



## ODE TO THE TEXAS PRO SEDAN SERIES ORGANIZERS AND COMPETITORS FOR THE 2016 SEASON

By Bruce Mabrito

It's really incredible that the Texas Pro Sedan series is wrapping up our 41<sup>st</sup> super season,  
Not one of us lifted in the middle of a corner, because we really love racing for good reason.  
About 25 Texas Pro Sedan racers signed up to compete and race in this 2016 year,  
And unlike Dale Earnhardt Jr. of Cup fame, not one of us did it just for a Budweiser beer....

With this successful season, TPS racers have run over 550 events in our 41 years,  
On 21-different paved oval and road racing tracks, for which we have loud cheers.  
In those 41-colorful racing seasons, we've had 16-different Texas Pro Sedan champs,  
And we have all been part of this TPS series, as we arrive and put down our trailer ramps.

The TPS ladies and gents are great stock car competitors and they are most certainly hard-core,  
And no one can say that our 35-lap races ever put anyone to sleep or might be called a bore!  
Through the close-racing, blown engines, spins in the turns, fender-rubbing and crashes,  
To my knowledge, there has only been one Texas Pro Sedan car that has burned to ashes.

To the Texas Pro Sedan Series 2016 season champion, we honor James Hogan,  
His quick No. 1 Muscular Mustang from Spicewood, TX: Quick, Look, he really ran!  
James Hogan fought consistently and hard for this championship, all TPS 41<sup>st</sup> season long,  
And his talented team (including himself) deserves much applause, since they did little wrong.  
This No. 1 Team did have its ups and downs, and we never knew where James would steer next;  
He finished well, enough times, to win the Championship without putting on the rest of us, a hex.

Sergio Hexsel of Garden Ridge and Randy Lee of Corpus Christi were second and third this year,  
Both hammered the pavement hard all season long, and neither of them lifted out of fear!  
Sergio piloted his No. 20 bright yellow VW GTI super-smoothly, passing car after car after car;  
Randy pushed his No. 30 Ford Mustang to the max race after race, but it could only go so far...

Mike Knotts of Universal City and Germany drove his No. 77 Scirocco hard, each and every race,  
And after ups and downs and all-arounds, Mike finished the season in a respectable fourth place.  
Fifth was Lisa Sandoval of Corpus Christi in her bright-colored No. 28 Ford Pinto, running well;  
She and her family blended Ford engine reliability and skill, so her many fans said " Gee Swell ! "

Bruce Mabrito pushed his little 1600cc, overweight No. 10 blue Toyota to sixth place overall,  
Having been eclipsed by Lisa's good finish at our last event, so she celebrated at a nice CC Mall !

Lalo Leal of Corpus Christi is always a threat in his No. 26 Mustang which was again very loud;  
Scoring 49-TPS points this year, taking seventh place in the series, making him somewhat proud.  
Lalo is every racer's friend and is helpful and always quick, and has very good motorsports sense,  
But we were all truly sorry to see him set a TPS high-altitude record for his Ford climbing a fence.

Cesar Garrido drove his No. 81 Ford well this season, but experienced problems that halted him,  
This Katy Motorsports Flash was not able to display his skills, finishing eighth with thoughts grim.

Veteran driver Bob Sherland guided several cars this season to ninth place, amassing 36-points,  
All the while showing his abilities behind the steering wheel, and staying out of odd joints.

My friend Tommy Goldman from Corpus pushed his Nissan 200 sideways through all the turns;  
He certainly worked hard to earn 10<sup>th</sup> place in the championship in his 01, which did not burn.

Our TPS Series Rookie-of-the-Year 2016 was Allan Garrido, driving the sleek No. 59 Ford;  
He displayed great heads-up motorsports awareness through the season and he was not bored.

This is a very special section of this Ode to the Texas Pro Sedan racers, for our buddy Jeff Meeks  
Who is always there to help all of us, no matter what we have done wrong or what we seek.  
Jeff, our friend, our Savior-when-we're-broken-on-the-side-of-the-road, and our fellow Racer,  
You're so modest and helpful, you get us back on the green flag track—you are our Stroker Acer!

Each of us in this room owe MUCH to our TPS Officials and our TPS Sponsors,  
Because without them, you and I would be up the proverbial creek without oars.  
Though you don't hear it enough from each of us, TPS Officials and Staff,  
WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE EACH OF YOU, EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE TO KICK US IN THE ASS.

It's really hard to start listing our entire Officials' names for fear of missing even just one,  
But certainly, David & Becky Mackey and Neil & Terry Upchurch, for what they have done!  
And also, Mike and Charysse Knotts for all their contributions to make this series rock & roll,  
And Bill Jordan, Russ Martin, Janet's Cakery, and Jerry Spencer, for setting us a very high goal.

There were almost 20 of us, who raced in these 41st Texas Pro Sedan series events this year,  
But time and space make it tough to list them all, so let's just say that we give them a big cheer!  
Special thanks to our sponsors who helped the Texas Pro Sedans series provide a great show,  
And here's hoping our 42<sup>nd</sup> season of competition will have high car-counts worthy of the tow!  
In this season, we wish all our Texas Pro Sedan friends a wonderful Christmas and New Year,  
And you all have an opportunity to be successful and happy, as you shift your life into top gear!