

SCCA Pro Racing SPEED World Challenge
Crown Jewel of SCCA Pro Racing
May 2005

Last week end (April 16-17) at Road Atlanta was filled with fierce competition in both the SCCA Pro Racing SPEED World Challenge GT and Touring categories. In the GT race, it was all Cadillac drivers on the podium, the first time one marque has occupied all 3 top slots since BMW took the first four at Infineon in 2003. Max Papis came from behind in his XM/Mobil 1/Bose Cadillac CTS-V to capture the win while record-breaking pole sitter Max Agnelelli claimed second having experienced gearbox problems and old master Andy Pilgrim filled out the podium. But the lead positions were far from all black cars all day. Scotsman Robin Liddell, in fact, dominated most of the race until the eventual winner made contact with the current leader while making a pass in turn six of the last lap, a move which cost Papis a substantial fine and the loss of ten points in the drivers' championship. Nevertheless, always fearless Tommy Archer in the c3controls/3R-Racing Dodge Viper captured fourth to hang onto his lead in the Drivers' points competition and Robin Liddell, despite the crash, maintained his third position in the Drivers' championship in his AXA Financial/PFAFF Porsche 911 cup car. The manufacturers' Championship, with three races down, stands at Dodge 21 points (2 wins), Cadillac 19 points (1 win), Porsche 13 points, and Chevrolet seven.

Many of our active amateur competitors may not fully appreciate that the public face of SCCA is mostly represented by Pro series like World Challenge. Pro Racing is one of the best vehicles we have for breaking through the "Secret Car Club" tradition with which we are "blessed". I'm sure all of you, from ralliests to soloists to club racers are all too familiar with the blank stare you get when you mention SCCA to the uninitiated or even to typical race enthusiasts such as followers of NASCAR, Formula One, or the Saturday Night circle track wars. In addition to the general good public relations we get through SCCA Pro Racing, I have to tell you that a very substantial proportion of the sponsorship revenues the SCCA group of companies gets, and which greatly helps to moderate the need to constantly raise dues, would not be there if it were not for SCCA Pro Racing and especially the leading road racing series in the United States, the SCA Pro Racing Speed World Challenge.

And with that, lets all get out to the track to do what we love best!

See you at the track,

Gary