



## -- GUNNING FOR THE **BIG** PRIZE --

*Seven top racers are in the fight of their young careers for one of auto racing's most coveted prizes -- the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship*

**FAST FACTS** -- Round 11 of The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at Road Atlanta and the Petit LeMans, Sept. 30 – Oct. 3

- The Star Mazda Championship is the college football of Indy Car racing, the high-profile, intensely-competitive series where the stars of tomorrow hone their skills and accelerate their careers. Alumni include Indy-car stars Marco Andretti and Graham Rahal and NASCAR rising star Michael McDowell.
- With two races to go in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship season, seven drivers remain in contention for the series championship and the big prize that goes with it – the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship to move up and race in the 2009 Atlantic Championship Powered by Mazda.
- The hottest Star Mazda Championship driver – and current championship points leader -- is Andersen Racing driver Irishman Peter Dempsey, winner of four of the last five races in a row. Other race winners and top contenders include Americans Joel Miller and John Edwards, Englishman Charles Hall and 17 year old Tom Gladdis from the English territory of Gibraltar. Also still in contention for the championship are Louisiana racer Alex Ardoin and young Californian Billy Goshen.
- The Star Mazda Championship is a major step on the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder in which Mazda funds rides for the champions in various series reaching all the way from karting to the Atlantic Championship. Joel Miller (#20) won his 2008 Star Mazda ride by being the 2007 Skip Barber Champion. And 2007 Star Mazda Champion Dane Cameron will be driving in the Atlantic season finale this weekend with sponsorship from the MAZDASPEED Ladder.
- Diversity goes Zoom-Zoom in the Star Mazda Championship; there are competitors from eight countries, drivers ranging in age from 17 to 65, a brother/sister team (Kester Racing) and several corporate CEOs racing in the Expert and Master Series.

Despite the emergence of the 'Irish steamroller' – Andersen Racing driver Peter Dempsey with four wins in the last five races – there are still seven drivers in contention for the series championship – and a career-launching prize; Dempsey, John Edwards, Joel Miller, Alex Ardoin, Charles Hall, Tom Gladdis and Billy Goshen.

The ultimate goal they are all fighting for is the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship to race in the 2009 Atlantic Championship Powered by Mazda. This remarkable program, the first-ever established by an auto manufacturer, provides scholarships to young champions on their way up the ladder. The karting champion gets sponsorship to race in the first step up the open-wheel ladder, the Skip Barber series. The Skip Barber Champion moves up to race in the Star Mazda Championship, while the Star Mazda champion wins a ride in the series at top run of the open-wheel development ladder, the Atlantic Championship.

Joel Miller, the 2007 Skip Barber champion, is competing in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship courtesy of the MAZDASPEED Ladder. He is currently second in the championship driving the #20 JDC Motorsports / K&N Air Filters Mazda. And Dane Cameron, the 2007 Star Mazda champion will also be racing at Road Atlanta in the Atlantic Championship's season finale, driving the #19 Genoa Racing / MAZDASPEED / Finlay Motorsports / Lynx Racing Swift 016.a.

The championship cannot -- as it was in 2007 with Dane Cameron -- be clinched at Road Atlanta; the battle will go down to the season finale at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. But expect Friday afternoon's race to be a fierce one because, at this point, every point is absolutely critical. And while no driver can win the championship this weekend, several stand to be eliminated from contention.

A quick recap of the season is in order at this point; Joel Miller won the season-opener at Sebring, from the pole, in the #20 JDC Motorsports / Mazda / K&N Air Filters Mazda. In Round 2 at Miller Motorsports Park, another rookie won from the pole in a dominant performance, John Edwards in the #7 AIM Autosport / Mobil1 Mazda.

