

BRU & JEB TASTE A LITTLE CATFISH

Jeb Breaks Through, and Bruce Gets Win #2 at Catfish International

By Catfish Sr.

Dateline: November 10, 2001, Cambridge, MA

Jeb Bowron → Catfish pulled a few feet ahead of Lukas; and Hampshire's triumphed for the this season, at the race of the 2001-2002 campaign.



of Team down his first England win, a teammate Greg Atkinson, New Bruce Beaulieu second time fourth MARC

A record 27 racers from four states plunked down their entry fees to join the fray. And we were happy to have them. Catfish International's basement lair had just undergone a major purging, and as a result, there was well-lit pit space for all 27 contestants.

As the racers streamed in, they refueled on coffee, juice, Lori-Ann's donuts, and fruit. This was the first time that the new-spec Modified cars (any armature and traction magnet allowed) were being raced here. Track record for the previous-spec, stock armature Super G+ based cars was 2.881. Morning practice showed Dr. John Pileggi, a former winner on this 66-foot MaxTrax, taking the quick way around, turning 2.4-second laps on the middle lanes.

The Production racers posted times in the low 3.6 range, led notably by Greg Lukas, who had a patently ridiculous car. There were plenty of folks bunched tightly behind Greg, and it was clear the Production program would be hotly contested.

Sixteen Production racers, thanks to the presence of the late-arriving Eric Eckhardt, meant a program of four equal heats, and no need for fill-in racers. Bliss.

After the semis, Greg Lukas (112), John Shortsleeves (106), Hakim Harris (106), and Jeb Bowron (105) moved up to the Main. Barely off the pace were Eric Eckhardt and Chris Nawn at 101. Also showing well, but short of the mark were local favorite Brian Skidmore with 99, first-year racer Joe Eastlack (95), and track namesake Henry Catfish, with a personal-best of 92.

We expected hotly contested, and that's what we got, with the finely tuned Super G+ formula cars often running in tight packs, like swarms of bumblebees. John Shortsleeves, winner of MARC's previous two Production races, held the lead after three steady segments with a total of 117, Team Catfish's Greg Lukas, having spent a lot of time in the wall with a mild case of *digitas agitatus*, was mere feet behind. Fellow Catfishers Jeb and Hakim had 115 and 113 respectively. Heading into the last segment, the four racers were separated by only four laps, with leader John about to endure three minutes of exile on Red. It was anyone's race.

A tense, final three minutes saw John in freefall as Red did its work, with first Greg, then Jeb, and finally Hakim all passing him by the halfway point. Greg ran a good 39 on White, but Jeb kept coming, making up

the two-lap deficit with a total of 41 on Blue, and taking the checkered flag a straightaway's length ahead of his rival. Hakim Harris, in his second Main of the year, pulled out a strong 41 on Yellow, finishing just two back of the Pacesetting Pair. A 1-2-3 sweep, and seven of the top nine spots, for the Catfish team on their home track!

After a half-hour to further tune the Modified rigs, and refuel on (Harvard House of) pizza, we beheld a Catfish-record 26 entries for the championship program. We were particularly happy to note that there were several national champions in the field, including the rarely seen Baron von Duda. Out of



semi-retirement to return to the scene of his 1998 Catfish triumph, the Baron remarked, "This beats the hell out of my tulips and coin-collecting!"

Qualifying: it can turn the brain to mush and the knees to jelly. We knew these cars would be fast. But how fast? How far beyond 2.881? We didn't have to wait long to find out. Tom "Mr. Horsepower" Gray, third up, smashed through the record, with a thrilling 2.473. The Baron, running an "off brand" armature (Ed.: I think it had a red stack) was consigned to the 2.6s. Then, Catfish's Rob Hayes set his BSRT-powered special on the straightaway. That sound the assembled group heard? Just the wind whistling through the trees of the Pacific Northwest, and Lanemaster registering a 2.331. Subsequently, Dr. John Pileggi, Dan Decosmo, and Bruce Beaulieu all posted times in the 2.4s, so it was clear that some VERY fast racing was ahead.

