

MX5 Canberra Chapter - Motorsports Report - 2012- 2013

by Peter Browning, Canberra Chapter Motorsports Co-ordinator.

Ed Corey is the new motorsport co-ordinator for the Canberra Chapter for 2013-14.

The Canberra chapter has a small, but enthusiastic, band of motorsport participants who compete in MX5 trackdays, NSW state Supersprints, ACT Hillclimbs and MG club motorkhanas, as well as occasional other events like the 6 hour relay race at Phillip Island.

Regular competitors on the track include Ed Corey, Peter and Don Battisson, Joel Carrigues, Ian Vickers , and myself in MX5s and Lance McGrath and Stewart Grigg in their private V8 ute challenge.

The best supported competition is the MG motorkhanas run at the Sutton Road driver training facility and the last event included seven MX5 club members. Joe Craddy or Paul Beerworth are regular and successful competitors and can provide more details on running these events.

MX5 motorsport activities over the last twelve months included:

MX5 Club Driver Training

One driver training day was held at Marulan driver training facility earlier this year. Few Canberra chapter members attended, but those that did had a productive and enjoyable day, with experienced MX5 drivers providing instruction.

MX5 Club Trackdays (Supersprints) - 2013-14 :

The next MX5 trackday is the NSW/Victoria interstate challenge on **Sunday 3 November** at Wakefield Park. All spectators are welcome and as the Victorians won the last challenge day all competitors are encouraged to bring out their cars for the day. See <http://www.mx5.com.au/nsw/motorsport.htm> for full results and for upcoming events.

The 2013-14 MX5 club competition year commenced at Sydney Motorsport Park South on 6 July with 62 entrants, but only one Canberra Chapter members competed :

Peter Battisson	Class 2M	2nd	NB8A	1.13.86
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Ed Corey is concentrating on the state supersprints, others find it inconvenient to go up to Sydney and I was forced to withdraw with a back injury.

The 2013-14 MX5 club competition continued at Wakefield Park on 19 August with 62 entrants, with three Canberra Chapter members, but only one in a MX5 :

Peter Battisson	Class 2M	3rd	NB8A	1.18.03
Stewart Grigg	Class 11	4th	GMH V8 ute	1.15.8
Lance McGrath	Class 11	5 th	XR8 ute	1.16.2

Ed Corey concentrated on the state supersprint on the previous day whilst I was sunning myself at Airlie Beach.

MX5 Club Trackdays (Supersprints) - 2012-13 :

The MX5 club awards their motorsport trophies over a fiscal year over eleven classes. Classes are divided by MX5 type, tyres and modifications, from standard to highly modified, to give everyone a fair opportunity against similar vehicles. Some classes allow non MX5s to compete for their own trophies. Canberra chapter class winners for 2012-13 were:

Peter Browning	Class 5	1 st	NA6
Ian Vickers	Class 4	3 rd	NB8A

In addition trophies are awarded for the fastest lap each year at each circuit by class and Canberra chapter members had more success here :

	Car	Class	Wakefield Park	Eastern Creek South
Don Battisson	NA6	1M	1.18.67	
Joel Garrigues	NA6	1M		1.12.50
Lucie Blom	NA6	1F		1.21.91
Ian Vickers	NB8A	4M	1.15.50	
Peter Browning	NA6	5	1.13.53	1.08.64

My win in class 5 (modified NA6 on semi-slick tyres) makes it a hat-trick of class 5 trophies and some fastest laps, which is a satisfying result for an old bloke in a NA6 resurrected from, and almost returned to, the Carco scrap-heap (the car, not me).

NSW Supersprint Championship

Round 7 was run at Motorsport Park Eastern Creek, North on 8 September and the final round will be at the Eastern Creek, South circuit on 26 October. Spectators are free and are welcome.

See <http://www.supersprints.com.au/> for detailed results, calendar and entry forms.

Any CAMS club member can enter any supersprint, but to be eligible for the state championship you must register for the series and pay a \$50 registration fee.

Twenty-four different car clubs are represented in the supersprint championship, and as well as individual awards, a club championship is also awarded for the club that accumulates the highest number of points. The MX5 Club (NSW) won the 2012 club trophy and is running a close 2nd to the ARDC in 2013, which proves the ability of MX5s in competition.

