**SMRS (Sprite Midget Race Series) 2023 Season Start**

(revised March 26, 2023)

**April 29-30 Driver School and May 4-7, 2023 Gingerman Race**

 **Highlight Plan / Agenda**

**Summary**: This is our opening race of the season and SMRS and 65th Anniversary for Austin Healey Sprite. This is a great time of year to have fun with all those friends you haven’t seen for a while. It also allows you to get back into the groove (literally racing groove) in the Beautiful South Haven Lake Michigan Resort Area among the dandelions and flowering fruit trees. We will have 4 races this year (Gingerman May 4-7, Blackhawk June 16-18, Grattan 11-13 and we will add Waterford Hills July 21-23) with the best 2 out of 4 deciding overall points at our Grattan Grand Finale with end of season awards.

On the safety aspect of our racing I have observed less and less hand signals from Group 2 with our Spridget Group doing a little better, but there is always room for improvement. I would like to remind all of us to use hand signals, which allows for safer racing by letting the overtaking driver know you are aware of him and pointing him by. The acknowledgment of the hand signal is more important than the actual direction you are pointing them by. The pointing direction that you want them to pass, may not always apply depending on what combination of turns are coming up, but it does show you are aware of their presence. It is always the overtaking driver’s responsibility to complete a safe pass. I have copied and posted the criteria for the “Jim Donato Most Respected Driver Award”, which we encourage to set the proper attitude and goals for a safe weekend.

**Jim Donato Sprite Midget Race Series Most Respected Driver Award** (Traveling Steering Wheel Award) Criteria**:**

1. **Predictable / Trusted** (uses mirrors, points faster cars by, passes safely and allows others room to pass and is always a defensive driver over competitiveness, stays on racing line except when car failures would leave fluids on track)
2. **Objective** (listens to others and approaches concerned drivers with openness. Can sit down with any driver and feel comfortable that he did the right thing when on the track)
3. **Observant** (looks forward to observe incidents and flag stations, inspects car between sessions for safety to avoid causing accidents to others on track.)
4. **Respectful** (Avoids Red Mist, which is identified as an emotional win at all costs attitude and maintains Vintage Spirit Philosophy)

**Agenda (tentative, please verify these times when you get your race packet):**

Thursday is a class day in the afternoon for Driver School Students. Friday is the on Track Day for Students. We have always done a great job supporting new Spridget Drivers with advice and mechanical help to keep them running throughout the weekend. Please let me know if you can assist.

***Thursday May 4 (Set up)***

* I will arrive around noon and stake out our typical Spridget Paddock Area (Please look me up and introduce yourself. I will be around my Red Enclosed Trailer with Spridget Decals and Thicko on side). Please plan on paddocking with us, it is a great way to meet other Spridget competitors and understanding all the fun we have together. Big Healeys are always welcome to join us as well.
* I will attempt to secure our typical paddock space, which you will find on the same road as you enter the track going North on the East Side of this road, just past first bathrooms is our typical Spridget Paddock.
* Race Car Tech Inspection for all drivers is available from 3-6
* ***Friday May 5 (Driver School)***
* I will be there before 9AM to support any Spridget Driver School attendees and will attend the Graduation Ceremony and Dinner.
* Race Car Tech Inspection for all drivers is available from 3-6
* ***Saturday May 6 (Practice and Race Day)***

Group 2 is in Race Group E this time making us the last group out for all sessions. The following is an early tentative agenda. You should confirm times when you receive your Driver’s Packet.

* 7:45 AM Mandatory Driver’s Meeting Tower / Tech Barn
* 9:30 AM Warm-up Session
* 11:30 AM Practice Session
* Noon – Track Touring and SMRS Group Lunch. Please bring enough brats and other dishes to support your crew and another 20% for those that support us for - 2 lunches. Please boil brats prior to coming so we can grill brats quicker and have less grease fires. I will bring plates and plastic ware. This is always a good time to discuss any issues anyone may have along with SMRS Gear for sale to support our Series.
* 2:45 PM Qualifications (this session counts towards SMRS position points). The fastest per class will get 8 points and descend per position. You do not to be out for total duration of session.
* 4:55 PM Sprint Race (this session counts towards SMRS durability points and you must be out for the whole session to be awarded maximum 8 points)
* 5:30 PM or after race session Portable Cape Of Good Hope Pub (announcements and toasts for Queen and our Racing Heroes followed by “God Save The Queen / King” Please bring whatever beverages you may have for toasting)
* Track Dinner Party

***Sunday May 7 (Race Day)***

* 9:30 AM Sprint Race Group 2
* 11:30AM Group Lunch SMRS Race Season & Race Highlights. Highlights of Black Hawk Farms by Ron Soave / Tom Wilcox. Don Kelly who is taking the lead on the Waterford Hills SMRS Race will highlight plans too.
* 1:10 PM Sprite Midget Race (this session counts towards finishing position points per Spridget Class)
* 3:50 PM Feature Race Group 2
* Please remember to sign up for the Sprite Midget Race when registering or before Saturday 10AM at Registration. We are very fortunate to have our own race again this year at GMan and your registering for this race will determine if that continues.
* The early bird reduced rate is a $100 so sign up prior to April 28.

We always have room for street Sprites Midgets and Big Healeys in our Paddock Area. If you would like to crew, assist or learn what a race team is like please see me and we will find a place for you.

I look forward to seeing all my Spridget Friends at GMan for another great year of fun on and off the track!

Stan Mason