Twenty-six racers meant eight Semis, and a long race day, but everyone seemed to happily while away the time in bench racing, marshalling, and, uh, driving. Along the way, and of particular note, were: Tom Gary and Dave Kaiser's spirited dicing in the E Semi; the fast-improving Jahl father-son team, with mid-pack finishes five laps apart; and Ms. Robin Smith, with what was clearly the best car in M. McQueeney's racebox, finishing in 13th.

Finally, with a new haze of Delrin, ozone, and burned oil settling to the floor, we had a Main. The moveups



Modified main L to R Dr. John Pileggi, Catfish Sr. (Rob Hayes), Bruce Beaulieu, Dan DeCosmo

would be Catfish Sr. with 252, Dr. John an

astonishing 247 after some pickup trouble on White, Bruce Beaulieu 238, and Dan Decosmo 237. Yep, those were also the top four qualifiers.

Not nearly so much drama with this one as in the Production Main, because the most vital action happened (or didn't happen) even before it began. Hayes made a rookie mistake. Loving the way his car was eating up the track, he decided not to change his motor brushes before the Main. Halfway through the

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Qualifying Driver	Best Time	Backup Time
1 Rob Hayes	2.331	2.337
2 Bruce Beaulieu	2.415	2.428
3 John Pileggi	2.431	2.482
4 Dan DeCosmo	2.464	2.477
5 Tom Gray	2.473	2.498
6 Jim Macartney	2.560	2.593
7 Todd Duda	2.620	2.649
8 Eric Eckhardt	2.658	3.185
9 Robin Smith	2.670	2.672
10 Hakim Harris	2.671	2.870
11 Greg Lukas	2.682	2.685
12 Dave Kaiser	2.706	2.723
13 Stephen Jahl	2.717	2.806
14 Cedric Prevoe	2.726	2.857
15 Brian Skidmore	2.772	2.776
16 John Shortsleeves	2.818	2.819
17 Benny Leyro	2.838	2.845
18 Mark McQueeney	2.852	2.871
19 Marc Gosselin	2.897	3.034
20 Kevin Macartney	2.906	3.162
21 Tom Jahl	2.945	2.989
22 Chris Nawn	3.013	3.029
23 John Stezelecki	3.085	3.140
24 Gerry Cullan	3.110	3.144
25 Joe Eastlack	3.417	3.432
26 Jeb Bowron	4.800	17.462

first heat, he realized what a blockhead he had been, as Bruce put seven laps on him, and Hayes dropped like a stone thereafter.

Bruce pulled away to his second masterful win of the season, with 424 laps, smashing the Super G+ Modified track record of 360. Dan (398) held second from heat two onward, pipping John (394), whose bent pickup spring affected his car like a Kryptonite keyring, by four laps at the end.

Woven throughout the Modified program was a drawing for race prizes generously provided by our friends at Scale Auto/BSRT, Bodies by Bruce, and John Warren's Magnet Service. Many thanks to our sponsors, who added an extra measure of joy to our raceday.

All year, I look forward to hosting this event, and once again, it was a blast. My thanks to my family, and to the Catfish Crew, for their assistance in putting the race together.

On to New London!



Rob: "Bruce, I had plenty of car, and if I hadn't made that rookie mistake, I would of had you today."

Bruce: "You know, I rely on just this kind of thing."

Next Race: The Dumpster ● New London, CT ● Dec. 1

2001 / 2002 SEASON



Miniature Auto Racing Club

Cambridge, MA 11/10/2001

Modified

2001-2002 Super Stock

Rank	Name	1		2		Totals	1 Drop
		Race 1	BP	Race 2	BP		
		SS		SS	SS		
1	Bruce Beaulieu	100	10	60	5	175	115
2	John Stezelecki	55	5	100	5	165	110
3	Dan DeCosmo	95	5	85	5	190	105
4	Mike Martyn	90	5	80	10	185	105
5	Rob Hayes	85	5	95		185	100
6	John Pileggi	65	5	90	5	165	100
7	Dave Kaiser	80	5	75	5	165	90
8	Pete Monemvasitis	75	5	55		135	80
9	John Shortsleeves	45	5	70	5	125	80
10	Mark McQueeney	60	5	65	5	135	75
11	Gerry Cullan	70	5			75	75
12	Paul Avis	50	5	35	5	95	60
13	Eric Eckhardt	30	5	50		85	55
14	Greg Lukas	40	5	25	5	75	50
15	Tom Gray			45	5	50	50
16	Jim Macartney			40	5	45	45
17	Brian Skidmore	35	5			40	40
18	Hakim Harris	25	5	5	5	40	35
19	Benny Leyro			30	5	35	35
20	Chris Nawn	20	5	15	5	45	30
21	Joe Eastlack	15	5	20	5	45	30
22	Cedric Prevoe	10	5	5	5	25	20
23	Robin Smith			10	5	15	15
24	Marc Gosselin			5	5	10	10

