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Motorsport News

February 13, 2017

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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, February 13, 2017**

#### **Porsche Profile.**

#### **Event Story Lines.**

#### **Barber Visit. Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Teams Test 2017 911 GT3 Cup Car.**

Five IMSA Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge by Yokohama teams tested the new, 2017-specification Porsche 911 GT3 Cup racecar on February 8 at Barber Motorsports Park, and all came away feeling enthusiastic about the “Generation 2” machine.

Four standout Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama teams participated in the test at Barber, located in Birmingham, Alabama – test host Moorespeed, Alex Job Racing, TOPP Racing and Wright Motorsports. Pfaff Motorsports represented the Ultra 94 Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Canada by Yokohama at the test, which was shortened from two days to one due to severe thunderstorms on February 7.

Eleven series regular drivers and an array of test drivers and driver coaches turned laps in the updated 911 GT3 Cup machine on the 15-turn, 2.38-mile circuit at Barber,



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which will host Rounds 3 and 4 of the USA series April 21-23; the series' first trip to the picturesque track.

The new-for-2017 model will comprise the Platinum Cup class in the USA and Canada series. The Generation 1 car becomes eligible for the Gold Cup class in both series.

This was the largest gathering of the 2017-specification cars for testing to date. The new car will be used this season in the USA and Canadian Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge series as well as in the Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup, an official support series to the FIA Formula 1 World Championship.

Porsche Motorsport North America, Yokohama, VP Fuels and IMSA provided technical support to all of the teams at the test. Engineers from Porsche Motorsport Germany also attended the test to assist teams as they learn more about the new car.

The 2017 Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama season opens March 16-17 at Sebring International Raceway in Sebring, Florida, during the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring Fueled by Fresh From Florida IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship endurance classic.

**Owen Hayes, Director of Operations, Porsche Motorsport North America.**

“This was an excellent opportunity to get many of the 2017 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars on track well before the first race of the year. For most of these teams, this was their first chance to run the cars.



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I'd like to thank Moorespeed for hosting this test at Barber Motorsports Park, a track new to the IMSA Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama this season, as it will give all of us a good baseline when we return in April. Barber is a very challenging track, which gave us insights to help at a wide range of other tracks we visit. I certainly want to thank everyone for persevering with the changeable weather, too.”

**Steve Bortolotti, Team Manager, Pfaff Motorsports.**

“The new car looks and sounds spectacular, and we couldn't be happier with the development of this car over the already impressive Generation 1 car. Porsche Motorsport, IMSA and Yokohama have done an amazing job in creating a true driver's car that's both comfortable for gentlemen racers and precise enough for up-and-coming racers to prove their capabilities as a driver.”

**Corey Fergus, Driver, Moorespeed Porsche 911 GT3 Cup.**

“It felt like an official test with around 13 or 14 Cup cars in attendance. It's always great to have your competition testing with you because you get a better idea of where you stack up. Now that we have the same tires and springs as last year, the Generation 2 car behaves very similar to last year's model. We do have a little more power and torque and front downforce, but it's a smooth transition between models. It was amazing to see at the test the Generation 1 and Generation 2 on track together. I thought the Generation 1 car was fast, but the Generation 2 eats it alive.”

**David Moore, President, Moorespeed.**

“We really want to thank Porsche and Yokohama for sending out the troops in total support. I talked with Owen Hayes, director of operations of Porsche Motorsport North America, and he was very pleased with the test and the performance of the new



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Generation 2 car. He said there were no issues, and that everyone was pleased with the direction we are headed.”

**Todd Oppermann, President, TOPP Racing.**

“Both David (Baker) and Jeff (Mosing) were excited about their first time in the Generation 2 cars. They were pleased about the new car's ability to absorb the curbs without unsettling the car. The extra power and torque was appreciated, as well. We are ready to get the season started.”

**Historic Comeback. TRG Brings Long History of Success Back to Porsche.**

The saying “Porsche Family” is not a cliché - so, when longtime Porsche racer and team principal Kevin Buckler left the marque in 2013, Jens Walther, president and CEO of Porsche Motorsport North America, was quick to remind the team owner he always had a home with the brand. Earlier this year, Bucker announced that his TRG program was returning to the fold in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship’s GT Daytona (GTD) class. Additionally, Porsche factory ace Wolf Henzler (Germany) was approved to anchor the driver lineup in the No. 991 TRG Porsche 911 GT3 R at the same time

Since coming into its own in the early 2000s, The Racers Group (TRG) has over 95 professional race victories and more than 200 podiums. The majority of those have come with a Porsche 911-based racecar. Five championship titles, the 2002 24 Hours of Le Mans GT class win and the 2003 overall victory in the Rolex 24 At Daytona are the pinnacle mark for the Petaluma, California-based program but are far from its only



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accolades. With Buckler first behind the wheel and then on the pit stand, the team went on to build an impressive resume.