In Round 3 at Watkins Glen, it was Charles Hall's turn to stand on the top step of the podium with a win in the #77 Andersen Racing / Blimpie / AccentBanking.com / Pardoes Solicitors / Allied Building Products Mazda. And Hall's win enabled him to secure sponsorship from the Blimpie national chain of sandwich shops, sponsorship that will see him racing in the Indy Lights series in 2009.

Rounds 4 and 5 were a double weekend at the Mazda Grand Prix of Portland. Tom Gladdis, driving the #5 Andersen Racing / Law firm of Marrache & Co. / Allied Building Products Mazda, won the pole for both races, and finished first on Saturday. But it was John Edwards who became the season's first two-time winner with his victory on Sunday.

Next up was the August road trip, with three races back-to-back at Road America, Trois-Rivières and Mosport. The last thing anyone was expecting was one driver to sweep all three, particularly a driver who finished 18th and 19th at Portland, was out of money and in danger of losing his ride. But Peter Dempsey, piloting the #21 Andersen Racing / LotusWorks / Center Jewellers.ie / Quayside.ie / Allied Building Products Mazda, brought it over the finish line first in a race punctuated by yellow flags, but filled with great side-by-side battles in between the cautions. It was a performance that earned him one more race, and he repaid the Andersen

team with a win from the pole at Trois-Rivières. Then, at Mosport, a mess of a race with the last half run under caution while corner workers tried to clean up a mile-long oil spill, Dempsey was again the first car under the checkered flag.

Then came rounds 9 and 10, another double-header weekend, at the brand-new New Jersey Motorsports Park. There was perhaps a collective sigh of relief when Joel Miller took the pole for Saturday's race, even though it was John Edwards who eventually won, his third victory of the season. But on Sunday, even though it was Edwards who started from the pole, it was Dempsey who scored his fourth win of the season.

Of the remaining championship contenders not previously mentioned, Lafayette, Louisiana racer Alex Ardoin (currently 4th in the points) has scored one pole, four podium finishes and three top-5s in the #51 Mundill Racing / Oral & Facial Surgery Center / Twister Trailer Mazda. He won the 2007 season-ender at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca and finished 4th in the championship. Billy Goshen, driving the #82 Goshen Motorsports / Merv Griffin Entertainment / Global Tracking Communications Mazda, is seventh in the points with one podium, two top-5s and eight top-10s.

While the big prize remains to be won, the remaining championships that are part of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, have been decided. Florida-based Andersen Racing, with four of the seven contenders and seven of ten wins, has already clinched the team championship. The Expert and Master Series championships have already been clinched as well, with Vancouver, B.C.'s Chris Cumming winning in the Expert (drivers 30 to 44) category after scoring seven class wins and three class top-3 finishes in the #16 World Speed Motorsports / Inviro Medical Mazda. Cumming is 11th in the series championship headed to Road Atlanta. Chuck Hulse, of Yorba Linda, California, also clinched his first Master category (drivers 45 and older) championship with seven class wins and three class top-3 finishes. Hulse drives the #12 JDC Motorsports / Silicon Salvage Mazda and is currently 15th in the overall series championship.

Round 11 of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship will take place at the ALMS Petit LeMans at Road Atlanta on October 3. The season finale is at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on October 18. Race 1 / Round 9 from New Jersey Motorsports Park will air on SPEED TV Sunday, October 5 at 2:00 pm (ET), while Race 2 / Round 10 will be broadcast Sunday, October 12 at 1:00 pm (ET).



# Road Atlanta

Grand Prix Road Course  
2.54 Miles  
12 Turns



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  - Gate 3 - Competitor Entrance & Exit Only

## **Road Atlanta Overview**

Road Atlanta is recognized as one of the world's best road courses. The multi-purpose motor sports facility is situated on 750 park-like acres in the rolling hills of Northeast Georgia. Road Atlanta is located 35 miles north of Atlanta and just minutes away from Chateau Elan, a 4-Star resort offering guests comfort and amenities such as three championship golf courses and a European-style Spa.

