

SHANNONVILLE MOTORSPORTS PARK

RACE Superseries Round #1

Results

May 4, 5, & 6, 2007



Caption: Conversation with Pit Crew prior to First Track day test on April 21st, 2007

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Introduction

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sean Nadeau and I've been riding off-road motorcycles since I was 7 years old and street bikes since I was 16 for a combined total of over 32 years experience. That being said, I've only started to pursue my passion for motorcycle racing as of two years ago. Not exactly the thing one would think of starting at the age of 36 and no, I'm not going through a mid-life crisis!!! At least I don't think so? This will be my first official year as an Amateur motorcycle racer representing Cornwall and area by competing in the Suzuki SV-CUP Regional RACE Series at Shannonville. I hope you find this entertaining and I hope to see some people from Cornwall and Area at the races this year. If you do attend, please stop by our pit area to say Hi. Please remember to view the list of sponsors on the back of this leaflet, which without their help, this would not be possible. All the sponsors I've approached are companies that I do, or have done business with in the past and I highly recommend them and their products/services.

Sean R. Nadeau
Director of AMR Powersports Inc.

Season Opener – Open Test Day, April 21st

Morning:

My family and I arrived the previous night around midnight so it was a little hard to get going the next morning. We slept in the van since we arrived so late but I'm thinking it was a good idea since it was just above freezing that night.

I went to registration at 7:30am and there was already a lineup. Following registration I had to have the race bike inspected prior to being permitted on the track. This entire process took most of the morning resulting in me missing my first two sessions on the track. Clearly I have to find a way next time to be better organized so I don't waste valuable time and money.

I finally managed to get one session in before noon. This was my first time on the Fabi track so I decided to be a little cautious at first. There were lots of bikes on the track and it was difficult to get a rhythm as you would catch up to a group of four to five racers and would be thinking of what line to take in order to get by, then all of a sudden two more experienced racers on 600cc sportbikes would go screaming by. I found I made several gear selection mistakes. I've been having a hard time to adapt to the feel and sound of the 650cc V-Twin.



Afternoon:

We had a nice surprise for lunch. Frank Martens and his family came up to see how we were doing and they brought lunch. Frank heads up the R&D for AMR Powersports Inc. so I'll be honest when I say I was a little more nervous with them being there to watch. My first session in the afternoon was OK since I had lowered my lap times but I felt close to the edge several times. I made the decision to try and be smooth instead of fast for the rest of the sessions. Oh, and **DON'T CRASH THE BIKE!!!**

The RACE officials decided to break up the Amateurs into odd and even numbers to reduce the number of bikes on the track during the sessions. This was a big help as now I was able to work on my race lines, braking points and corner speed without having so much traffic to deal with. I was still making gear selection mistakes so I decided to have a chat with James Collins who I got to know when I worked with him last year as part of the Pirelli crew. James, who is now a Pro Racer and also a past SV-650 Cup & 600 Amateur Champion gave me some advice. This information paid off as I was finally feeling in complete control and I knew I was turning faster laps. Racers that were passing me earlier in the day were no longer passing me and some were even being passed by me now. I considered the day an overall success, as my goals were to learn the racing line, gain experience, and steadily decrease my lap times during the day. Oh, and **DON'T CRASH THE BIKE!!!**

My lap times went from high 1:21sec down to low 1:17sec by the end of the day.



RACE SuperSeries Round #1 Results – May 4, 5, & 6, 2007

Friday May 4th:
I decided to attend the optional test day on Friday since I needed as much track time as possible. The registration and tech inspection once again took most of the morning. I'm going to pre-register online for the next event to see if this helps to speed up the process. The first round was being run on the Nelson track, which is a tight, technical layout. Top speeds are only around 110 to 115km/h with the fastest lap time of 59.07sec set last year by Paul Glenn.
My last experience on this track was during the FAST RACING SCHOOL in 2006 when I posted 1:06sec on a school-prepped bike. This time would have placed me in contention for a top 10 finish last year but based on the times I was seeing on Friday, I had my work cut out for me. My best time by the end of the day was a high 1:04sec.



Saturday May 5th – Morning Test Session:
Saturday morning was another beautiful morning. The nights are cold but as long as the sun is shining, I'm happy. Since I only signed up for the SV-Cup, I only had one 10min test session in the morning so there was a lot of downtime. James Collins came by and helped me make a few adjustments to my front suspension that I was able to test that morning. I had to increase the stiffness of both front forks as I was bottoming out under hard braking. Clearly my bike was set up way too soft in the front end resulting in the back getting very light and my rear tire moving around during hard braking. My times were continuously improving and I was now down into the high 1:03sec range. This placed me in the top 8 but I knew there were some faster riders who didn't go out with us during that session.

Saturday May 5th – Afternoon Qualifying:
We had a 10-minute qualifying session in the afternoon and then my day was done. I once again lowered my times and posted a 1:02.903, which placed me 11th on the grid. I came to find out later that one of the racers on the track was actually a pro racer and that I really qualified 10th.

Sunday May 6th – Morning Test Session:
Sunday was pretty much a repeat of Saturday with only one test session in the morning and the actual race was in the afternoon. The morning test session went well but I don't seem to be going any faster. I posted only one lap close to my qualifying time with a time of 1:02.990. The rest were in the 1:03sec range and higher.

Sunday May 6th – Afternoon Race:
This was my first race ever and I was very nervous about messing up the start. There were 19 bikes on the grid of which I was smack dab in the middle so imagine 19 bikes screaming off the start, accelerating as fast as they can, then all going into Turn 1 without hitting each other. The good news is I did everything right and I ended up gaining two positions off the start. I passed Joe Rodrigues going into Turn 2 on the second lap but another rider dove underneath both of us so I didn't gain or lose any positions. On lap 3, another rider came up on the outside of me going into Turn 2 when I realized he was actually on the grass. I didn't have time to see what happened, as I needed to turn in at that point but two more corners and another rider ran off before the red flags started waving to stop the race.
It ended up that the rider who came up beside me in Turn 2 was number 65, Andrew Beck and he went down hard. He was taken directly to the hospital and I only found out the next day that he is going to be OK but broke three ribs, his collarbone and was knocked out for 4 or 5 minutes.
The decision was made to do a complete restart of the race which means I had to do it all over again!! I had another good start but found I was not pushing as hard this time and I ended the race placing 10th. I still ended up posting my fastest times of the weekend during the race with a personal best of 1:01.775sec.

Conclusion
I'm very pleased with the results and the outcome of my very first race weekend!!! I know I need to keep my mental focus during the race if I wish to do better next time. Yet another lesson learned!!!
Please visit our Website at www.amrpowersports.ca for more pictures and info about upcoming events.

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