

DAYTONA 2012

While most people were snug in their homes hiding from the chill in the air several Team APPCO racers were well on their way to 70 degree weather. December 26th and 27th were days of travel for most racers to the famous Daytona motor speedway for the start of the 2012 season. WKA Hosted “Kart Week” which incorporates the Speedway dirt series, the Road Racing series , and the Manufactures Cup racing all in one facility. Wednesday the 28th was practice day for the WKA Manufactures cup as APPCO’s Racers began tuning and shaking down there Racing Karts preparing for Thursday and Friday morning qualifying and races. Racing went well both days with tough competition in classes usually in excess of 25 competitors and as many as 50 Karts in some.

Cody Gardner qualified 7th with his APPCO powered Tony Kart and was working on a pass for third when a scuffle between the 2nd and 3rd place competitors forced the 46 of Gardner off track and back to 28th position. Gardner raced back to a very impressive 11th place by the checkered flag.



AR getting the new Tony Karts ready for practice



I don't know if he really is but Cody always looks like this before a race. Don't go to sleep Mr. Cool

Very fast in Practice and qualifying on the pole, Johnny Smith, driving his number 77 Arrow Kart in a four way battle to the finish. Smith leading the Komet Sportsman Class for more than half of the race Swapped for the lead several times and finished 2nd in the battle that could have went any way at the end. Smith also racing a new number 77 PCR chassis powered By APPCO pulled off a 7th place with only 2 rounds to prepare for in Wednesday practice.



12 year old Johnny Smith on pole at the Start of the Komet Race



AR and JP working on a carburetor before qualifying.



JP finishing up assembly of the new PCR chassis for a few rounds of practice.



Racing in the very large junior classes filled with top notch competitors Jared Thomas was able to pull off two 10th place finishes in the Yamaha junior lite and heavy classes. A very tough driver, Thomas had been in the top 5 of both races, suffered clutch problem and getting shuffled back by aggressive drivers, Jared never backed down and put on a great performance.



Always in perfect form Jared is on his game



Dave preparing Jared's kart for Junior can qualifying



Dan Stempfley qualified well and place even better on both days of racing with his number 46 Tony kart, Racing in the Tag Masters 1 and 2 Classes. Dan qualified his Parilla Leopard 11th in the Tag Masters 1 classes and raced to an 8th place finish in the feature on Thursday. Friday Stempfley qualified 12th and finished 9th in the feature with an IAME X30 engine.



Doug, AR, and Dan tuning Dan's #46 for race day



Doug Cook starting Dan for qualifying



Finishing very well with the number 30 Tony kart in the APPCO camp (you probably already guessed by the picture) Jacob Knueven. Knueven qualified his comet Parilla Leopard 3rd and finished a strong 4th in the feature. Great Job guys!



Driving the number 24, Matthew Newberry finished 19th in Komet junior heavy and 27th in APPCO powered Yamaha junior lite. Dewight Newberry smiled like that the entire week.

Jacob Fromeyer racing his number 58 Arrow placed 28th in Komet junior heavy and 25th in Yamaha junior lite

Dewight enjoying the sunshine Just before pushing up to the grid for the prefeature.



Young Michael Cruz had a great week at Daytona with his pair of Birel chassis placing 4th with his comet powered Yamaha sportsman lite. Cruz made an impressive run from last place to 6th in the feature with his APPCO powered Komet sportsman in a class of 18 top notch competitors.



Michael With his 4th place award in the Yamaha sportsman lite class

Pitting with the APPCO Gang, Robby Seward and his dad Brian were very friendly and helpful. Robby doing very well with his number 63 Zanardi Kart finished 12th in the Tag final 2 and 14th in the Parilla Leopard class.



Robby Preparing his number 63 Zanardi Kart for competition

Robby's dad Brian.

Just Playn around. Good times.



Kneeven getting the 4th place hardware great job !



Jerod showing off at the congo river put-put. Hes got mad skills.



Smith on the podium for Komet Sportsman. Awsome!



JP spanked us all. I think He's been secretly practicing.



Dave "aka the governor". Right after a joke. I think he's sayn "It wasn't me"



Ha! we were fast AT the track



Cody looks like he's ready to drop back for a pass.

Everybody out for dinner at “Down the Hatch”. I had a great time racing and playing with you guys. Hope to see everyone at Kershaw, SC.



Don't Forget about the APPCO Customer Appreciation Day !! January 14th from 10am till 4pm. Held at APPCO Racing. Food and drink.

Article and Pictures complements of : *SMITH RACING*