

# THE ALLEY

# BRING US THE WINNERS



GET YOUR  
**zoom**  
ON

**THANK YOU, GIL**

**T**he folks at Mazda have fun racing. Maybe that is because they are racers. Maybe because there are more people racing Mazda MX-5 Miatas, RX-8s, MAZDA 3s, MAZDA 6s, RX-7s and vintage Mazda models on any given weekend than any other brand.

So, you can appreciate that when it comes to their own programs, the folks at Mazda take their racing seriously. The last couple of years did not provide much winning of American Le Mans Series races and spraying champagne type fun.

Mazda made some big moves for the 2009 ALMS season, moving to a two-car LMP2 class entry with one of America's premier sports car teams, Dyson Racing. Then Mazda created a technical arsenal with Lola Cars, MICHELIN® tires and BP fuel.

The team developed the cars while racing them and the experience and persistence of the Dyson team and Lola cars improved the Mazda Lola's performance at every race. In July, at Dyson's home track at Lime Rock Park, Connecticut, the #20 Dyson Mazda Lola of Butch Leitzinger and Marino Franchitti delivered the first victory for the new program.

The next few races looked promising and the Dyson Mazdas were in contention at every race. Then, came the Petit Le Mans, one of the premier races of the year.

The Dyson Mazda team stepped up to the opportunity to race the #16 car of Chris Dyson and Guy Smith with a new BP blended biobutanol fuel.

That meant the #16 would not be officially "classified" and thus not eligible for points or prizes.

Naturally, they "won" the race, but it was not official.

The #20 sister car, driven by Leitzinger, Franchitti and Ben Devlin, ran the standard E10 fuel and followed them across the line to claim the victory.

That win makes Mazda the first Japanese car maker to score wins at the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Petit Le Mans.

A win at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca to close out the season by collecting the big trophies and spraying champagne on their own stage, now that would be great fun.

And the perfect way for motorsports boss John Doonan and the Mazda team to end the season that the Mazda ALMS program found its zoom.

# MAZDA GETS ITS zoom ON





**TECH  
TALK**  
by Marshall Pruett  
SPEEDtv.com  
**SPEED**

# FANCY A NEW CHALLENGE?

**S**o you want to go prototype racing in the American Le Mans Series on a budget?

Try the new Le Mans Challenge Prototype (LMPC) class on for size, and it might just be the answer you've been looking for.

Born from the Formula Le Mans Series that started earlier this year, the ORECA-Chevrolet platform offers entrants a familiar looking car and an instantly recognizable sound in one cost-conscious package.

"When I climbed in, it felt just like the Courage LMP2 car I drove at Le

Mans in 2004," said Gunnar Jeannette, the first person to test drive the FLM09 chassis.

"And that's because it's almost identical to that car. It has a very proven history; it's something that has a lot of miles and development on it, and that should help everyone get up to speed quickly."

Powered by a Chevrolet LS3 V8 engine, the 430hp unit is between 50 to 100hp shy of a top LMP2 motor, but according to Jeannette, it isn't lacking in miles per hour.

"You can feel that the motor doesn't have that last bit of power a turbo LMP2 engine has, but that's not

critical in this car because all of the engines are the same," continued Jeannette.

"It gets up and moves, for sure, and the Chevy is completely linear in its power delivery.

"It's not so powerful that a gentleman driver will be overwhelmed, but it's not so underpowered that professional drivers will get bored. It's a nice balance."

In testing at Road Atlanta the day after the downpour and deluge that was Petit Le Mans, Jeannette posted a fast lap of 1:17.8 that compared favorably to the 1:12.5 set by the LMP2 class winning

Lola-Mazda from Dyson Racing.

"Keep in mind the track today is completely green and that the FLM09 has a very 'European' setup; it's far too stiffly sprung for a bumpy track like Road Atlanta, and there's a lot of time to be found just in tailoring the setup to suit the track," said Jeannette.

"There's still a few seconds to be found in the suspension, for sure, but the tires were awesome. I'd like to come up with an elaborate description for their grip, but it's pretty easy to say: they're Michelins!"



