



PORSCHE

Motorsport News

September 6, 2017

No. 607/17

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: Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

#### **Upcoming Events.**

#### **FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC)**

**Event:** Lone Star Le Mans, Circuit of the Americas  
**Dateline:** Austin, Texas  
**Date:** Sunday, September 16  
**Track Length:** 3.4-miles, 20-turn  
**Race Duration:** 6-Hours  
**Class:** LMGTE-Pro (Porsche 911 RSR)  
LMGTE-Am (Porsche 911 RSR, MY 2015)  
**Round:** 6 of 9  
**Next Round:** Six Hours of Fuji, Fuji, Japan, October 13 - 15, 2017

#### **Pirelli World Challenge.**

**Event:** PWC at Sonoma, Sonoma Raceway



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<b>Dateline:</b>	Sonoma Raceway
<b>Date:</b>	Race 1. Saturday, September 16 Race 2. Sunday, September 17
<b>Track Length:</b>	2.385-miles, 12-turn
<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) GTC (Porsche 911 GT3 Cup) GTS (Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR)
<b>Round:</b>	Sprint GT. Rounds 9 and 10 of 10 Sprint GTC. Rounds 9 and 10 of 10 Sprint GT4/GTS. Rounds 17 and 18 of 18
<b>Next Round:</b>	Season Finale

### Porsche Profile.

### Event Story Lines.

#### **Uno-Dos. Porsche 919 Hybrid Scores One-Two at Mexico City.**

The Porsche LMP Team took another big step in their mission of LMP1 World Champion title defense in Mexico City. In Round Five of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, the Weissach, Germany-based team with the two Porsche 919 Hybrids achieved a one-two finish. The championship leading 24 Hours of Le Mans winners, Earl Bamber (New Zealand), Timo Bernhard (Germany) and Brendon Hartley (New Zealand) came in first ahead of their teammates Neel Jani (Switzerland), André Lotterer (Germany) and Nick Tandy (Great Britain).



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Against all predictions, the weather stayed dry during the well-received six-hour race and allowed straight racing with a pure result. The two Porsche 919 Hybrids lapped the competition while Hartley set the fastest race lap.

Since the beginning of the 2014 season, the Porsche 919 Hybrid has now competed in 30 races, achieving 17 pole positions, 16 race wins – including six one-two finishes – and ten fastest race laps. For 2017, the team is aiming to achieve a third consecutive world championship title for manufacturers and drivers. Porsche has now scored 198 points in the manufacturers' world championship with Toyota holding 141.5 points. In the drivers' rankings, Bamber/Bernhard/Hartley (134 points) have extended their lead over the best-placed Toyota trio by 41 points. Jani/Lotterer/Tandy now lie third in the championship (64 points). In less than two week's time, on September 16, the WEC starts Round Six of nine at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA) in Austin, Texas.

**Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1.**

“The 919 Hybrid was never stronger than here. We have been fastest in free practice and qualifying and now we've got a one-two race win. We have experienced an impressive performance of our prototype and a sensational team effort. I want to thank the team on site, the development center in Weissach and the entire Porsche AG.”

**Andreas Seidl, Team Principal.**

“Congratulations to the whole team here at the track and at home in our Weissach workshop for this stunning one-two victory today. After the Nürburgring race, we've worked very hard at another test in Barcelona as well as in the following weeks to further improve the Porsche 919. Due to the changing track temperatures today, it was



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very important to choose the right tires at the right moment. Together with our colleagues from Michelin, we managed that very well. A big thank you to our six drivers too. Despite the fast pace and the constant challenge of overtaking traffic, they brought both cars home without a single scratch. We stay focused and start our preparations for the next WEC race in Austin tomorrow.”

**Neel Jani, Driver, No. 1 Porsche LMP Team Porsche 919 Hybrid.**

“This is obviously a super result for Porsche, you cannot ask for more. It was unexpected that Toyota today didn’t have the hint of a chance. Apart from that, traffic was hard work today, you really had to be cautious.”

**André Lotterer, Driver, No. 1 Porsche LMP Team Porsche 919 Hybrid.**

“This result is mega for Porsche. I was the second driver in the car and had a good double stint. Unfortunately, I had to come for a stop-and-go penalty because Nick apparently had been too fast in pit lane but these things happen. Other than that I was just driving my rhythm and the car was running very well.”

