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Motorsport News

July 24, 2017

No. 49/17

Dear Journalist:

Early each week, Porsche Cars North America will provide a weekend summary or pre-race event notes package, covering the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Pirelli World Challenge (PWC), the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) or other areas of interest from the world of Porsche Motorsport. Please utilize this resource as needed, and do not hesitate to contact us for additional information.

- Porsche Cars North America Motorsports Public Relations Team

**Porsche Motorsports Weekly Event Notes: Monday, July 24, 2017**

**Upcoming Events.**

**Pirelli World Challenge – Sprint – GT/GTA and GT4/GTS**

<b>Event:</b>	Pirelli World Challenge Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
<b>Dateline:</b>	Lexington, Ohio
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30
<b>Track Length:</b>	2.4-miles, 15-turns
<b>Race Duration:</b>	Sprint, GT/GTA. Two, 50-minute races Sprint, GT4/GTS. Two, 50-minute races
<b>Class:</b>	GT (Porsche 911 GT3 R) GTA (Porsche 911 GT3 R) GT Cup (Porsche 911 GT3 Cup) GT4 (Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR)
<b>Round:</b>	Sprint GT/GTA. Rounds 6 and 7 of 10 Sprint GT Cup. Rounds 5 and 6 of 10



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	Sprint GT4/GTS. Rounds 11 and 12 of 18
<b>Next Round:</b>	PWC Grand Prix of Utah, Utah Motorsports Campus, Tooele, Utah, August 11 – 13, 2017

**Porsche Profile.**

**Event Story Lines.**

**Worldwide First. IMSA Series Porsche GT Team Earns First 911 RSR Win.**

The race weekend at Lime Rock Park could not have ended better for Porsche. The new Porsche 911 RSR celebrated its historic first victory at the Lakeville, Connecticut facility while the 911 GT3 R took its second win of the 2017 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship season. On Saturday, July 22, Patrick Pilet (France) and Dirk Werner (Germany) won Round Seven of the GTLM class. Park Place Motorsports earned its first win of the season in the No. 73 Porsche 911 GT3 R at Lime Rock in the GTD class.

The 510 hp racecar, which Porsche Motorsport designed from new in Weissach, Germany for 2017, has already posted three pole positions between the IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship and FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). The three fastest qualifying rounds came at the IMSA race at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, this past weekend's Northeast Grand Prix at Lime Rock and the LMGTE-Pro pole position in the WEC Six Hours of Nürburgring.

In the fiercely competitive and gripping race, Porsche managed to win out over its strong rivals from BMW, Chevrolet, Ferrari and Ford. Since Lime Rock was exclusively



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for GT vehicles, this meant that the Porsche pilots in the No. 911 Porsche 911 RSR were also the overall pole and race winners. In the second 911 RSR (No. 912) fielded by the Porsche GT Team, their teammates Laurens Vanthoor (Belgium) and Gianmaria Bruni (Italy) clinched second-place, making the weekend perfect for the Porsche factory effort.

The icing on the cake was the GTD class victory thanks to Porsche works driver Jörg Bergmeister (Germany) and Patrick Lindsey (Santa Barbara, California) in the No. 73 911 GT3 R campaigned by the Park Place Motorsports customer team. This was Bergmeister seventh career victory at Lime Rock in nine starts. The No. 28 Alegra Motorsports 911 GT3 R of North America's only factory driver, Patrick Long (Manhattan Beach, California) and Porsche Young Driver Academy graduate Daniel Morad (Canada) earned a third-place finish in the GTD class giving Porsche a near textbook day in the two-hour, 40-minute race.

