

## 2015 Western State Championships

Written by A. U. B. I. E.

Monday, 10 August 2015 22:59

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NASA's Western States Champions brought together eleven drivers from four regions to race around a dry lake bed between the sandy bluffs near Monterey Bay, California. The racers were headlined by:

Dan Williams, your 2014 944 Spec Eastern States Champion

Simon Peck, 3rd place 2014 NorCal/SoCal Crossover

Jim Hicks, 2014 SoCal 944 Season Champion

And the field of challengers:

Chuck Sharp

Mary Riddle

Jim Richmond

JP Molnar

Tony Mazzagatti

Alberto Fonseca

Joe Bajo

Tom Atteberry

Atteberry, Hicks and Fonseca were competing in their second consecutive Western States Championship event, Williams coming across the country to get a taste of West Coast racing.



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Camaraderie was the name of the weekend, as perfect Northern California low-70s weather greeted the racers. The 944 Spec community would be tested right out the gate, when during Thursday's practice Joe Bajo had a freeze plug come loose in his cylinder head. Simon Peck and Jim Hicks lent their brains and wrench-power to get Joe back on track for Friday. Simon Peck emerged a philanthropist, having previous experience at the track, and loaned use of his car for a session as Joe hadn't been to Laguna Seca before.

A great big moon rose over the paddock for the NorCal hosted BBQ on Saturday night. While everyone enjoyed the food, the Pole Position awards were handed out to the most hopeful of the racers. Not only that, but each day in the 944 Spec camp, Jim Richmond hosted "Jim's Deli," a socializing ritual and sandwich-making feed for all 944 Spec drivers.

More mechanical gremlins would emerge. Jim Richmond came off track on Friday with high oil temperatures and dropping pressure. Metal debris was pulled out, and a knock when restarting told everyone it was a rod bearing.

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