**Nick Tandy, Driver, No. 1 Porsche LMP Team Porsche 919 Hybrid.**

“I did the double stint at the beginning and it was fine. We managed to get out in front together and work as a team. We were saving fuel a bit to offset our pit stops to avoid both cars pitting at the same time. Everything worked fine today except for the pit speed limit infringement.”

**Earl Bamber, Driver, No. 2 Porsche LMP Team Porsche 919 Hybrid.**

“The entire weekend was fantastic. The team gave us a great car and made our life very easy. In the race it was a shame that our sister car had a penalty because some



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close racing would have been nice. I was the second driver in the car and my double stint was straight forward.”

**Timo Bernhard, Driver, No. 2 Porsche LMP Team Porsche 919 Hybrid.**

“This is a beautiful day for our Porsche LMP1 Team. This weekend was really good. The 919 was consistently fast, the strategy was right and it was lots of fun. In the end I could even manage the gap because it was so huge. I’m over the moon and now we will party.”

**Brendon Hartley, Driver, No. 2 Porsche LMP Team Porsche 919 Hybrid.**

“This was an awesome race weekend by our Porsche team. We were fast from the first session onwards and in the race our car was really amazing. Actually both our cars got away quickly from the Toyotas. We didn’t expect to have such a pace advantage. Lapping traffic at times was a bit of a gamble as it is a tough track in that respect. The last section is like a street track but I tried to be careful and bring it home with no mistakes. Earl and Timo both did superb jobs. We controlled the race and didn’t have to take extra risks. Mexico was fantastic and I’m looking forward to the rest of the championship.”

**Porsche Podium. Porsche 911 RSR Earns WEC GTE-Pro Podium, Customer Win.**

Porsche has made a successful start into the second half of the season in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). At the six-hour race in Mexico City, the Porsche GT Team scored its fourth podium result this season with the new 510 hp 911 RSR, when Richard Lietz (Austria) and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) crossed the finish line third in the LMGTE-Pro class after 208 laps on the Autódromo Hermanos



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Rodríguez. Thanks to this result, they advanced to second-place in the drivers' world championship standings. In the LMGTE-Am class, in which Porsche's customer squads field the 2015-spec 911 RSR, Dempsey Proton Racing with the Porsche Young Professional Matteo Cairoli (Italy) clinched its second win of the season.

For the third time this season, Lietz and Makowiecki climbed the podium. Third-place at the season-opener in Silverstone, second at the home race on the Nürburgring and now third again – the drivers of the No. 91 car are well placed to tackle the second half of the season, which continues in at Austin, Texas' Circuit of The Americas (COTA) in two weeks. With this success, they have moved up the points table to now rank second in the GT Drivers' World Championship and are once again within striking distance of the title. The Porsche GT Team has also moved into second-place in the team classification.

For their teammates Michael Christensen (Denmark) and Kévin Estre (France), things didn't work out quite as well in Mexico. In the second 911 RSR (No. 92) fielded by the Porsche GT Team, the pair ended up in fifth-place after a far from ideal race. When Christensen tried to overtake an amateur-class Ferrari in the first hour of racing, the Ferrari shunted the No. 92 car from the side. When a caution phase towards the end of the race thwarted their strategic plans, all hopes of catching up were dashed.

The strong Porsche showing in Mexico was made better by the customer teams in the LMGTE-Am class. Dempsey Proton Racing with the Porsche Young Professional Cairoli and his German teammates Christian Ried and Marvin Dienst, celebrated their second win of the season after the Nürburgring victory in the 911 RSR. The British drivers Ben Barker and Michael Wainwright as well as Australia's Nick Foster climbed



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the podium for the first time after securing their best result of the season for Gulf Racing with third place.

**Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser, Vice President Motorsport and GT Cars.**

“We achieved this podium result at this extremely competitive race thanks to the reliability of our 911 RSR and a perfect performance from team and drivers. This has earned us important points and we’re now sitting second in the world championship. The fight for the title is still wide open and exciting. In the GTE-Am class, our Young Professional Matteo Cairoli once again underlined his talent and contributed to our customer squad Dempsey Proton Racing achieving their second straight victory. I’m also particularly thrilled about Gulf Racing’s first WEC podium this season.”

