

THE RESULTS

How they fared, in lap-time order per class.

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SECTOR 3:

Sector 3, the Spiral, demands self-control because it's a low-speed section that is extremely technical. The elevation changes stress a car's suspension while the driver simultaneously works the brakes and the steering.

SECTOR 3	peak speed, mph	minimum speed, mph	exit speed, mph	sector time, sec
PORSCHE 911 TURBO	102.9	41.8	70.6	13.6
CHEVROLET CORVETTE Z06	109.5	39.5	76.3	13.0
PORSCHE 911 GT3	106.2	42.7	73.2	12.9
LOTUS EXIGE S	98.8	41.4	68.1	12.8
AUDI R8	100.3	39.0	68.4	13.2
AUDI RS 4	98.7	38.3	67.0	13.6
CHEVROLET CORVETTE	102.0	39.7	71.0	13.1
FORD SHELBY GT500	101.0	39.0	69.4	13.6
BMW 335i COUPE	98.4	40.3	62.3	13.5
BMW Z4 M COUPE	97.2	34.1	64.8	13.7
PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP	88.2	38.0	65.4	13.8
MAZDASPEED 3	93.5	38.1	67.3	13.7
MINI COOPER S	86.3	37.4	63.3	14.1

■ LL1 ■ LL2 ■ LL3 ■ LL4 **BEST IN CLASS.**

SECTOR 2	peak speed, mph	average speed, mph	exit speed, mph	sector time, sec
PORSCHE 911 TURBO	124.1	107.0	103.9	9.1
CHEVROLET CORVETTE Z06	130.8	113.6	106.3	8.6
PORSCHE 911 GT3	126.9	110.4	101.1	8.8
LOTUS EXIGE S	118.8	113.0	109.7	8.6
AUDI R8	117.9	108.1	97.1	9.0
AUDI RS 4	119.9	107.9	102.3	9.1
CHEVROLET CORVETTE	122.0	112.5	103.7	8.7
FORD SHELBY GT500	120.9	108.3	102.1	9.1
BMW 335i COUPE	117.9	109.7	106.5	8.9
BMW Z4 M COUPE	117.9	111.2	104.3	8.7
PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP	116.6	109.1	101.5	8.9
MAZDASPEED 3	115.4	108.4	99.3	9.0
MINI COOPER S	107.5	103.6	101.5	9.3

■ LL1 ■ LL2 ■ LL3 ■ LL4 **BEST IN CLASS.**

SECTOR 2:

The Climbing Esses are dicey because two of the four turns apex at hilltops. The cars feel as if they were airborne midturn while traveling at more than 100 mph. It's a great test of a car's body control and stability and left us all with more than a few additional gray hairs.

SECTOR 4:

The wonderfully thrilling set of fast switchbacks in Sector 4 tests a car's grip level, control modulation, steering precision, and transient response. Smoothness is the key here. If you stab the brakes or yank the steering wheel, you'll overload one end of the car and lose grip. Thread the car properly, however, and it'll sail through.

SECTOR 4	entry speed, mph	average speed, mph	exit speed, mph	sector time, sec
PORSCHE 911 TURBO	64.1	73.5	82.9	15.5
CHEVROLET CORVETTE Z06	63.2	74.6	87.0	15.1
PORSCHE 911 GT3	67.9	77.1	87.9	15.0
LOTUS EXIGE S	76.5	77.6	88.0	14.5
AUDI R8	64.2	74.6	82.9	15.1
AUDI RS 4	63.8	71.6	81.3	15.8
CHEVROLET CORVETTE	68.4	75.3	87.6	15.0
FORD SHELBY GT500	66.9	74.4	85.0	15.5
BMW 335i COUPE	64.9	72.4	83.2	15.5
BMW Z4 M COUPE	63.1	73.0	82.7	15.3
PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP	62.2	72.6	78.6	15.5
MAZDASPEED 3	59.7	72.3	78.0	15.7
MINI COOPER S	62.3	70.2	77.2	16.0