Round Eight of the WeatherTech SportsCar Championship will be contested on August 6 at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

### **Steffen Höllwarth, Program Manager IMSA SportsCar Championship.**

"The maiden victory with a new car is always a particularly emotional moment. And if you can bring home a one-two finish and even overall victory, then that makes you incredibly proud. I'm proud not only of our team here in the USA, but also of our colleagues in Weissach and our sister team in the WEC. This success belongs to us all. We can now build on this over the rest of the season. In the race, our 911 RSR was faster than the competition when the temperatures were initially high, but found it a little tougher once it cooled down. In terms of our race strategy, we again did very well



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today. For the most part, our cars had a clear run. On this short racetrack where overtaking is very difficult, that proved to be a key to success.”

**Patrick Pilet, Driver, No. 911 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“Incredible. We had to wait so long for this victory but now it’s finally happened. The entire team worked brilliantly this weekend. This circuit suits our 911 RSR well and we immediately found a super setup. It was a tough battle over the whole distance. Our car was consistently fast today, but you always have to stay fully focused. With so many cars out on the track you inevitably swap paint with your rivals. Luckily everything went well. It was a fantastic weekend. We’re now going to enjoy our success and then attack again at Road America.”

**Dirk Werner, Driver, No. 911 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“We’ve worked towards this day for a long time. We had to cope with several setbacks this season, but we never threw in the towel. It’s wonderful that the first win for the new 911 RSR has finally come. And the fact that it’s my first win as a Porsche works driver makes this achievement very special. This racetrack certainly has it all. Because it’s so short, it’s a constant fight for positions and nonstop overtaking maneuvers. The fans definitely enjoyed it. We did too. It’s a great day for Porsche.”

**Laurens Vanthoor, Driver, No. 912 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“I’m pleased for Porsche. The first win for the new 911 RSR as well as our second place is a great result. It was a dream come true for me. We started from pole and held the lead over long stints. But then we had to pit early after a minor excursion onto the grass. Personally, I’m somewhat disappointed, but that’s racing. The important thing is the win for Porsche. I’m thrilled that I could contribute to this one-two finish.”



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**Gianmaria Bruni, Driver, No. 912 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“I’m delighted for the squad and for Porsche. The maiden victory for the new 911 RSR plus second-place – that’s a fantastic result of which we can all be very proud. We’ve worked very hard towards this day. The race from pole position went well for me until shortly before my pit stop when I suddenly lost the rear and ended up on the grass. That put an end to our fight for victory. Congratulations to my team colleagues.”

**Jörg Bergmeister, Driver, No. 73 Park Place Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R.**

“An unbelievable weekend. This was my seventh win at Lime Rock, and Porsche’s first win with the new 911 RSR. Our 911 GT3 R ran perfectly without the slightest problem. It was a tough fight from the very start, but it was tremendous fun.”

**Patrick Long, Driver, No. 28 Alegra Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R.**

“That was a great day for Porsche. Congratulations on the first win for the new 911 RSR. We finished third after a difficult race. It’s a wonderful result for this young and very enthusiastic team.”

**Neun Porsche. Porsche Customers Make-Up Nine Entries in PWC at Mid-Ohio.**

Entering the second-half of the 2017 Pirelli World Challenge Sprint Championship season, Porsche customers bring nine cars to the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. A total of six of the 500-horsepower Porsche 911 GT3 Rs are entered with three going for overall honors in the GT class – a category expressly for professional drivers – and three in the GTA class for amateur drivers who do not make the primary living driving



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racecars. Three Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MRs will be fielded in the GTS class races.

