



24 January 2006

To all Star FM Pro Racers,

Happy New Year! The 2006 sign-up forms and information for The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear are included here. The logo artwork and embroidery program are available through the (www.starmazda.com), through the Series office, or through Star Race Car dealers. Uniform patches are available. There are 12 races on the 2006 schedule: 9 with ALMS, 2 with Champ Car, 1 with F-1, and one where we are the feature. Houston is with both the ALMS and Champ Car.

The race schedules are mostly like last year. Thursday testing/ Saturday race. IMSA asked us to publish the 2006 schedule with the dates for the weekend, rather than our actual race day. Don't ask why. Sebring and Petit are Friday races, Tuesday test. Houston will be a Saturday race, practices on Thursday and Friday. Milwaukee will have a test for 23-24 May, then official move in Thursday, 1 Jun, on track Friday, qualify and race on Saturday. Montreal like 2005. At GP3R we are the main event Sunday, probably move in Thursday, 3 Aug. Hope this helps. Most of the weekend schedules are still "pending." Sebring is up on the web. Houston soon. We are going to eventually get all the weekend schedules up on the web. Try www.starmazda.com.

For quick access to updates of all kinds, check the "competitor's page" on the web site. All the latest info, especially servicing and compliance stuff, will be posted there regularly. It should serve as a good reference during the season.

There are three useful CD Rom's available through Star Race Car Dealers. One is a parts list for the Pro FM car; the other is a comprehensive presentation of the Renesis motor and systems, including the Motec ECU. It shows the complete theory of the Renesis, along with procedures for diagnosis. The latest firmware from Motec now permits verification that all of the intake runners are switching around as programmed and all of the solenoids and actuators are behaving correctly. If you did not already get the CD, you can order it. A Third CD details the Motec Data Systems for those who run Motec. It is over 100 pages of information.

Enclosed you will find the 2006 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear rules.

You will also find a sign up form for Star Mazda VIP food service, which will take place in the Series sponsored enclosure. Drivers, crews, and sponsors are invited to participate. Breakfast and lunch will be served to those with the proper credentials each day Star Mazda cars are scheduled to be on track. For Sebring, that will be Tuesday through Friday. Cost for catering is \$19 per person, per day. Two sets of armbands will be provided with each entry at no extra charge. Use the form to sign up additional team members.

Food service will include: Continental Breakfast with coffee, cereal, milk, fruit juice, bread, pastries, donuts and fresh fruit. Also included will be a full hot lunch with: two salads, pasta, meat, veggies, and dessert. Cold drinks will be available all day, every day, as long as you are wearing the correct wristband for that particular day. Participants must sign up in advance to get the required wristbands. No meals will be sold at the Series hospitality enclosure. If you are wearing the correct band, you eat and drink "free" all day.

The series registration and medical forms are here. Among other things, we use these to assign permanent car numbers for the year. You can call or email Tony Rodrigues to confirm your number at (818) 686-3350, or Tony@starmazda.com. IMSA driver and crew license forms can be downloaded from IMSA's website (www.imsaracing.net). Do not procrastinate. It is very easy, but you must do it in advance. The event entry form this year lets you pre enter as many races as you wish, as far in advance as you like. There is even a discount if you enter all twelve at once, and you will never have a late fee. Also, there is an official's contact directory included here for easy reference.

We are planning to hold a series kick off meeting on Tuesday, it will be at the Chateau Elan. Drivers, car owners, and team managers are invited. It should start about 6:30pm. There will be food and drinks, it should be an opportunity to put names and faces together and answer any questions as we start into our first 2006 event.

We are planning to add another championship within our series for 2006. It will be a team competition open to all Star Mazda Championship teams that wish to join. The concept of the team competition is explained on the attached page, along with the team entry form. This should add to the fun and give the crews some more recognition for their efforts.

Regarding racing in Montreal with Formula 1. This will require the same special procedures as in 2005, due to the peculiarities of the Formula 1 format. There will be no testing on Ille Notre Dame, and just two, 40 minute long, open practices. Starting positions will be determined by Championship point standings after Milwaukee. At that time we will have four races completed, so it should be representative of what you can do. The normal 1 point for winning pole will be awarded to the Series driver with the fastest race lap at Montreal, so the points total will equal the usual number. Watch for the supp regs on this event, Formula 1 is very strict about some things, "only the Series hat may be worn on the podium." "No one may stay overnight in the paddock," and so on. Montreal is a beautiful city and this will certainly be a memorable event.

All 12 races in 2006 will be one hour broadcasts on Speed Channel. There will be more opportunities, with the expanded program format, to show features about drivers, teams, and "track facts," as we did during 2005.

This year there will be some new contingency and year end awards. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all the Series sponsors who help us help you. The people at Mazda and Goodyear have been a pleasure to work with. BBS, Motec, VP Fuel, Alcon, Hawk, and Quartermaster have all been key contributors to our growth. If you meet any of these people, in the paddock or at any other time, do not miss the chance to say thanks. They make the show happen.

You are reminded that Mazda has generously offered to give access to their employee discount program, or "S" plan, for Star Mazda Racers. If you are thinking about purchasing a new Mazda, this is the best way to do it. You take the certificate to any Mazda dealer, pick out a car, and get the Mazda employee discount. Several of us have taken advantage of this offer. Just email Steve Sanders at ssanders@mazdausa.com. Send him your home address, email address, phone numbers, and fax numbers. Steve Sanders' staff will help you get the certificate. If you prefer, you can call Steve at (800) 435-3508.

See you at the races!

Sincerely,

Gary E. Rodrigues