

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Lotus Cup USA Round 7 Race Report – Buttonwillow Raceway

*Sonoma, CA, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011* – The 2011 season finale at Buttonwillow Raceway was an exciting finish to the inaugural year of Lotus Cup USA. As the forecast showed rain showers throughout the weekend, competitors were on edge on whether or not the event would be on wet or dry track. Fortunately, the storm passed through late Friday evening to set the stage for Round 7 of the Lotus Cup USA action.

With double points on the line and championships being decided at this event, racers were leaving it all on the table for the season finale. In the Time Attack, Andy Kern made it a clean sweep of overall victories and 2-Eleven class wins with a blistering 1:59.1 lap time. Jack Fried also broke into the 59's with a fantastic lap time of 1:59.9 to take 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2-Eleven. Eddie Park improved his times throughout the weekend to take 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2-Eleven. In Cup, Ramon Niebla got himself another victory with Mike Bryant and series newcomer Miguel Broce rounding out the podium. In Production, Peter Mokran ran an impressive 2:02.4 in his N/A Exige for 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in Production. Thomas MacMillan made his first trip to the podium since joining our series mid-season finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Production followed by Greg Linderer in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Time Attack set the stage for an epic season finale. Andy Kern led the field to the green flag once again, with Jack Fried looking to get a jump into turn one. Kern had a great start, leading the field into the first few corners. As he raced to "Riverside", Kern missed his turn-in point and dropped wheels in the fast sweeper. He spun in front of the entire field, which narrowly missed him, and was forced to retire due to an excessive amount of mud stuck in his car. This handed the lead to Jack Fried who was able to open a small gap on the field. Ramon Niebla made an impressive start to work his way all the way up to 2<sup>nd</sup> until he made a slight mistake entering the "bus stop" and spun. With mud on his slicks, he would slip and slide around the racetrack until he found himself stuck in the mud on the exit of "Phil Hill" forcing a full-course caution. Fried saw his lead disappear and a re-start with Park and Bonnano would definitely be challenging.

Fried got a great jump on the re-start and held off a hard charging Eddie Park and Robb Bonanno for his 2<sup>nd</sup> overall victory of the year. Park and Bonnano were nose to tail throughout the final few laps, Park missed a shift and Bonnano was able to sneak by him on the last lap before the esses to take 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and in 2-Eleven. Park would finish 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 2-Eleven with Mike Bryant taking the Cup win over Roy Sakioka and Ramon Niebla. Peter Mokran drove an impressive race to take the Production class win and finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Rounding out the Production class podium was Victor Brandt and Greg Linderer.

Outstanding battles took place throughout the entire race and really set the tone going into the winter break that the 2012 Lotus Cup USA season is going to be a breakout year for the series. We thank our drivers, sponsors, family and friends for supporting our first season. Stay tuned for the announcement of our 2011 Class Champions, 2012 schedule, new rulebook and updates for next season.

Lotus Cup USA Sponsors: Lotus Cars (Title Sponsor), Motul USA (Official Lubricants), Hankook Tires USA (Official Tire), Dietsch Werks, Dynamic Racing Solutions, Mulholland Motorsports, Sector 111, British Racing Group and Lotus Garage.

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### **About Lotus Cup USA**

Lotus Cup USA features an exciting mix of time attack and wheel-to-wheel racing for Lotus enthusiasts throughout North America. Officially factory backed by Lotus Cars, Lotus Cup USA participants will enjoy competing on the best racetracks in the country through professionally run motorsports events for awards, prizes, and, of course, bragging rights. The highly competitive series features multiple classes racing together for action everywhere on the racetrack, as well as a VIP Client Experience and Driving Academy for the new track enthusiast. Lotus Cup USA is licensed to 777 Racing, Inc, a Nevada Corporation, by Lotus Group UK.