2001-2002 Modified

Rank	Name	Race 1		Race 2		Totals	1 Drop
		Race 1	BP	Race 2	BP		
		9/29		11/10			
1	John Pileggi	100	10	90	5	205	115
2	Bruce Beaulieu	90	5	100	5	200	110
3	Dan DeCosmo	95	5	95	5	200	105
4	Rob Hayes	80	5	85	10	180	100
5	Mark McQueeney	85	5	70	5	165	95
6	Tom Gray	70	5	75	5	155	85
7	Todd Duda			80	5	85	85
8	Pete Monemvasitis	75	5			80	80
9	Jim Macartney	65	5	50	5	125	75
10	Eric Eckhardt	60	5	25	5	95	70
11	Dave Kaiser	45		65	5	115	70
12	John Shortsleeves	55	5	55	5	120	65
13	Benny Leyro			60	5	65	65
14	Greg Lukas	50	5	45		100	55
15	Robin Smith			40	5	45	45
16	Mike Martyn	40	5			45	45
17	Tom Jahl			35	5	40	40
18	Chris Nawn	35	5	5		45	40
19	Stephen Jahl			30	5	35	35
20	Hakim Harris	30		5	5	40	35
21	Paul Avis	25	5			30	30
22	Marc Gosselin	20	5	5	5	35	30
23	Joe Eastlack			20	5	25	25
24	John Stezelecki			20		20	20
25	Brian Skidmore	10		15	5	30	20
26	Kevin Macartney			10	5	15	15
27	Cedric Prevoe			5	5	10	10
28	Gerry Cullan	15		5		20	10
29	Jeb Bowron			5		5	5

Main

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Bruce Beaulieu	101	110	112	101	424.25	1	100
Dan DeCosmo	99	104	100	95	398.15	2	95
John Pileggi	93	107	100	94	394.27	3	90
Rob Hayes	39	66	105	95	305.12	4	85

A-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Rob Hayes	66	64	64	58	252.22	mu	
Eric Eckhardt	51	52	48	44	195.19	16	25
Brian Skidmore	37	44	55	48	184.08	18	15
Joe Eastlack(2)	43	45	45	43	176.13	20	5

B-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Bruce Beaulieu	64	62	63	49	238.01	mu	
Benny Leyro(2)	52	57	58	53	220.07	9	60
John Shortsleeves	52	55	55	51	213.04	10	55
Robin Smith	52	56	49	48	205.29	13	40

C-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
John Pileggi	65	65	55	62	247.15	mu	
Benny Leyro	52	56	56	51	215.10	-	-
Hakim Harris	54	49	35	26	164.17	23	5
Chris Nawn	47	9	0	28	84.00	25	5

D-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Dan DeCosmo	58	56	63	60	237.01	mu	
Mark McQueeney	56	58	57	51	222.08	7	70
Greg Lukas	51	56	51	50	208.19	12	45
John Stezelecki	48	48	43	49	188.32	17	20

E-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Tom Gray	55	61	55	53	224.00	6	75
Dave Kaiser	52	58	60	52	222.00	8	65
Marc Gosselin	42	45	40	46	173.00	22	5
Gerry Cullan	41	33	37	46	157.00	24	5

F-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Jim Macartney	56	57	51	47	211.00	11	50
Stephen Jahl	54	53	51	41	199.00	15	30
Kevin Macartney	49	50	45	40	184.00	19	10
Joe Eastlack	43	6	42	47	138.00	-	-

G-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Todd Duda	61	58	60	55	234.17	5	80
Tom Jahl	51	56	53	44	204.13	14	35
Cedric Prevoe	48	54	36	38	176.07	21	5
Jeb Bowron	0	0	0	32	32.00	26	5