**Richard Lietz, Driver, No. 91 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“That was a strong performance from the whole team. I would like to dedicate this podium result to my grandfather who passed away peacefully last week. He used to race Porsches and he was the biggest Porsche fan I knew. As much as we’re delighted with second in the world championship rankings, it’s nothing more than a snapshot. The final score is always settled at the end.

**Frédéric Makowiecki, Driver, No. 91 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“That was a tough race that ended well for us. As always, the team gave us great support and Richard’s performance today was sensational. I’m proud to be his teammate.”

**Michael Christensen, Driver, No. 92 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**



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“This race was much more eventful than we would have liked. We did what we could as a team, but it wasn’t enough for a podium spot. Now we’ll focus on preparing for Austin and hopefully we’ll do better there.”

**Kévin Estre, Driver, No. 92 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR.**

“That was hard. In the first stint there was contact while lapping an amateur vehicle, and that threw us down the field. We fought back and opted for a somewhat risky double-stint strategy, but unfortunately that didn’t work.”

**Matteo Cairoli, Driver, No. 77 Dempsey Proton Racing Porsche 911 RSR.**

“That was a perfect weekend for us. First pole position and then victory – it doesn’t get better than that. The race was not as easy as it may have seemed, but it went very well for us. Thank you to the entire team who made this success possible.”

**Ben Barker, No. 86 Gulf Racing Porsche 911 RSR.**

“What a race – at last the monkey’s off our back. The whole team deserves this podium. We’ve worked long and hard for it and this success will be duly celebrated.”

**PWC COTA. Porsche 911 GT3 R, 911 GT3 Cup and Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR Score Titles.**

As the Pirelli World Challenge season draws to a close, two separate PWC championships were in the balance at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA) this weekend. The PWC SprintX Championship – focused on 60-minute races with two drivers per car – would conclude with three races on the Austin, Texas-area circuit.





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But, it was not only the SprintX Championship that the three races – held Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday midday – would impact. An overall champion for each was also up for grabs and with only two rounds now remaining, to be held at Sonoma Raceway, September 16 and 17, success during this past weekend in Texas was vital.

As he was in 2016, the epicenter of the PWC title chase is North America's only Porsche factory driver Patrick Long (Manhattan Beach, California). Long entered the three COTA rounds, which included a make-up race from earlier this summer, with a dark horse-shot at the SprintX title with his longtime driving partner Jörg Bergmeister (Germany).

However, it is the overall honors, the combined SprintX and Sprint Championships, that Long is targeting. The Sprint Championship portion is a five weekend, ten-round title where drivers compete solo in 50-minute races. Long, the 2011 PWC Driver Champion and 2016 runner-up, currently leads the overall title chase with the No. 58 Porsche Consulting Wright Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R entering the final two races in Sonoma.

The Overall Pro/Am battle was even more Porsche-centric with two teams deep in the mix. The No. 14 GMG Porsche 911 GT3 R of James Sofronas (Villa Park, California) and Porsche Junior driver Mathieu Jaminet (France) won all three of its races in Texas. Sofronas has been on a hot streak with ten PWC wins thus far in 2017. Entering the weekend, Sofronas was in a heated fight for Championship honors with the No. 16 Wright Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R shared by Michael Schein (Glen Cove, New York) and Jan Heylen (Tampa, Florida). Schein controlled the early part of the season



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but Sofronas the second-half. After the No. 16 suffered a drivetrain failure on Saturday, hopes for the SprintX and overall titles waned for the personable New Yorker while Porsche die-hard Sofronas locked eyes tightly on the trophies.

For the first race of the weekend Bergmeister made full use of the No. 58's front row starting position to take the lead into Turn 1 of the 20-turn facility. Despite a lap two yellow flag, the multi-time champion was able to pull a gap on second-place before handing the Wright Motorsport machine over to Long in the lead. Long was pressed early in his stint while still on cold tires but pulled away for the win, the team's third of the year.

