

Ninth Annual Motor State Challenge a Continued Success

PRO-Touring Strong in the Upper Midwest

The ninth annual Motor State Challenge saw eighty-three competitors take part in the three-day event. The Motor State Distributing hosted event began with registration and the drivers' meeting at the Watervliet, Michigan Fairfield Inn. Once the afternoon requirements were complete, everyone topped off their fuel tanks and lined up behind the Berrien County Sherriff Department motorcycle escorts for a scenic cruise that ended at Das Dutch Essenhaus in Middlebury, Indiana.

The Challenge participants were featured guests at the restaurant's weekly Thursday evening car show as the Amish style restaurant served a delicious meal for everyone in the Motor State cruise.

The next morning saw all the participants successfully pass the tech inspection process conducted by the South Bend Region SCCA. By mid morning, Gingerman Raceway was opened for all drivers to participate in two 15-minute timed lap sessions. After the lunch break, racing continued with two more timed lap sessions. Upon completion of the final run group the track was closed and everyone in attendance was treated to a variety of Sherman's ice cream.

The final day of the Motor State Challenge had all the competitors ready for a day of autocross at the Tire Rack in South Bend, Indiana. Each driver had six chances to record their fastest lap time.

By late afternoon on Saturday all the competition was complete and friendly bench racing broke out as everyone patiently waited all the results to be tallied. Along with the trophy presentation for the actual competition, Motor State Distributing's Marketing Manager Scott Wahlstrom awarded several special awards and a large selection of product certificates from the many industry partners that make this event possible.

One of the awards, the Spirit of the Event, receives an automatic spot in the Optima Ultimate Street Car Invitational held in Las Vega, Nevada November 4-5. Thanks to the strong performance at the three-day event and his dedication to the PRO-Touring movement, Steve Rivett from Pewaukee, Wisconsin will represent the Motor State Challenge at the USCA Finals.

Another special award honors the contributions of Todd Gartshore to the Motor State Challenge as well as other motorsport events throughout North America. Aaron Oberle was the recipient of the 2017 Todd Gartshore Memorial Award.

This annual event would not be a success without the volunteer help from the Berrien County Sherriff's Department and the South Bend Region SCCA. The Sherriff's Department guides the Thursday cruise through Berrien County while the South Bend Region SCCA crews direct and officiate both track and autocross events.

Motor State Distributing thanks everyone that participated in this year's event.