*“Bring Us the Winners!”*

*As the exciting 2009 American Le Mans Series season prepares to literally race into sunset here at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, we bring you the winners to date in an exciting season that began seven months and several thousand miles ago.*

# WINNERS

**T**he 2009 ALMS season opened at the Twelve Hours of Sebring in March with the silver of Audi, the blue of Lowe’s Fernandez Racing Acura, the Velocity yellow of Corvette, and the signature red Risi Competizione Ferrari all taking major wins at one of the world’s premier endurance events.

The series moved up the road to St. Petersburg for round #2.

There, the green and black of the Patrón Highcroft Racing Acura scored its first LMP1 win as the Lowe’s Fernandez Acura doubled up and the red and silver Flying Lizard Motorsports Porsche started a record five race win streak that looked like it may never end.

The series went coast-to-coast for Round #3 at Long Beach where the red, blue, and black of de Ferran Motorsports Acura found its long awaited first victory as Corvette made a successful farewell GT1 appearance while Fernandez and the Lizards again were untouched.

The de Ferran, Fernandez and Lizards squads enjoyed their victories at Long Beach so much they rang up another

round at Salt Lake in round #4 before the series went on hiatus for the 24 Hours of Le Mans. There the Peugeot, Corvette and Risi squads topped the podium.

Returning to action in round #5 at Lime Rock, a hometown win for Patrón Highcroft seemed likely, but fate had other plans and the de Ferran streak grew to three.

The Lizards racked up win number four. Scoring a big breakthrough win was the relentless Dyson squad with the beautiful Mazda powered Lola.

The action was fast and the competition furious at Mid-Ohio as de Ferran scored an emotional win.

Gil de Ferran announced his plans to step out of the cockpit at season end. Fernandez played a masterful strategy card to regain the winner’s spot, and the Flying Lizard Porsche outdueled a strong field that now included the new GT2 Corvette for win number five.

The seventh stop, America’s National Racing Park, Road America, saw the winds change as Patrón Highcroft scored an important win and the white, blue and black BMW Rahal Letterman

squad turned in a dominant 1-2 performance to stop the Lizard streak. One thing that did not change was the LMP2 result as Fernandez racked up another score over the Dyson Mazdas and the Porsche RS Spyder of CytoSport.

It was on to Canada for round #8 at Mosport as the championship battles tightened.

The Patrón Highcroft Acura prevailed again to extend its points lead while the Lowe’s Fernandez Acura squad cemented their title. Corvette Racing prevailed in a pitched battle with Risi Ferrari to score its first GT2 class win.

The Petit Le Mans saw the return of Audi, Peugeot, a special appearance by Oreca, the debut of the Drayson Lola coupe and the unveiling of a Jaguar GT2 entry.

Heavy rains put a premature end to a great battle between Audi and Peugeot. Peugeot took a 1-2 victory ending Audi’s nine-year win streak.

In the LMP2 class, Dyson Racing’s Mazda-powered Lola took the win, the first here for Mazda at the fabled track.

Risi Competizione won the GT2 class to secure the

sports car endurance ‘Triple Play’ with their victories at the Twelve Hours of Sebring, 24 Hours of Le Mans and Petit Le Mans.

As for the season-long championships, Patrón Highcroft Acura and their drivers lead de Ferran Motorsports and are poised to claim the LMP1 Championships if they complete 70% of the race distance at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.

In the LMP2 class, Lowe’s Fernandez Racing and Acura swept the team, driver and manufacturer titles on the strength of seven class wins.

The American Le Mans Series championships were the first for Acura, Lowe’s Fernandez Racing and drivers Adrian Fernandez and Luis Diaz in the Series.

Flying Lizard Motorsports needs to finish in the top 10 in the GT2 class here this weekend to repeat their class championships.

Regardless of the results here, all of the manufacturers teams and drivers will have one thing in common, Michelin has again laid claim to all the tire manufacturer’s championships for the fourth consecutive year.

