

AT SPEED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEGEND – Teams and drivers of the Star Mazda Championship race for the first time at Watkins Glen International

Round Three of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear takes place June 4 – 7 at the legendary Watkins Glen International. Although Star Mazda race cars have competed at the track in various events over the years, this will be the first Star Mazda Championship event ever held at The Glen, a track that over the years has hosted some of the greatest names in open-wheel racing, from Jimmy Clark to Mario Andretti.

Teams will begin moving in to the facility on Tuesday, June 2, with on-track activities commencing with a Star Mazda-only test day on Wednesday, June 4. There will be two three-hour sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with an hour in between for lunch. Star Mazda cars and drivers will be on track again Thursday for two sessions in the morning. The track will be closed in the afternoon to allow Grand-Am transporters into the track. Star Mazda practice and qualify take place Friday, June 6, with the race scheduled to take the green flag at 9:05 am Saturday morning. The race will air on SPEED at 11:00 am ET, Saturday, June 21.

The Star Mazda series arrives at Watkins Glen with two different winners dominating the first two rounds; Joel Miller, the 2007 Skip Barber Pro Series champion who won his ride in the #20 JDC Motorsports/Mazda/K&N Air Filters Mazda courtesy of the *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Driver Development Ladder, dominated the season-opener at Sebring with a runaway victory from the pole and a 7-second margin of victory over 2nd-place finisher Charles Hall and Peter Dempsey in 3rd.

Round Two at Miller Motorsports Park on May 17 provided a substantial surprise in the form of ex-Atlantic racer John Edwards. Signing a last-instant deal with AIM Autosport, which had been planning to sit out the 2008 Star Mazda season and focus on their ALMS effort, Edwards climbed steadily up the time sheets in practice, won the pole by a margin of .691 seconds over Joel Miller and drove the #7 AIM Autosport Mazda to victory – and a 14.514-second margin of victory, in his first-ever Star Mazda Championship race. Charles Hall finished 2nd in the #77 Andersen Racing/Blimpie/AccentBanking.com/ Pardoes Solicitors/Allied Mazda and Miller, who crashed in qualifying due to suspension failure, finished 3rd.

As a result, after two rounds of a 12-race season, Miller still leads the championship battle with 82 points, followed by Charles Hall in 2nd with 80 and Dempsey, the quick young Irishman who drives the #21 Andersen Racing/Allied Mazda, in 3rd with 71. Andersen Racing leads the team championship battle with 64 points, followed by 2007 series champions JDC Motorsports with 55 points and World Speed Motorsports in 3rd with 39 points.

In the Expert Series (drivers 30 to 44), Chris Cumming, driver of the #16 World Speed Motorsports/Inviro Medical Mazda, leads with 36 points. He won the class at Sebring and finished 2nd behind Phil Fogg Jr. in the #29 Nolrthwest Autosport/Consonus Health Services Mazda at Miller. In the Master Series (drivers 45 and over), JDC Motorsports drivers Chuck Hulse and Gerry Kraut are tied at 36 points. Hulse won at Sebring and finished 2nd at Miller in the #12 JDC Motorsports/Silicon Salvage Mazda, while Kraut,

who drives the #55 JDC Motorsports/Dougherty & Co./Dougherty Funding Mazda, reversed the order, finishing 2nd at Sebring and winning at Miller.

More about Watkins Glen

Watkins Glen International is located amidst the rolling hills of the beautiful Finger Lakes region of Upstate New York, providing a unique contrast between the sights and sounds of racing and the scenic beauty of majestic farmland. Natural wonders, unique attractions and some of the world's finest wine can all be found within the Finger Lakes region, an exciting area known for its ever-changing landscape patterns.

Traveling even the shortest of distances will find dramatic variations in scenery, which can range from forested hills and rugged mountains to fertile farmland and meandering streams. Nestled at the southern tip of Seneca Lake, the largest of the five Finger Lakes, Watkins Glen is strategically located to allow access to several major metropolitan markets including Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Binghamton.

With its rise from ragged infancy in 1948 to its position as America's premier racing facility surely qualifies The Glen as an astounding and unlikely success story, which continues to be written sixty years later.

Law student Cameron Argetsinger dreamed of bringing European style competition to the village where he spent his summer vacations and he drew up a challenging course that encompassed asphalt, cement and dirt roads in and around the village of Watkins Glen. The dream became reality on October 2, 1948, "The Day They Stopped the Trains," in the first post-World War II road race in the U.S. For five years, the top names in American sports car racing visited the small village and huge crowds came out to watch them race.

Competition moved to a temporary course in 1953, and 2.3-mile permanent circuit was built in 1956. The following year, The Glen hosted its first professional race, a NASCAR Grand National Stock Car event won by Buck Baker over Fireball Roberts. True international competition began in 1958 with the running of a Formula Libre race.

The Formula 1 stars all visited The Glen in 1961 for the first Watkins Glen U.S. Grand Prix, which would be a fall tradition at the circuit through 1980. Innes Ireland won the inaugural running, with great drivers such as Clark, Hill, Stewart, Lauda, Fittipaldi and Hunt among the winners of later Grand Prix.

The circuit itself was expanded in 1971, as the seventies brought a wide variety of competition to The Glen, including the Can-Am, Trans-Am, Six Hours, Formula 5000 and CART Indy Car Series. Race winners included many of the top names in international motorsports, including Mark Donohue, Mario Andretti, Jody Scheckter and Bruce McLaren.

