this year. If you would like to take part in a DE at the new track, a two-day event is scheduled for September 27-28. For more information on the track or upcoming events at the NCM Motorsports Park, please visit www.motorsportspark.org.

Finally, as I mentioned last month, the second KYPCA event of the year at Putnam Park, Fall Festival, is open for registration on www.motorsportreg.com. The Kentucky region events (co-sponsored by Blue Grass Motorsport) are some of the best DE events in the nation. Turnout is always strong, the instructors are excellent, and the weekend logistics are extremely well run. Hopefully, you get the opportunity to join us there, September 12-14. Additionally, the trip to Putnam Park is about a three-hour drive. So if you have ever wanted to attend a DE but would like some more exposure to the process before committing, a weekend drive to the Indianapolis area may be in order. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

If you have interest in joining us at any upcoming event, or would like more information on PCA DE events and what is required to join-in, please feel free to contact me: brantdnystrom@gmail.com

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