■ LL1 ■ LL2 ■ LL3 ■ LL4 **BEST IN CLASS.**

SECTOR 5	entry speed, mph	minimum speed, mph	exit speed, mph	sector time, sec
PORSCHE 911 TURBO	75.1	66.7	98.6	9.6
CHEVROLET CORVETTE Z06	73.7	67.9	105.4	9.2
PORSCHE 911 GT3	73.6	64.4	105.0	9.1
LOTUS EXIGE S	73.9	64.1	95.0	9.6
AUDI R8	81.0	65.1	97.2	9.5
AUDI RS 4	75.7	60.3	93.3	10.0
CHEVROLET CORVETTE	73.5	62.7	99.4	9.5
FORD SHELBY GT500	73.3	64.8	95.7	9.6
BMW 335i COUPE	70.6	62.1	93.2	10.1
BMW Z4 M COUPE	70.0	64.7	94.1	9.8
PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP	68.1	58.9	88.4	10.2
MAZDASPEED 3	70.5	62.0	89.6	10.2
MINI COOPER S	64.4	56.0	84.2	10.9

■ LL1 ■ LL2 ■ LL3 ■ LL4 **BEST IN CLASS.**

SECTOR 1	4.2-mile road course, lap time/mph	peak speed, mph	cornering grip, g	exit speed, mph	sector time, sec
PORSCHE 911 TURBO	3:05.8/79.9	145.7	0.96	65.1	8.9
CHEVROLET CORVETTE Z06	2:58.2/82.7	153.1	0.97	67.3	8.9
PORSCHE 911 GT3	3:01.8/81.3	145.3	0.91	68.5	9.3
LOTUS EXIGE S	3:04.5/79.8	124.3	0.96	68.4	8.6
AUDI R8	3:04.6/79.6	138.2	0.98	66.8	8.7
AUDI RS 4	3:11.2/77.0	135.2	0.85	65.6	9.2
CHEVROLET CORVETTE	3:03.6/80.0	140.1	0.95	71.0	9.1
FORD SHELBY GT500	3:05.9/79.2	136.2	0.88	67.6	9.0
BMW 335i COUPE	3:10.5/77.2	131.5	0.89	66.1	9.1
BMW Z4 M COUPE	3:11.7/77.0	131.2	0.90	65.7	9.2
PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP	3:15.7/75.1	122.2	0.84	66.8	9.1
MAZDASPEED 3	3:16.0/75.1	122.6	0.85	66.8	9.2
MINI COOPER S	3:22.9/72.4	113.0	0.79	62.5	9.4

■ LL1 ■ LL2 ■ LL3 ■ LL4 **BEST IN CLASS.**

SECTOR 1:

Here, the fastest part of the track leads into one of the slowest turns, so Sector 1 worked the brakes hard. From there, the initially tight Horse Shoe widens at the exit, which puts a premium on a car's handling balance and its ability to dole out power smoothly.



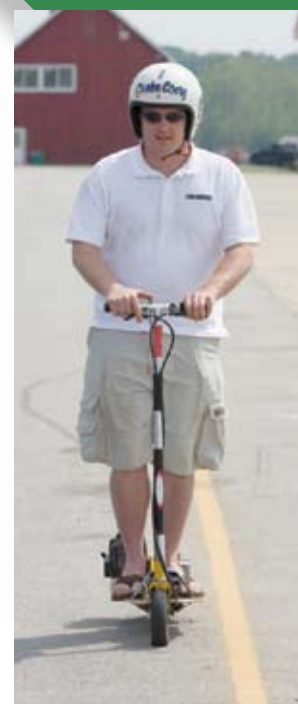
SECTOR 5:

The so-called Hog Pen is a quick turn because it descends and then levels off, which provides a grip-enhancing compression event. A good drive through Sector 5 is critical for a quick lap because it leads onto the front straight.

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

THE GRAND COURSE (4.2 MILES)

SERIOUSLY
Our Mosquito DX scooter finished a distant last on the 4.2-mile road course with a time of 14:32.0.



500 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL

403 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL

378 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL

HORSE SHOE