The facility is utilized for a wide variety of events, including professional and amateur sports car and motorcycle races, racing and driving schools, corporate programs and testing for motorsports teams.

Road Atlanta is host to major events like Petit Le Mans and the Suzuki Superbike Showdown, and is home to the Skip Barber Racing School, Kevin Schwantz Suzuki School and Saab Aero Academy.

Road Atlanta is part of the Panoz Motor Sports Group. Since purchasing Road Atlanta in 1996, Don Panoz has made millions of dollars in improvements designed to create a perfect blend of safety for the racers and comfort and convenience for the fans.

### Fast Facts:

2.54-mile, 12-turn world class road course

320,000 annual visitors from

33 states and 18 countries

Family friendly atmosphere - Kids 12 & under are Always Free!

As one of the top entertainment centers in Georgia, Road Atlanta offers individuals, families and large corporate groups a fun and family-friendly environment. Our Kids 12 & under Are Always Free policy gives families an affordable family outing.

Gates open at 7:00 am on the first day of the event and remain open for 24 hours throughout the weekend. Children age 12 and under admitted free when accompanied by a ticket-holding adult. Children over 12 years are required to purchase tickets at full gate price. Be sure to visit the playground located next to the Jim Fitzgerald Memorial Park. No pets allowed.

## **Road Atlanta Community Involvements**

Road Atlanta has always accepted its role as a corporate citizen with pride. We appreciate the support provided by our many neighbors. Road Atlanta has always given back to the community in a number of different ways:

Direct financial donations and support during fund raising events for official charities, including:

- Special Olympics Games in Hall County 2000-2003, Eagle Ranch and Lighthouse Retreat
- The Guest House of Gainesville (an Alzheimer's support organization)
- Alzheimer's Association of Georgia, Gainesville chapter



- Motorsports Ministries
- Breast Cancer Research
- American Red Cross
- Donations to organizations and groups who support
- Road Atlanta by providing volunteers at major events, including:
- Humane Society of Hall County
- Boy Scouts of America
- Liberty Bible Church
- West Hall High School
- Johnson High School
- Chestnut Mountain Church
- Euchee Lodge
- Grove Level Baptist Church

Road Atlanta is proud to be a supporting sponsor of the Hall County Partners in Education for Johnson High School and Jones Elementary School.

The Panoz Racing School, based at Road Atlanta, provides real-life training and education opportunities for members of the Lanier Tech Motorsports Vehicle Technology.

## Road Atlanta History



*Road Atlanta has hosted major international sporting events like this 1986 IMSA Camel GT race since opening in 1970.*

Road Atlanta was carved out of the red Georgia clay on a 750-acre Hall County plot in 1969 when David Sloyer, Earl Walker and Arthur Montgomery began with the curious idea of placing a world-class road racing circuit in the heart of stock-car country.

What was once a farmer's field became a world class motorsports facility. Another track's loss due to flood damage was Road Atlanta's gain when a Cam-Am series race had to find a new home in a hurry. Road Atlanta literally took form in a six-month rush to excavate, grade and pave a 12-turn, 2.5-mile road course.

On September 13, 1970, Vic Elford sat on the pole for the first Road Atlanta race. The best drivers were competing: Denis Hulme, Peter

Revson and race winner Tony Dean. Stirling Moss was the Grand Marshal. A huge crowd gathered to watch the most sophisticated cars of the day turn 75 laps on the brand new circuit.

The 1970's brought faster, more sophisticated cars and better talent in series like the Can-Am, Formula 5000, IMSA Camel GT and Trans Am. Among the drivers who traversed the challenging track were Jody Scheckter, Dan Gurney, Peter Gregg, Mario Andretti, Keke Rosberg, Bobby Rahal, Paul Newman and Mark Donohue. It was a great time for road racing and for Road Atlanta.