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Production Class

Main

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Jeb Bowron	39	41	38	38	156.32	1	100
Greg Lukas	40	37	39	40	156.24	2	95
Hakim Harris	41	38	39	36	154.16	3	90
John Shortsleeves	42	39	36	34	151.01	4	85

A-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Jeb Bowron	26	29	25	25	105.08	mu	
Chris Nawn	26	27	25	23	101.08	6	75
Tom Jahl	21	22	14	20	77.10	14	35
Kevin Macartney	22	21	14	19	76.17	16	25

B-Semi

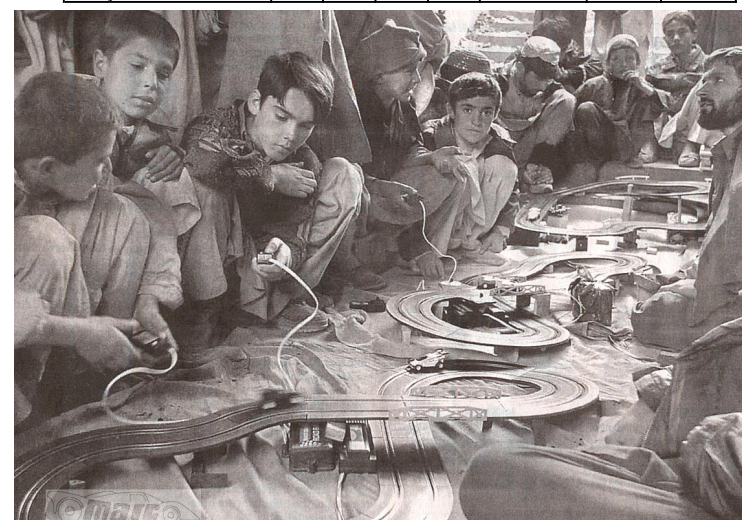
Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Greg Lukas	29	28	28	27	112.00	mu	
Henry Hayes	23	23	23	23	92.08	9	60
Stephen Jahl	22	21	19	20	82.02	11	50
Robin Smith	19	21	19	18	77.09	15	30

C-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
Hakim Harris	27	29	27	23	106.01	mu	
Eric Eckhardt	24	27	26	24	101.27	5	80
Brian Skidmore	25	27	26	21	99.07	7	70
Marc Gosselin	20	22	14	22	78.06	13	40

D-Semi

Driver	Yel	Blu	Wht	Red	Total	Place	Points
John Shortsleeves	26	27	28	25	106.16	mu	
Joe Eastlack	22	26	25	22	95.11	8	65
Benny Leyro	24	24	24	20	92.02	10	55
Gerry Cullan	20	20	21	19	80.17	12	45



In Kabul's main market yesterday, Afghan children played with toy cars, four days after the withdrawal of Taliban rulers. M.A.R.C officials refused to comment when questioned about their involvement in the war on terrorism. Go fast, turn right was all they would say. AP Photo

2001-2002 Production

Rank	Name	Race 1		Race 2		Race 3		Race 4		Totals	2 Drop
		Race 1	BP	Race 2	BP	Race 3	BP	Race 4	BP		
		9/8		9/29		10/20		11/10			
1	John Shortsleeves	75	5	100	5	100	5	85		380	220
2	Greg Lukas	100	5	85	5	50	5	95		345	210
3	Eric Eckhardt	85	5	95	5	95	5	80		370	205
4	Paul Avis	95	5	90	5	85	5			285	200
5	Hakim Harris	70	5			75	5	90		250	180
6	Chris Nawn	65	5	80	5	65	5	75		300	170
7	Marc Gosselin			75	5	80	5	40		210	170
8	Jeb Bowron			65	5			100		170	170
9	Gerry Cullan	90	5	70				45		210	165
10	Brian Skidmore	80	5	55				70		215	160
11	Benny Leyro					90	5	55		155	155
12	Joe Eastlack	60	5	60	5	60	5	65		265	145
13	John Compomeschi	55	5			70				130	130
14	Henry Hayes	50	5	50	5			60		175	125
15	Tom Jahl					55		35			