# DIJYANO

Did you know?

## TRIVIA QUIZ?

► What is the shortest 1,000-mile race in ALMS history? Due to the heavy rains, the 2009 Petit Le Mans was just 467.36 miles (184 laps).



► When the American Le Mans Series and the Austin Hatcher Foundation wanted a special auction prize to raise funds for their charity, MICHELIN tire designers decided to create a special tire saluting Corvette Racing. The hand carved MICHELIN tire includes the logos of the ALMS, the foundation, Michelin, a Corvette profile, the "Jake" C6R logo, and the signatures of the Corvette Racing drivers. The tire will be on display at the SEMA Show in Las Vegas before the auction later this month. See [www.hatcherfoundation.org](http://www.hatcherfoundation.org) and [www.hatchshouse.org](http://www.hatchshouse.org) for the details.

## PASS THE POPCORN



► When a deluge red flagged the recent Petit Le Mans race at Road Atlanta, the veteran Corvette Racing team was unfazed. "We just popped a movie into the pit video recorder," said a Corvette Racing engineer. No word on what movie they were watching. Maybe Finding Nemo or 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea? Given the level of prep by Corvette and the Pratt & Miller team, we are confident that popcorn and refreshments were also available.

## (UN)CLASSIFIED

► When the #16 Dyson Mazda Lola crossed the finish line to win the LMP2 class at Petit Le Mans, drivers Chris Dyson and Guy Smith probably figured it was just their luck. Their car was racing with a special biobutanol environmental fuel being evaluated by BP and the ALMS for possible use next year and had agreed to run "unclassified" meaning they were not eligible for points or prizes. Racing icon Rob Dyson summed it up. Through the years we have had a lot of good cars and a lot of bad cars but I've never had an "unclassified" car before..

## 99 & COUNTING



► After claiming five consecutive victories earlier in the season with Flying Lizard Motorsports, Porsche's quest for a milestone 100th ALMS win unexpectedly stalled as BMW, Corvette and Ferrari have taken the three most recent rounds in the bruising GT2 category. Porsche gets three shots in the GT2 class with Farnbacher Loles and a pair of Lizards. We won't be surprised if the victory comes from the highly impressive #6 CytoSport Porsche RS Spyder racing in the LMP2 class. Klaus Graf and team owner Greg Pickett have made the podium in all three of their starts.

► Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca is one of the 'original four' North American road racing circuits to have held a Series event in every year in its history (1999-2009). The other three include Sebring International Raceway, Mosport International Raceway and Road Atlanta.





One of the classiest and most successful drivers in open wheel and sports car racing, Gil de Ferran, is stepping out of the cockpit after this weekend's race here in Monterey.

De Ferran, the 2003 Indy 500 winner and twice series champion, joined the ALMS with his own Acura prototype team in early 2008.

He and co-driver Simon Pagenaud scored their first victory at Long Beach earlier this year. That was so much fun that they won the next three races, including Mid-Ohio.

His success as a driver and team owner tells you about Gil de Ferran's talent and dedication. That is only part of the story.

It was just one year ago, that de Ferran's new team faced near tragedy at Mid-Ohio. A pit fire critically injured fueler Keith Jones. Returning to the scene on the anniversary of the incident, de Ferran put his car on the ALMS pole, and then announced his plans to retire from the cockpit at the end of the season.

The next day he took the checkered flag to win the race. There were tears all around as a sobbing de Ferran exited the car. He embraced the still healing Jones and took him to the podium to stand between de Ferran and Pagenaud to claim the winner's trophy (pictured left).

If you cannot think of anyone else who would deliver the pole and win, then hail his injured crew member, you have a sense of what Gil de Ferran means to his family, friends, and his sport.



## MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY SCHEDULE

4:40 pm - 5:10 pm	Test Session - ALMS (GT2/Challenge)
5:10 pm - 5:40 pm	Test Session - ALMS (P1 / P2)
5:40 pm - 6:40 pm	Test Session - ALMS (All Classes)

### FRIDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 am - 8:40 am	Practice - Star Mazda Championship
8:50 am - 9:35 am	Practice - Atlantic Championship
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Practice - ALMS (All Classes)
10:55 am - 11:25 am	Practice - Patrón GT3 Challenge
11:35 am - 11:55 am	Practice - SPEED Touring
12:00 pm - 12:20 pm	Practice - SPEED GT
1:10 pm - 1:50 pm	Practice - Star Mazda Championship
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Practice - ALMS (All Classes)
3:10 pm - 3:30 pm	Qualifying - ALMS (GT2 / Challenge)
3:35 pm - 3:55 pm	Qualifying - ALMS (P1 / P2)

4:05 pm - 4:35 pm	Practice - Atlantic Championship
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Practice - Patrón GT3 Challenge
5:25 pm - 5:45 pm	Practice - SPEED Touring
5:50 pm - 6:10 pm	Practice - SPEED GT

### SATURDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 am - 8:45 am	Qualifying - Star Mazda Championship
8:55 am - 9:35 am	Qualifying - Atlantic Championship
9:45 am - 10:10 am	Warm Up - ALMS (All Classes)
10:25 am - 10:55 am	Patrón GT3 Challenge Race #1
11:05 am - 11:25 am	Qualifying - SPEED Touring
11:30 am - 11:50 am	Qualifying - SPEED GT
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	ALMS Autograph Session
12:50 pm - 1:35 pm	Star Mazda Championship
2:45 pm - 6:45 pm	Monterey Sports Car Championships Presented by Patrón for the ALMS Race Round (10) - 4 Hours

# 2009 FAN FAVORITES



## World Class



**ACURA**  
**Brabham/Sharp** Michelin  
 Patrón Highcroft Racing • Acura ARX-02a



**LOLA**  
**J. Field/C. Field** Dunlop  
 Intersport Racing • Lola B06/10



**ACURA**  
**de Ferran/Pagenaud** Michelin  
 de Ferran Motorsports • Acura ARX-02a



**LOLA**  
**Drayson/Crocker** Michelin  
 Drayson Racing • Lola B09 60



**PORSCHE**  
**Pickett/Graf** Michelin  
 Team Cytosport • Porsche RS Spyder



**ACURA**  
**Fernandez/Diaz** Michelin  
 Lowe's Fernandez Racing • Acura ARX-01b



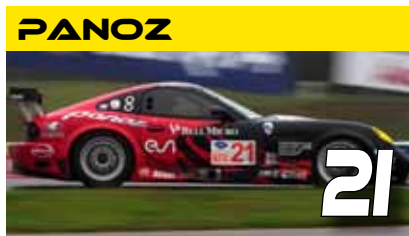
**MAZDA**  
**Dyson/Smith** Michelin  
**Leitzinger/M. Franchitti**  
 Dyson Racing • Lola B09 86 Mazda



**CHEVROLET**  
**Magnussen/O'Connell** Michelin  
**Gavin/Beretta**  
 Corvette Racing • Chevrolet Corvette C6.R



**DODGE**  
**Feinberg/Hall** Dunlop  
 Primetime Racing Group • Dodge Viper  
 Competition Coupe



**PANOZ**  
**Farnbacher/James** Yokohama  
 Panoz Team PTG • Panoz Esperante GTLM



**FORD**  
**D. Robertson/A. Robertson/** Dunlop  
**Murry**  
 Robertson Racing, LLC • Ford GT MK 7



**PORSCHE**  
**Law/Neiman/van Overbeek** Michelin  
**Bergmeister/Long**  
 Flying Lizard Motorsports • Porsche 911 GT3 RSR



**FERRARI**  
**Melo/Kaffer** Michelin  
 Risi Competizione • Ferrari 430 GT



**PORSCHE**  
**Henzler/Werner** Michelin  
 Farnbacher Loles Racing • Porsche 911 GT3 RSR



**BMW**  
**Hand/Auberlen** Dunlop  
**Milner/D. Müller**  
 BMW Rahal Letterman Racing • BMW E93 M3