Ed Corey leads class 3B in the 2013 NSW state supersprint championship after 7 rounds, with two 1st in class, three 2nd and two 4th. With only one rounds remaining Ed looks set to take a class win. This is an excellent result considering Ed had to run the first couple of rounds in his road car whilst his race car was finished. Ed has a best of 1.10.87 at Wakefield Park and 1.05.87 at Eastern Creek South, both very quick times in an underdeveloped car.

Other chapter competitors are Joel Garrigues and myself, but we have run only limited rounds.

I was able to claim 2nd in class 3A in the 2012 championship.

ACT Motorkhana Series (MG Car Club)

The MG club runs regular motorkhanas on bitumen at the Driver Training complex, Sutton Road. These are fun days and teach car control in a safe environment. A basic CAMS license is required and cars must be road registered.

The last event was held on 26 May, 2013 and had thirty seven competitors, including six MX5 club members in MX5s and one in an Evo 6. The day's competition was run over 6 tests, with the aggregate time of all 6 deciding the result.

Joe Craddy in his 1800 NA6 Eunos had another great run to top the MX5s and finish 1st in Class B and 4th outright .

Joel Garrigues (NA6) was 2nd in class B and 6th outright, Paul Beerworth (NC) was 4th in class B and 10th outright, just ahead of Ross Green 6th in class B and 13th outright, then Ian Vickers (new NB8A) who was 7th in class B and 15th outright. Mathew Barnes-Johnson wrapped up the MX5s with 10th in class B and 27th outright. Bradley Cecil came in 22nd outright and 7th in class D in his Evo 6, lacking the agility of the MX5s.

ACT Hillclimb Championship 2013 - SDMA - Fairbairn Park, Sutton Road Canberra

The SDMA runs the ACT hillclimb championship at Fairbairn Park, Sutton Road.

See <http://www.sdmahillclimb.com/Start.html> for upcoming events and results.

There are usually a number of MX5s running at each event, although most are not MX5 club members. MX5 club members that run some events include Ian Vickers, Steve Green, Joe Craddy, Joel Garrigues and myself.

There have been several rounds of the ACT hillclimb championship and 1 round of the NSW hillclimb championship run so far in 2013, with the next event on Sunday 15 September. Tom Ballard ("Trashpack") is leading class 2 under 1600 in his MX5.

Spectators are welcome and entry is free, with a basic café operating, so come and have a look. Competition usually run from 9.30 am to 3.30pm with a short lunch break.

6 Hour Relay at Phillip Island

The MX5 club regularly enters teams in the 6 hour regularity relay run at Phillip Island. Ed Corey competed at the last event in his road NB as part of a three MX5 team entry, and whilst much fun was had by all, no trophies were bought home as the MX5s drove too fast for too long, so lost many points for breaking their target times.

Racing and Rallying

Mx5s compete successfully in a wide range of racing and rally events, although no Canberra Chapter members are currently competing.

MX5s are ideally suited to club level motorsport and events are available for all interests. As much fun can be had in stock standard MX5s as in modified race car.

My 1st NA6 turbo overtaking a 500hp Falcon through the fishhook:



Fanta setting another class 4A state supersprint championship record:



Why Fanta turned Orange – Brian Anderson 1, Porsche nil :



MX5 driver training days at Marulan and Motorkhanas at Sutton Road can be lots of fun and are excellent driver training in a low risk environment, so keep your eye out for future days.

However when competition gets serious there are risks and we lost two MX5s (a NB and NC) to concrete walls at Eastern Creek and “Britney” bounced off a flag point at Wakefield, so we need to select a level of competition suited to our needs and acceptable risk levels. Many drivers choose to buy a cheap and rough MX5 to use for motorsport activities, as I have done with “Britney”, so our precious good cars are not put at risk.

Britney on a good day:



“Britney” on a better day – yes a little mishap, but I had just set fastest lap for the class and won the class 5M trophy – this is why she is improved mechanically, but untouched body wise. A 2nd hand door and guard and a new seat and she is as good/bad as before:



Happy motoring, and now over to Ed

Peter Browning and “Britney”.