- 4 Rolex 24 At Daytona GT class victories (2002, 2003, 2009, 2011)
- 2002 24 Hours of Le Mans GT Victory
- 2005 Grand American GT Championship
- One-Two Finish in the Rolex 24 At Daytona (2009)
- Porsche Cup 1st and 2nd-place finishers (2002)

For eight seasons in succession, the team entered five Porsche 911s in the Rolex 24. And, while not with Porsche, TRG spent several seasons campaigning in NASCAR's Premier Sprint Cup series and in the GRAND AM Daytona Prototype class.

The team opened the season with a top-ten finish in the Rolex 24 At Daytona.

**Kevin Buckler, Team Principal, TRG.**

“This is just completely full circle. I started my love affair with Porsche back in high school in the 1970’s in Newport Beach, California and dreamed about racing one day. From our first professional race in 1995, to winning the Grand Am GT championship in 2005 and racing and winning at Daytona and Le Mans, all with Porsche, it was a great run. As our motorsports operation grew, other opportunities always presented themselves but I have always kept my eye on Porsche and the amazing job they have continued to do on both the streetcar and the motorsports side. Coming back this year and racing with a GT program, feels right on so many levels. I am honored to be once again representing such a historic marque and also reconnecting with Jens Walther and our friends at Porsche Motorsports.”



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**Social Media.**

Porsche Cars North America.	@Porsche
Porsche GT Team	@PorscheNARacing
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.** #

**Series Hashtags.**

GT3 Cup Challenge USA.	#GT3USA
GT3 Cup Challenge Canada.	#GT3CAN

**Future Porsche Events.**

**Pirelli World Challenge**



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**Event:** Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Street Circuit

**Dateline:** St. Petersburg, Florida

**Date:** Saturday-Sunday, March 11th-12th

**Track Length:** 1.8-miles, 14-turn

**Race Duration:** Two, 50-minute Races

**Class:** GT/GTA (Porsche 911 GT3 R)  
GT Cup (Porsche 911 GT3 Cup)  
GTS (Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR)

**Round:** GT/GTA. 1 and 2 of 10  
GT Cup. 1 and 2 of 8  
GTS. 1 and 2 of 12

**Next Round:** Grand Prix of Long Beach, Long Beach Street Circuit, Long Beach, California, April 9, 2017

### IMSA Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama

**Event:** 65<sup>th</sup> Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring, Sebring International Raceway

**Dateline:** Sebring, Florida

**Date:** Race 1. Thursday, March 16  
Race 2. Friday, March 17

**Track Length:** 3.74-miles, 15-turn

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

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



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**Round:** 1 and 2 of 14  
**Next Round:** Grand Prix of Birmingham, Barber Motorsports Park, Birmingham, Alabama, April 22-23, 2017

**IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship**

**Event:** 65<sup>th</sup> Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring, Sebring International Raceway  
**Dateline:** Sebring, Florida  
**Date:** Saturday, March 18  
**Track Length:** 3.74-miles, 15-turn  
**Race Duration:** 12-Hours  
**Class:** GTLM (Porsche 911 RSR)  
GTD (Porsche 911 GT3 R)  
**Round:** GTLM. 2 of 11  
GTD. 2 of 12  
**Next Round:** Grand Prix of Long Beach, Long Beach Street Circuit, Long Beach, California, April 8, 2017

**FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC)**

**Event:** The Prologue, Autódromo Nazionale Monza  
**Dateline:** Monza, Italy  
**Date:** Friday - Saturday, March 24-25  
**Track Length:** 3.6-miles, 11-turn  
**Race Duration:** NA  
**Class:** LMP-1 Hybrid (Porsche 919 Hybrid)





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**Round:** LMGTE-Pro (Porsche 911 RSR, MY 2017)  
LMGTE-Am (Porsche 911 RSR, MY 2016)  
**Next Round:** Official Pre-Season Test Days  
Six Hours of Silverstone, Silverstone Circuit,  
Towcester, England, April 17, 2017

**Porsche Motorsport Video News Releases**

<https://vimeo.com/159661478>

**Photography:**

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

**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.



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