

JMB RACING USA TEAM PARTY

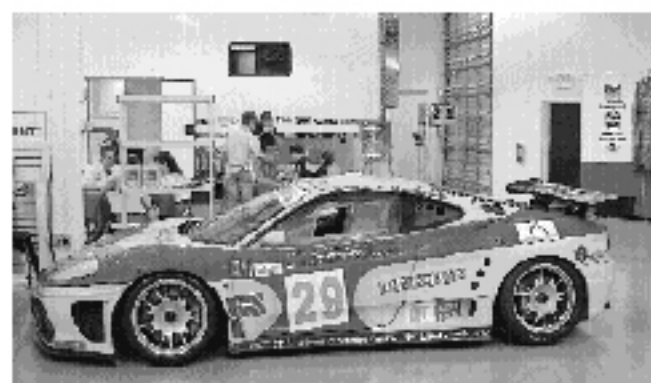
One week prior to Miami's Grand Prix Americas, the Florida Region and JMB Racing USA got together for a little wine and dine at JMB's Miramar, FL headquarters. The event was in preview to the upcoming race weekend, and to get the newly formed American Le Mans Series team more acquainted with the local Florida FCA gang. The turnout was great, and partygoers were treated to some fine Italian wine and everything from sandwiches to sushi. The well-known number 28 and 29 Ferrari 360 Modena GTs that JMB campaigns in the ALMS were showcased along with their legendary Giesse liveried 333SP and a race spec F40. Team drivers Stephen Gregoire and Elizeo Salazar, both also Indy Racing League veterans, were on hand to rub it in everyone's face as how they are the ones who get to drive these beautiful pieces of Italian machinery.

The affair went off without a hitch, with everyone getting a rare up-close look at the inner workings of two fully race spec ALMS 360s. We were even treated to a late night high-revving symphony courtesy of the number 28 360 which left everyone with a

brain-num bing ringing in the ears and smiles on their faces.

The JMB race shop looked really great. It was set up with a buffet and wine bar, tables with a television re-playing this season's ALMS races; engines and drivers gear were also on display, and the team transporter open for all to explore. The scene was more like a Ferrari themed club on South Beach than a race shop; the only thing missing was suspicious valet parking and a red velvet rope.

Overall it was a really fun night, we all had a blast. For those of you who missed it, you truly missed it. But, there is talk of doing something of its sorts again at the 12 Hours of Sebring this March at JMB's paddock hospitality tent. So maybe we'll see you there. Until then, we'll see you at Cavallino in January!





KARTING CHALLENGE AT RACERS COUNTRY CLUB

On Sunday, October the fifth, thirty drivers and their fans, from the Florida Region of the Ferrari Club of America, descended upon Racers Country Club for the first annual Karting Challenge. Racers Country Club, in Miami, has been offering shifterkart courses to drivers of all abilities, from novice to Champ car drivers, for over seven years. As all professional drivers know, karting is the purest form of motorsport, and a great way to hone one's skills. Not to mention they are serious fun.

The FCA karting challenge was designed to give drivers a level playing field in which to display their driving prowess, in addition to sampling the six speed shifterkarts. Over the course of the day, the realization of 2 Gz' of cornering capability started to set in. Many drivers made significant progress. After each of the thirty drivers had plenty of laps to practice in the twentyhorse power single speed karts, bragging rights were to be determined by a four lap, single car qualifying session.

By the end of the day, there were several surprises and many smiling faces. The fastest times of the day were predictably set by some karting regulars in the group, proving that there is no substitute for seat time. There were awards given for the best dressed, the fastest, the craziest and the slowest, to name a few. Ray Maranges, his two sons and daughter made everyone take notice as to how serious they were as Ray made his best attempt at crashing his son out, a true family man. In an apparent role reversal, Dr. Bob Mack learned what it feels like to be at the not so pointy end of the time charts. Bob achieved the slowest time of the day. In fairness, Dr. Bob only completed ten practice laps prior to the competition. Racers Country Club member Jeff McKee showed everyone why he is so quick in his car, as he gave a proper demonstration in his Shifterkart. No matter how fast the race car is, the shifterkart makes it feel slow.

With the success of the first event, plans to run another FCA karting event are already in the works. With so much at stake, many drivers have already booked "secret" test sessions in order to prepare of the next event. Don't miss it!

text: Bruce McQuiston / photos: Gerry Coeppicus



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