Round 9 of the SprintX Championship on Saturday, saw a more frustrating result for the No. 58. Long, took the start but was balked when championship challenger, and 2016 title winner, Alvaro Parente slowed at the green flag. Long was forced to take evasive action and, as such, was narrowly ahead of his championship rival at the start-finish line. Long would take the position going up the hill of the circuit's first turn only to be tapped and spun. Caught-up and eliminated in the melee was the GTX Pro/Am Porsche of Calvert Dynamics with drivers Alec Udell (The Woodlands, Texas) and Preston Calvert (Potomac, Maryland) as well as the No. 017 Case-it Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR GTS-X Pro/Am entry of Trent Hindman (West Long Branch, New Jersey) and Adam Merzon (Greenwich, Connecticut). While the No. 58 suffered no damage in the first turn antics, Long was forced to fight his way from the back of the field. That was not the end of it however. PWC officials deemed Long passed prior to the green flag and was assessed a drive-through penalty. Long and then Bergmeister fought hard and finished in eighth-place.



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The final round of the GT SprintX took place on Sunday. By virtue of the car's best lap in Saturday's race, Bergmeister started the car third. Bergmeister charged hard at the start, gaining a position and handed the Porsche Consulting machine over to Long with just over 30-minutes remaining in the race running in second-place. While the No. 14 911 GT3 R fell out of the overall lead – it held the Pro/Am top spot and Sofronas and Jaminet would win their third race of the weekend – the No. 2 Mercedes AMG nipped the No. 58 in the pit lane. Long chased the No. 2 but, with the overall title in mind, drove smartly to the second place finish.

The total SprintX Championship tally for Porsche Motorsport North America customers was three. In addition to Sofronas, titles included Joe Toussaint (Houston, Texas) and Cory Friedman (Charleston, South Carolina) earning the GT Cup Am/Am class title in the No. 90 Autometrics Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car. Additionally, the GTS-X Pro/Am trophy was awarded to the No. 017 Case-It Racing Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR of Adam Merzon (Greenwich, Connecticut) and Trent Hindman (West Long Branch, New Jersey).

Long travels to "Wine Country" with a third-place in the final SprintX points tally. More importantly, he holds the Sprint Championship points lead and extended his lead in the Overall Championship with two, 50-minute races remaining. Sofronas holds a commanding lead in both Sprint and the Overall chases, having tied-up the SprintX GT Amateur title. Porsche holds the class lead in each manufacturer's championship entering the final weekend.

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



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"This was a fantastic weekend, all things considered. Three SprintX races brought a lot of adversity for everyone. It was great to be back on the top step of the podium with Jörg on Friday night. Saturday was the toughest for us. Sunday's race was huge in allowing us to recover and give a minimal amount of points away to our rivals. This has been the overall points weekend that we needed, but there's still a lot on the line heading into Sonoma. I'm confident that Wright Motorsports will give me a car to fight to the end of this like they have all season. We're just going to put our heads down, push all the way to the very last lap of the championship and try to close this thing out on top."

**Jörg Bergmeister, No. 58 Porsche Consulting Wright Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R.**

"Overall, it was a very successful weekend for us. I'm very happy that we were able to start off the weekend with a win in the CTMP makeup race. Obviously Patrick's championship is on the line so for Sunday's race we were a little conservative and pulled off a second-place. It was a really great effort by the team and Patrick extended his points lead by quite a bit so we are all very happy. It's been great working with Wright Motorsports this year and, of course, I always enjoy being back in a car with Patrick. We had a lot of success together and I really enjoyed the format of SprintX. Hopefully we'll be back next year."

**Baptista Shines. Flying Lizard Motorsports Adds to Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR PWC GTS Success.**

Amid blistering temperatures all weekend at Circuit of the Americas (COTA), Flying Lizard Motorsports again made the Pirelli World Challenge (PWC) GTS class podium,



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securing a race win and a third-place finish in the second to last race weekend of the 2017 season. Under sunny skies and in temperatures in the low 90s (Fahrenheit), drivers Rodrigo Baptista (Brazil) and Nate Stacy (Tulsa, Oklahoma) showed strong performances in their Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MRs.

Baptista started Race One in third-place, and took second position in the opening corners of the 20-turn track. Stacy started 12th, but quickly charged forward to fight for ninth in the opening lap. Baptista slipped behind the No. 50 of Ian James, opting to save his tires for the second half of race. With track temperatures of 111F, both Lizards fought hard to keep and gain positions as the field spread out. Baptista finished fourth at the flag. Stacy brought his Porsche to the checkered flag in tenth spot. A post-race infraction was found on the race-winning car in technical inspection, disqualifying the leader, resulting in Baptista earning a third-place finish, and Stacy a ninth-place spot.