Alan Jones' victory in the 1980 United States Grand Prix at Watkins Glen marked the close of an era. Financial difficulties led to the Watkins Glen date being dropped from the

Formula 1 schedule and as a result, the bankrupt track closed following a CART race in 1981. Over the next two years the track fell into disrepair, hosting only a few non-spectator SCCA weekends. Corning Enterprises, a newly-chartered subsidiary of Corning Glass Works, purchased the track in early 1983 and formed a partnership with International Speedway Corporation forming Watkins Glen International.

The Glen reopened on July 7, 1984, with Al Holbert, Derek Bell and Jim Adams winning the inaugural Camel Continental at the renovated facility. On August 9, 1986, fans witnessed Tim Richmond's triumph at the return of the NASCAR Winston Cup Series. The Bud at The Glen grew to become New York State's largest motorsports event and saw some of NASCAR's finest take the checkered flag including, Martin, Wallace, and in 1998, Jeff Gordon, won his second consecutive Glen race before a record crowd.

In 1991, Terry Labonte won the first NASCAR Busch Grand National race at the Glen beginning an impressive streak of four wins in six years, including three consecutive wins in '94 through '96. His three year win streak ranks him with other Watkins Glen three-time winners: Formula One ace Graham Hill, SportsCar drivers Al Holbert and Derek Bell and Winston Cup driver Mark Martin.

1992 saw a major reconfiguration of The Glen's back straightaway. The addition of the Inner Loop increased the length of the long course to 3.4 miles and the short course to 2.45 miles. The new turns enhanced competition while adding quality spectator viewing. The Glen cemented its distinction as North America's fastest road course when Davy Jones won the pole for the Camel Continental IX with a fast lap of 150.334 mph on the reconfigured 2.45 mile short course.

In 1997, International Speedway Corporation, whose holdings include Daytona International Speedway, Talladega Superspeedway, Darlington Raceway and Phoenix Int'l Raceway, became sole owner of the historic road course, exercising a stock option buy-out of Corning Incorporated. The sale completed Corning's mission of rebuilding the race track while revitalizing the Southern Finger Lakes Region.

In addition to holding major NASCAR and SCCA events, Watkins Glen International also hosts one of the nation's premier vintage events, the U.S. Vintage Grand Prix. This event was the climax of the 50th anniversary season, returning many of the original cars and drivers to the original 6.6-mile street circuit through the village during the Grand Prix Festival Race Reenactment.

Watkins Glen International celebrated the 50th anniversary of road racing in Watkins Glen during the 1998 racing season. Throughout fifty years of change, Watkins Glen has embodied more than giant crowds and great speeds. The racing community continues to return to Watkins Glen for broader reasons. Watkins Glen has become a racing institution, the premier road racing facility in the United States.

2005 marked the largest capital improvement project at the track since the addition of the "boot" in 1971. It also marked the return of a major single-seat open-wheel racing series to the track with the Inaugural IndyCar Series race on September 25, 2005. Tony Stewart captured his second consecutive victory at The Glen and his third in four years. He joined Mark Martin and Jeff Gordon as the only drivers to win at least 3 NASCAR NEXTEL or Winston Cup races at The Glen. 2005 also marked the first time the NASCAR Busch Series and NEXTEL Cup Series competed on the same weekend.

2008 marks the 60th Anniversary of the first race held in the streets of Watkins Glen. The season long celebration will include the announcement of the top driver from each of the six decades that make up The Glen's history and will conclude with the U.S. Vintage Grand Prix.

Directions to Watkins Glen International

For traffic reports to the track during the Centurion Boats at The Glen and Camping World Grand Prix at The Glen weekends, tune in to 100.9FM WPGI. The routes offered below should serve as a general guideline only and are not necessarily the best routes from your area. Please consult a more detailed map for specific directions from your area.

- From Buffalo, Toronto, and points West: I-90 East to Rte. 14 South (Geneva Exit 42) take 14 South to Watkins Glen along the west side of beautiful Seneca Lake. 40 minutes from Exit 42; or, I-90 East to 390 South to Rte. 17(I-86) East to Exit 42 (Cooper Plains). Follow Meads Creek Rd./County Rte. 16 Northeast to WGI.
- From Cleveland, Jamestown, Olean, Erie, Bradford, and points West: Rte. 17(I-86) East to Rte. 414 North in Corning (Exit 46 turn left at end of exit ramp). 25 minutes from Corning.
- From Williamsport, Harrisburg, and points South: Rte. 15. North to Rte. 17(I-86) East to Rte. 414 North (Exit 46 turn left at end of exit ramp). 25 minutes from Corning.
- From Albany, Springfield MA, Oneonta: Rte. 88 West to Rte. 17(I-86) West to Rte. 14 North in Horseheads. 25 minutes from Horseheads.
- From Utica and points East (scenic route): I-90 West to Rte. 81 South to Rte. 79 West (in Ithaca) to Rte. 414 South. 30 minutes from Ithaca.
- From Binghamton, Scranton, New York City, and points South East: Rte. 17(I-86) West to Rte. 14 North in Horseheads. 25 Minutes from Horseheads.
- From Syracuse, Auburn, Oswego: I-90 West to Rte. 14 South (Geneva exit 42). 40 minutes from Exit 42.
- Watkins Glen International is located approximately 3 miles outside of the Village of Watkins Glen. From Franklin Street in the Village, go South on Rte. 414 to the traffic light (3/4 mile) at the top of the hill and turn right. Go approximately 2.25 miles to the track (on the left).

For further information:

Everything you need to know about attending a race at The Glen is available here:

http://theglen.com/fan_info/guest_guide

This guide includes complete information on Security, Tickets, Directions, Parking, Maps, Grandstands, Guests with Disabilities and Hospitality. The Guest Guide is available as a .pdf document for easy downloading and printing.