



### Wednesday July 3:

Trying to get the car and trailer ready for my first ever trip to Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. My normal routine is very hard to follow because of 113 degree heat! I can only pack up the trailer for 10 minutes at a time before sneaking back into the house to sit under an a.c. vent. I finally got the race car washed but I ended up getting more water on me and the dogs than the car.

### Friday July 5:

We planned on leaving the house early to beat the projected 100+ degree heat but details slowed us and we didn't get on the road until after 12pm. The drive should take about 4 1/2 hours which will get us there about the time they open the gates at 5pm. Kim and I really enjoy long drives together and this one was no exception. Great conversation, great company, and plenty to see along the way made for a pleasant trip. Traffic got heavier as we got closer to the coast, and thankfully the temperature was dropping dramatically! We left home at 104 degrees and hit 61 when we saw the ocean.

We pulled up to the state park gate a few minutes before 5 and the wait began. It wasn't boring however as everybody was excited to be there. NASA doesn't run Laguna often plus this was

## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale

Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---

also a Northern/Southern Cal crossover event so there were lots of new faces and people to meet. At 6 we were allowed to line up to get in the paddock but the queue was long!! Everybody behaved and the line moved slowly but steadily. We got our paddock set up, had dinner and then Charlie Buzzetti snuck us on the track for a track walk to help familiarize us Laguna rookies with the nuances you can't get from a video game. Charlie's got a lot of laps here and his insights were very helpful and appreciated but now I'm nervous! This track looks tough and a mistake can be costly! Am I up for the challenge?

### Saturday July 6:

A show of hands at the morning drivers meeting showed that over half the drivers had never been to this track so I didn't feel so nervous. We will all be learning together. Fourteen spec 944's lined up on the grid for morning warmup. Some faces and cars were familiar to me but others were not. As we headed out on track I was thinking that I didn't want to mess up anybody's session while learning the track, and I also wanted to hook up with Jim Richmond or Tom Atteberry, who both graciously said they would let me follow them while getting my feet wet. A group of us stayed together for a few laps but when I felt more comfortable I got some track space of my own and tested the limits. I turned a time of 1:51 which was good for fourth fastest but I knew others would be picking it up for qualifying. A fast time at this track is in the mid to high 1:40's.



As predicted times dropped dramatically for qualifying with Norm Hamden snagging pole

## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---

followed by Charlie.





## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



Full text of the document is hidden behind a paywall. To view the full text, please purchase the document or contact the publisher for more information.

## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



Copyright © 2013 by Ron Dale. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.



## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---





## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



Slowly I caught up to guys and gave everything I had to race cleanly and get by.



## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---





## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

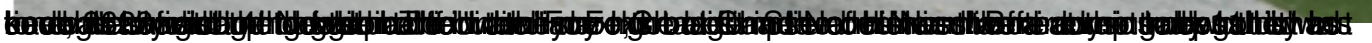
---



was a great day for the Cooper Tires team. The cars were all in good condition and the drivers were all in good luck. The Cooper Tires team was very happy to be at the event and to see the cars in action. The Cooper Tires team was very happy to be at the event and to see the cars in action.

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

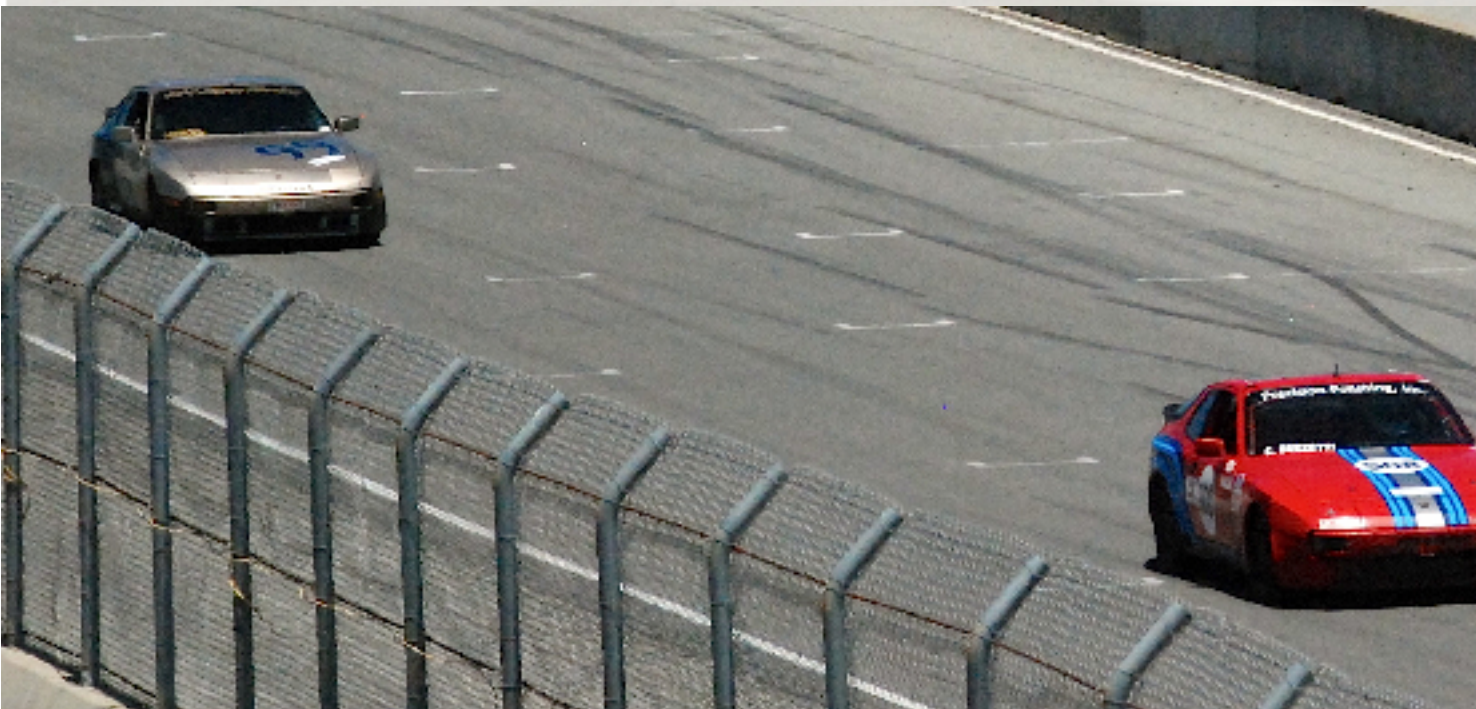




## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---





## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---





## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---





## Laguna diaries

Written by Ron Dale  
Tuesday, 16 July 2013 23:29

---



Stuck in Sunday traffic dreaming about Miller and a national championship!