Road Atlanta was sold in 1978 and went through a number of owners in a short period of time, creating a downward spiral of the track's fortunes that ultimately resulted in bankruptcy in 1993 when a partnership between business executives Frank Drendel, Jim Kanely, Eddie Edwards and Bill Waddell was formed to purchase the track.

The next three years were spent making gradual improvements to a facility that had not enjoyed the kind of care it deserved for at least a decade. New buildings were constructed, others were renovated, the track was widened and resurfaced and the grounds were landscaped. But the owners lacked the kind of capital that could return Road Atlanta to its glory days.

During the Panoz era, millions of dollars have been spent on an almost constant series of improvements. Dr. Don Panoz is the developer of the nicotine patch and founder of neighboring Chateau Elan Winery and Resort. He got into the automotive field when his son Danny began producing the Panoz Roadster. The elder Panoz realized what great potential Road Atlanta possessed and bought the facility in November 1996. Dr. Panoz' varied business interests – including the Panoz Motor Sports Group and the world renowned American Le Mans Series – are based in Braselton.

During the Panoz era, millions of dollars have been spent on an almost constant series of improvements, beginning with an initial phase that included the reconfiguration of the track to allow for a club and school course, the installation of a 100-foot Infield Tunnel and removal of the Dip, the addition of concrete barriers and gravel traps all around the track and the construction of 36,000 feet of new tenant garage space in the Lower Paddock area.

The second phase of improvements involved the construction of the new Infield Paddock and pits, located in the Infield between Turn 12 and Turn 1. With two paddocks, Road Atlanta is able to accommodate more teams and the availability of two pit complexes allows for easier transitions between races. A new hospitality shelf overlooking the Infield Paddock was also built.

Road Atlanta has not only been made more convenient and safe for teams, it is also a fan-friendly, family-orientated destination – Kids 12 & Under Are Always Free! New restrooms and showers, and the 10,000-seat Terrace Seating complex at Turn 10 added to fan comfort and convenience.

Road Atlanta is situated on 750 acres in Hall County. The facility contains 300,000 square feet of paved paddock, a 250-foot skid pad and 80,000 square feet of paddock space. Hospitality Suites and Chalets are available during the major events for corporate entertainment.

## Road Atlanta Restaurants and Hotels

### The Inn at Chateau Elan

This four-star resort and conference center features 276 French-style deluxe guest rooms, and amenities including spa, golf, tennis and winery tours. Located at exit 126 on I-85, just 5 miles from Road Atlanta. Call early for reservations 678-425-0900 or 1-800-233-WINE.

[www.chateauelan.com](http://www.chateauelan.com)

### The Holiday Inn Express at Chateau Elan

This 80 room limited service hotel is across the street from Chateau Elan Winery and Resort and just 5 miles from Road Atlanta. Located at exit 126 on I-85. For reservations call 770-867-8100

### Legacy Lodge & Conference Center

Set on the picturesque shores of Lake Sidney Lanier is Lake Lanier Islands Resort – Georgia’s most visited lakeside resort destination. Located 30 minutes from downtown Atlanta, the year-round 1,100-acre resort boasts a variety of amenities and attractions including the 287-room Legacy Lodge & Conference Center, including 30 New England-style LakeHouses at Legacy and six executive lakeside Legacy Villas, 18-holes of championship golf, the lake’s largest fleet of rental boats at Harbor Landing, a summertime Beach & Waterpark, scenic horseback riding, exquisite spa services and more.



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### Hilton Garden Inn

The Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta NE/Gwinnett Sugarloaf hotel is located directly off Georgia Interstate I-85 adjacent to the Gwinnett Civic Center and The Arena at Gwinnett. The Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta NE/Gwinnett Sugarloaf hotel is located near shopping and restaurants to include Discover Mills Mall, Mall of Georgia and Gwinnett Place Mall.