The 911 GT3 R is in its second season as the German brand's entry in the international GT3 specification classes. In North America this includes Pirelli World Challenge and IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship (GTD class). Thus far North America's only Porsche factory driver, Patrick Long of Manhattan Beach, California, has three wins in the GT class in 2017 driving the No. 58 Porsche Consulting Porsche 911 GT3 R. Two of the victories have come in the Sprint Championship and one in the two-driver, 60-minute races of SprintX. His teammate Michael Schein (Glen Cove, New York) has three SprintX Championship wins and three, second-place finishes in the Sprint series. He has been on the podium in every round he's competed in except Race 2 at Road America where he was caught in an accident in the opening laps driving the No. 16 Wright Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R. Both drivers for the Ohio-based Wright Motorsports team are deeply entrenched in the championship battle for Overall and Driver Championships in their respective classes. Porsche Young Driver Academy graduate and 2016 GT Cup Champion Alec Udell (The Woodlands, Texas) comes to Mid-Ohio with the No. 17 Euroworld Motorsports prepared by GMG 911 GT3 R having won both GT Cup class races on the 2.4-mile, 15-turn circuit in 2016. He opened his year with two wins in the GTA class at St. Petersburg, Florida before being moved into the all-professional GT class. His teammate, James Sofronas (Villa Park, California) leads the GTA title chase in the No. 14 GMG Porsche 911 GT3 R.

Single team entries competing in the car based on the seventh-generation of the iconic 911 are the No. 99 GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing entry of Jon Fogarty (Bend,



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Oregon) and the No. 77 Calvert Dynamics machine of Preston Calvert (Potomac, Maryland). The veteran Fogarty is searching for his first PWC win with Porsche but showed the speed all knew was coming in the most recent round at Road America before being eliminated in an accident. The “Red Dragon” has been readied for this weekend’s twin 50-minute races at Mid-Ohio where Fogarty will again be a threat for victory. Calvert is making his transition from GT Cup into the Sprint Championship and already has two SprintX wins from 2016 on his resume driving a 911 GT3 R.

The final three Porsche Motorsport-built cars racing at the Lexington, Ohio-area track are Cayman GT4 Clubsport MRs. These cars are built to the international GT4-specifications and challenge in the two, 50-minute stand-alone GTS races. Rodrigo Baptista (Spain) has already won in the No. 3 Flying Lizard Motorsports car while teammate Nate Stacy (Tulsa, Oklahoma) still looks for his first GTS win with Porsche in the No. 14 “Lizard” entry. Adam Merzon (Greenwich, Connecticut) will pilot the No. 017 Case-It Racing Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR in Saturday and Sunday’s races.

The 2017 Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR is based on the road-going Cayman GT4 sharing over 80 percent of its mechanical and electrical hardware with the street car. The car is currently eligible not only in the GTS class of PWC but the IMSA Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge as well as one-make classes in the PCA Club Racing Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport Trophy East and Pirelli GT3 Cup Trophy USA on the west coast.

### **Hometown Heroes. Wright Motorsports Looks to Gain on PWC Title at Home Track.**



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Following a short break in the action, Wright Motorsports is jumping right back into the thick of things for this weekend's Rounds 5 and 6 of the Pirelli World Challenge Sprint championship. This time the Batavia, Ohio-based team will take on home ground as Patrick Long (Manhattan Beach, California) and Michael Schein (Glen Cove, New York) enter their pair of Porsche 911 GT3 Rs at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Located just 150-miles south of Mid-Ohio, Wright Motorsports carries a rich history at their home track. Since founded in 2000, the Batavia Ohio-based squad has collected countless podiums at the road course. This dates back decades for Wright Motorsports principal and Ohio-native, John Wright who ran his first professional event at Mid-Ohio in 1988. The group hopes to extend their line of triumph following this week's event.

Still fresh off of his victory and second-place at Road America, Long will enter this weekend's double-header event tied for the overall championship lead with Michael Cooper and carrying a 7-point lead in the GT Sprint championship over Alvaro Parente.

No stranger to the 2.4-mile, 15 turn road-course, Long has three podiums and a Mid-Ohio win to his name. The Porsche factory driver, who was thrown a number of challenges during last season's event, looks to extend his championship lead and pad his resume with an additional ream of success at the track.

The momentum is particularly high for Schein, as he looks to replicate his GTA victory sweep from 2016. The track remains a special one for the New Yorker who claimed his the first win of his racing career at Mid-Ohio during a 2010 IMSA GT3 Cup race.