Baptista and Stacy sat fifth and eleventh for the standing start of Race Two, and again the Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MRs showed their strength in launching off the line. Baptista went three wide and made the pass on the outside of turn one, climbing from fifth to second-position in the opening lap. Just a few corners later, he made the pass on Harry Gottsacker to take the lead. Stacy showed yet another impressive standing start, launching from 11th to seventh by turn three. Despite heavy pressure from the Ginettas of Parker Chase, and Gottsacker, Baptista continued to lead the field. The three cars pulled away from the rest, but the secondary pack worked to stay within three seconds. Baptista held his ground to the finish, clinching his fourth win of the 2017 season. Stacy finished in eighth-position.



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The final race of the season will take place at the Lizard's home track, Sonoma Raceway in California. The final fight of the Pirelli World Challenge championships will play out at the Grand Prix of Sonoma, September 15-17.

**Rodrigo Baptista, Driver, No. 3 Flying Lizard Motorsports Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR.**

“I think I won race two on the start. I had a really good start. I passed the Ginetta on the first lap, and from there, I just had to hold them off. It was very difficult, and the Ginetta was fast in the esses. The Porsche Cayman Clubsport MR was so strong on the straights, and I created a small gap and stayed there. It was difficult to manage the tires in the heat while getting pressure from the Ginettas. I stayed calm, drove carefully, and finished the race. Thank you to the Flying Lizard team for all their hard work.”

**Nate Stacy, Driver, No. 14 Flying Lizard Motorsports Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR.**

“Congratulations to Rodrigo for getting a race win. It was really hard fought for him. Race two was good for me. I had a really strong start. I held our spot, but the KTM and the Lotus came up late. Unfortunately, they got us, and we didn't have anything for them in the end.”

**Social Media.**

Porsche Cars North America.

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Porsche GT Team (North America)

@PorscheNARacing



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Porsche Motorsport – GT Cars. @PorscheRaces  
Porsche Racing – 919 Hybrid. @Porsche\_Team

### Model Hashtags.

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

### Event Hashtag.

Six Hours of COTA #6HrOfCOTA  
Pirelli World Challenge Sonoma #PWCSonoma

### 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.

#### Pirelli World Challenge.

**Event:** PWC at Sonoma, Sonoma Raceway



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**Dateline:** Sonoma Raceway  
**Date:** Race 1. Saturday, September 16  
Race 2. Sunday, September 17  
**Track Length:** 2.385-miles, 12-turn  
**Race Duration:** Sprint, GT/GTA. Two, 50-minute races  
Sprint, GT4/GTS. Two, 50-minute races  
**Class:** GT (Porsche 911 GT3 R)  
GTC (Porsche 911 GT3 Cup)  
GTS (Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR)  
**Round:** Sprint GT. Rounds 9 and 10 of 10  
Sprint GTC. Rounds 9 and 10 of 10  
Sprint GT4/GTS. Rounds 17 and 18 of 18  
**Next Round:** Season Finale

**IMSA Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama**

**Event:** Sonoma Raceway  
**Dateline:** Sonoma, California  
**Date:** Race 1. Saturday, September 16  
Race 2. Sunday, September 17  
**Track Length:** 2.385-miles, 12-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. 13 and 14 of 16  
**Next Round:** Petit Le Mans, Braselton, Georgia, October 4 -





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**IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship**

**Event:** Continental Tire Monterey Grand Prix, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

**Dateline:** Monterey, California

**Date:** Sunday, September 24

**Track Length:** 2.238-miles, 11-turn

**Race Duration:** 2-Hours, 40-Minutes

**Class:** GTLM (Porsche 911 RSR)  
GTD (Porsche 911 GT3 R)

**Round:** GTLM. 10 of 11  
GTD. 11 of 12

**Next Round:** Motul Petit Le Mans, Road Atlanta, Braselton, Georgia, October 4 - 7, 2017

**IMSA Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge**

**Event:** Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca 240, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

**Dateline:** Monterey, California

**Date:** Saturday, September 23

**Track Length:** 2.238-miles, 11-turn

**Race Duration:** 4-Hours

**Class:** GT4/GS (Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR, Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport)



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**Round:** GT4/GS. 9 of 10  
**Next Round:** Road Atlanta 120, Road Atlanta, Braselton,  
Georgia, October 4 - 7, 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)

**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



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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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