At the Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta NE/Gwinnett Sugarloaf hotel we provide complimentary shuttle service within a 5-mile radius of the hotel. Deluxe accommodations, friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere await our guests at the Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta NE/Gwinnett Sugarloaf hotel. Certain to please the busy executive or leisure traveler are our array of special amenities including complimentary high-speed wireless internet access, in-room hospitality center with microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker, two dual line phones with voice mail and data ports, large work desk and ergonomic chairs, On Command video and TV video games, complimentary HBO, complimentary USA today each weekday morning, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool and fitness center and a 24 hour complimentary business center.

**Click here to visit our web site.**



**Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta  
NE/Gwinnett Sugarloaf**

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Mall of Georgia

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678-714-2150  
678-714-2151 FAX

**For reservations or more information please contact the hotel at 1-888-287-9400 or 678-714-2150 or visit [marriott.com/ATLBF](http://marriott.com/ATLBF)**

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## Hampton Inn – Lawrenceville

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Go back in time as you climb the steps to Gwinnett County's oldest courthouse from the late 1800s, located near the downtown square and within minutes of our hotel in Lawrenceville. You can also browse the unique specialty shops and restaurants that help define the area's

personality. Our hotel in Lawrenceville gives you easy access to the Veteran's War Museum, the famous Lawrenceville Female Seminary, and an old cemetery that many believe to be haunted. Take a short day trip to Atlanta to enjoy big-city attractions like the World of Coca Cola Pavilion and Six Flags Over Georgia. Be sure to ask the team at our Lawrenceville hotel for tips on all the area's intriguing sights.

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Our hotel is located by the Mall of Georgia, I-85 (Exit 115), I-985 (exit 4) with easy access to Road Atlanta, Lake Lanier, Château Élan, Stone Mountain and attractions of the city Atlanta.



**Directions:** I-85N, Exit 115, follow Buford, Route 20, turn left on Mall of 1355 Mall of Georgia Blvd., Buford, GA 30519.



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[daysinn.com/hotel/15354](http://daysinn.com/hotel/15354)

Directions From Road Atlanta...take Hwy 53 West to I-985 North to exit 20.  
Turn left. We're located 1.8 miles on the left hand side.

### Marriott Gwinnett Place

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### **Holiday Inn**

#### **Lanier Centre Hotel**

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Gainesville, GA 30501

770-531-0907

800-782-8966

FAX 800-782-8966

[info@laniercentrehotel.com](mailto:info@laniercentrehotel.com)

[bwsales@bellsouth.net](mailto:bwsales@bellsouth.net)



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### **Country Inn & Suites**

I-85 @ Exit 115

1395 Mall of Georgia Blvd.

Buford, GA 30519

770-271-1441

[www.countryinns.com/bufordga](http://www.countryinns.com/bufordga)

## **Road Atlanta driving directions, distances, mailing address**

### From I-85

Take I-85 to Exit 129

Go West on Highway 53 approximately 5.5 miles

Road Atlanta is on the left

### From 985

53 E

Exit 16 if traveling North on 985

Exit 17 if Traveling South on 985

Approximate distances to Road Atlanta

Hartsfield Intl. Airport - 55 miles

I-85 & I-285 Intersection - 35 miles

I-75 & I-285 Intersection - 45 miles

I-20 & I-285 Intersection (east) - 45 miles

I-20 & I-285 Intersection (west) - 50 miles

Address:

Road Atlanta

5300 Winder Highway

Braselton, Georgia 30517

1-800-849-RACE • FAX 770-967-2668

**Road Atlanta Ticket Purchase**

Advance Tickets may be purchased from the Road Atlanta web site, ticket office at 770.967.6143, or 1.800.849.RACE, weekdays between 8:00am and 5:00pm. Advance tickets are available for Drift Atlanta, AMA Superbike and Petit Le Mans. "Super" tickets include paddock access. Tickets may be purchased at the gate on race weekends.

Tickets may be charged to MasterCard, VISA, AMEX or Discover. No refunds. All events are held rain or shine.