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After a challenging weekend at Road America, Schein sits fourth in the GTA championship, with a 44-point deficit to James Sofronas (Villa Park, California) who has taken over the lead. He hopes to change that at this weekend's event.

Pirelli World Challenge GT/GTA field will take the stage for Round 5 at 4:45 pm EST Saturday, July 29, followed by Round 6, which is set for noon EST Sunday, July 30.

### **John Wright, Team Principal, Wright Motorsports.**

"I would love to put Patrick and Mike in the winner's circle at Mid-Ohio. We are coming off a win for Patrick at Road America and would like to keep up that momentum. We approached 2017 much differently from last year and things are paying off now, but the season is long from over. A good performance at Mid-Ohio would be big for the team. Plus, it's in our home state. An Ohio-based squad winning at Mid-Ohio would be a thrill."

### **Patrick Long, Driver, No. 58 Porsche Consulting Wright Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R.**

"I'm excited to get back on track at Mid-Ohio for Wright Motorsports' home event. With four races left in the sprint season and an overall championship on the line it's going to be business as usual, which means we are going to push hard every lap. You always come back stronger after a trying week like we had last season at Mid-Ohio. Since then, we've been able to analyze where we were losing time and feel a lot better heading into this week. We don't have the budgets like some of the other teams to pre-test at most tracks, but I have a lot of confidence in John [Wright] and Bobby [Viglione]. I'm looking forward to the weekend."



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**Mike Schein, Driver, No. 16 Wright Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R.**

“After a pretty unfortunate weekend at Road America, I’m really looking forward to Mid-Ohio. It’s Wright Motorsports’ home event and we had a lot of success there last year with two wins in our Porsche 911 GT3 R. It’s a track that I really enjoy and has a lot of rhythm which is nice. I’m pretty far out of the Sprint championship now, so we’re just going to keep pushing for wins and hope we get lucky in the end.”

**Porsche Entries at Mid-Ohio.**

**Pirelli World Challenge.**

Total Car Count: Nine (9) Porsche Motorsport products will be competing in the Pirelli World Challenge Sprint Championship at Mid-Ohio. Six Porsche 911 GT3 Rs will challenge in the GT races (Rounds 6 and 7) and three Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MRs will contend for the GT4/GTS honors (Rounds 11 and 12).

GT Class – Three (3) Porsche 911 GT3 R.

- No. 17 Euroworld Motorsports/GMG      Alec Udell (The Woodlands, Texas)
- No. 58 Wright Motorsports                      Patrick Long (Manhattan Beach, California)
- No. 99 GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing      Jon Fogarty (Bend, Oregon)

GTA Class – Three (3) Porsche 911 GT3 R.

- No. 14 GMG Racing                                      James Sofronas (Villa Park, California)
- No. 16 Wright Motorsports                      Michael Schein (Glen Cove, New York)



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No. 77 Calvert Dynamics

Preston Calvert (Potomac, Maryland)

GT4/GTS Class – Three (3) Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR.

No. 3 Flying Lizard Motorsports

Rodrigo Baptista (Spain)

No. 14 Flying Lizard Motorsports

Nate Stacy (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

No. 017 Case-It Racing

Adam Merzon (Greenwich, Connecticut)

### Where to Watch:

All Pirelli World Challenge Series information, audio and live timing and scoring for each on-track session is additionally available at [www.world-challenge.com](http://www.world-challenge.com).

### Pirelli World Challenge.

### Channel/Web Address

#### Qualifying Broadcast.

[www.world-challenge.com](http://www.world-challenge.com)

Friday, July 28

GT/GTA

5:20 p.m. – 6:05 p.m. ET

GT4/GTS

4:35 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. ET

#### Race Broadcast. Live.

[www.world-challenge.com](http://www.world-challenge.com)

Saturday, July 29

GT4/GTS Race 1

10:55 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. ET



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GT/GTA Race 1

4:45 p.m. – 5:55 p.m. ET

Sunday, July 30

GT4/GTS Race 2

9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. ET

GT/GTA Race 2

12:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. ET

**Race Broadcast. Television.**

CBS Sports Network

GT/GTA Races

Sunday, July 30

2:00 p.m. ET

GT4/GTS Races

Wednesday, August 9

7:00 p.m. ET

### **Social Media.**

Porsche Cars North America.

