

# Williams and Drennan Drop in and Check Out in Spec Miata at COTA

The Circuit of the Americas track is an FIA-specification 3.427-mile track located in Austin, Texas. Will Faules our Regional Director has heard the call from all of his NASA peeps, ‘We want to race at COTA! We want to race at COTA!’

Faules made it happen with NASA Texas’ first race at this premier track — on Memorial Day weekend, no less! To say the track is first class is an understatement. It has 20 turns, 11 lefts and 9 rights. It was a thrill for many of the drivers who had never put a tire on this track before. I know I speak for all of us: Thank you, Will for making it happen! We appreciate it!

The weather was hot, humid, hot and hotter. Temperatures in the racecars were reaching 130 degrees plus. Most drivers ran their cool suits, and Winding Road Racing had a gear tent set up for anything drivers might need. They ran out of hydration systems by Saturday. Hydration was key!

NASA Rocky Mountain’s

Daniel Williams led the field of 26 Miatas after grabbing pole position earlier in the day. He was followed by outside pole sitter, Lee Thomas and NASA NorCal’s Mark Drennan.

Daniel Williams led the race from start to finish. Early in the race, Lee Thomas and Trevor McCallion both in the top five, went for the same spot and caused each other to lose many positions. Winner Daniel Williams was followed by Mark Drennan and Michael Ross. The hard charger of the race went to Tyler Quance up eight positions to finish 12th. The fastest lap and new track record was Mark Drennan with a 2:45.199. Teen Mazda drivers, Danny Soufi led the way in P6, with Deriann Taylor in P11 and Ben Rail in P17.

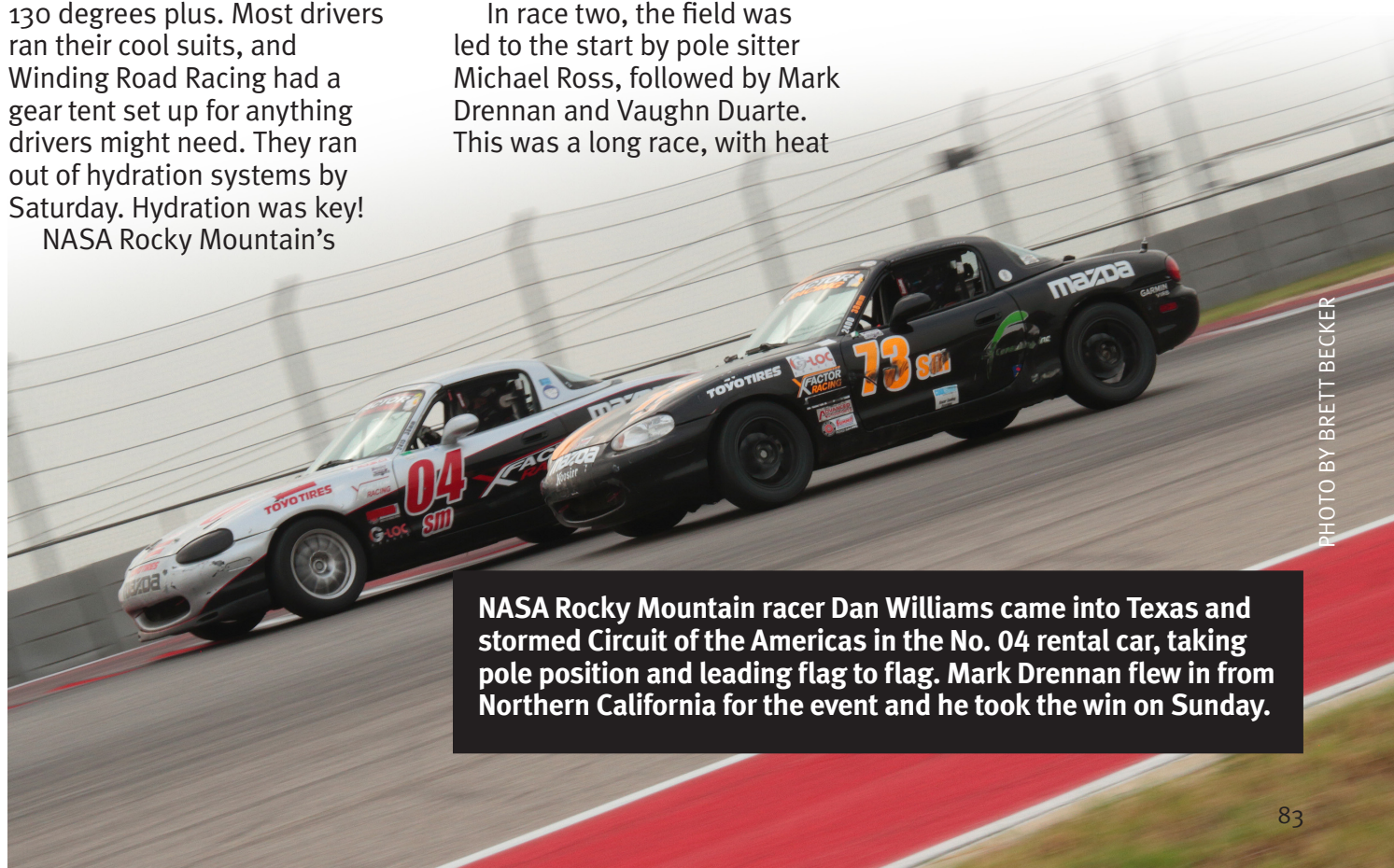
In race two, the field was led to the start by pole sitter Michael Ross, followed by Mark Drennan and Vaughn Duarte. This was a long race, with heat

again being a factor. There were numerous lead swaps, a few minor scuffles, transmissions failures and lots of excitement.

Mark Drennan won the race, closely followed by Michael Ross and Danny Soufi. The hard charger of the race was Gregory Porter up 13 spots to finish 12th. The fastest lap was a 2:45.009 by Teen Mazda Challenge points leader Danny Soufi. Teen Mazda Challenge drivers Danny Soufi led the way with a P3 finish, followed by Ben Rail in P17 and Deriann Taylor in P18. — **Melanie Taylor**

## RESULTS

[http://timingscoring.drivenasa.com/NASA\\_Texas\\_Region/2017-%20Official%20Results/May%20COTA/](http://timingscoring.drivenasa.com/NASA_Texas_Region/2017-%20Official%20Results/May%20COTA/)



NASA Rocky Mountain racer Dan Williams came into Texas and stormed Circuit of the Americas in the No. 04 rental car, taking pole position and leading flag to flag. Mark Drennan flew in from Northern California for the event and he took the win on Sunday.