@Porsche

Porsche GT Team (North America)

@PorscheNARacing

Porsche Motorsport – GT Cars.

@PorscheRaces

Porsche Racing – 919 Hybrid.

@Porsche\_Team

### **Model Hashtags.**



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Porsche 911 RSR.	#911RSR
Porsche 911 GT3 R.	#911GT3R
Porsche 911 GT3 Cup	#911Cup
Porsche 919 Hybrid.	#919hybrid

### Event Hashtag.

PWC Mid-Ohio	#PWCMidO
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### Series Hashtags and Handles.

GT3 Cup Challenge USA.	#GT3USA
GT3 Cup Challenge Canada.	#GT3CAN
PCA Club Racing Porsche Cayman GT4	@CaymanGT4CSEast
Clubsport Trophy East	#GT4CSE
Pirelli GT3 Cup Trophy USA	@PirelliCupUSA

### Future Porsche Events.

#### IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

**Event:** Continental Tire Road Race Showcase, Road America

**Dateline:** Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

**Date:** Sunday, August 6

**Track Length:** 4.048-miles, 14-turn



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**Race Duration:** 2-Hours, 40-Minutes  
**Class:** GTLM (Porsche 911 RSR)  
GTD (Porsche 911 GT3 R)  
**Round:** GTLM. 8 of 11  
GTD. 9 of 12  
**Next Round:** Michelin GT Challenge at VIR, VIRginia International Raceway, Alton, Virginia, August 25 - 27, 2017

### IMSA Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge

**Event:** Road America 120, Road America  
**Dateline:** Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin  
**Date:** Saturday, August 5  
**Track Length:** 4.048-miles, 14-turn  
**Race Duration:** 2-Hours  
**Class:** GS (Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR, Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport)  
**Round:** 8 of 11  
**Next Round:** Biscuitville Grand Prix, VIRginia International Raceway, Alton, Virginia, August 25 - 26, 2017

### IMSA Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama

**Event:** Continental Tire Road Race Showcase, Road America  
**Dateline:** Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin



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**Date:** Race 1. Saturday, August 6  
Race 2. Sunday, August 7

**Track Length:** 4.048-miles, 14-turn

**Race Duration:** Two, 45-minute races

**Class:** Platinum (Porsche 911 GT3 Cup, MY 2017)  
Gold (Porsche 911 GT3 Cup, MY 2014-2016)

**Round:** USA. 9 and 10 of 14

**Next Round:** VIRginia International Raceway, Alton, Virginia,  
August 25 - 26, 2017

### **Porsche Motorsport Video News Releases**

<https://vimeo.com/159661478>

### **Photography:**

<http://press.porsche.com/media/gallery2/v/photos/motorsports/>

### **Porsche Cars North America Media Site.**

<http://press.porsche.com/>

### **Porsche Cars North America Motorsports Site:**

<http://www.porsche.com/usa/eventsandracing/motorsport>

### **Porsche North America Race Team Portal:**

[porscheusa.com/racing](http://porscheusa.com/racing)



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**Porsche Motorsports Media Information.**

Current news, images and notes relating to Porsche can be found on our press kit. Please contact Dave Engelman or Tom Moore for the latest Porsche Motorsports media kit.

**Contacts.**

**Dave Engelman**

Porsche Cars North America  
Spokesperson, Motorsports and Brand Heritage  
Office. 770-290-3617  
Mobile. 404-386-4665  
dave.engelman@porsche.us

**Tom Moore**

Motorsports Public Relations  
Mobile. 615-509-5000  
tom@darkhorseautosport.com

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