



SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE EVENT UPDATE

No. 1

August 1, 2011

The Solar Car Challenge completed its 16th national event with a four-day race at the world famous Texas Motor Speedway. An incredible 29 teams filed an *Intent-to-Race* this year. Registrants from twelve states took part in the “Intent Process,” including California, Colorado, Texas, Connecticut, Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Florida, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

By race day, sixteen brave teams launched into the grueling Texas Heat that reached over 110 degrees in the “bowl” of the Speedway. “Every team that makes it to the race is a winner,” said Dr. Lehman Marks, Race Director. “The event is not about competition, it is about cooperation between the teams.”

Three teams distinguished themselves with outstanding records for the 2011 Solar Car Challenge. The Houston Solar Racing Team broke the existing track record with 433 laps accumulated over four days of racing.

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1st Place – Classic Division

Houston Lady Racers, Houston, Mississippi

1st Place – Open Division

Houston Solar Race Team, Houston, Mississippi

1st Place – Advanced Division

Solar Knights, South Plantation, Florida

The Solar Car Challenge was honored with *Remarks* presented into the *Congressional Record* by U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, 26th Congressional District, Texas. He asked the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to commend these hard-working, visionary students for a job well-done.

We greatly appreciate the sponsorship of the State Energy Conservation Office, the Texas Motor Speedway, the Lightner-Sams Foundation, the Dallas Mavericks/HDNet, the Kahn Education Foundation, Krage & Janvy, Gidget & Charles Wood, Freescale Semiconductors, PITSCO, the Texas Solar Energy Society, Ryder Trucks, the Winner’s Circle, and several anonymous donors for making this year’s event a huge success.

Overall Standings

Rank	Team	Total Laps	Distance (mi)
CLASSIC DIVISION			
1	The Houston Lady Racers	339	508.5
2	Saint Thomas Academy EVT	334	501.0
3	Bobcats Solar Racing Team	276	414.0
4	The Devon Panel	252	378.0
5	Solar Rain	225	337.5
6	Coppell Solar Racing Team	217	325.5
7	Newton County Solar Racing Team	208	312.0
8	Solar Pirates	195	292.5
9	Stony Point High School Solar Car Team	191	286.5
10	Piney Wood Raycers	175	262.5
11	Sunshine Mountain Traveler	155	232.5
12	BRMHS Solar	149	223.5
OPEN DIVISION			
1	Houston Solar Race Team	433	649.5
2	Skiddles	165	247.5
3	Walnut Solar Car	106	159.0
ADVANCED DIVISION			
1	Solar Knights	160	240.0



What's Ahead for the Solar Car Challenge in 2011-2012

- September 18, 2011 New Teams Workshop, Dallas
- November 17-19, 2011 Exhibit at Science Convention, Dallas
- January 21-22, 2012 Specialty Workshop for Teams, Dallas
- April 21, 2012 *The Plano Expo Race*, Plano, Texas
- July 13, 2012 New Teams Workshop, Fort Worth
- July 15, 2012 **17th SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE**

The Plano Expo Race

The Solar Car Challenge is considering hosting a one-day racing event that would coincide with the City of Plano's *Live Green Expo*, scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2012, and would coincide with Earth Day Weekend. We are anxious to host an event that would take place during the school year so that more students could see the solar racers. This would also give teams a chance to test their vehicles prior to the 2012 Solar Car Challenge, and assist in their fundraising. Details of this event will be forthcoming.



2011 Race Staff

SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE MEDIA COVERAGE

We were delighted with the media coverage from this year's Solar Car Challenge. Our project was featured 75 times in 26 states, including one clip on national TV from CNBC. Seven different TV markets in Texas showed clips. All the newscasts in Dallas/Fort Worth had cameras focused on our event including FOX, NBC, ABC, CBS, CW and TXA21.

- Total National Viewership – 10,110,319
- Total Local Viewership – 2,069,564

Dallas Morning News story and video journalism: <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20110718-students-shine-a-light-on-camaraderie-at-solar-car-challenge-at-texas-motor-speedway.ece>

Dallas Observer blog: <http://www.dallasobserver.com/slideshow/race-with-the-sun-the-solar-car-challenge-2011-33794926/>

Our friends at Texas Motor Speedway put together this great video showcasing the Solar Car Challenge: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C03MDrtOgpQ>



Solar Car Challenge Parade in Roanoke, Texas

Factoid: A solar car taking part in the 1999 Solar Car Challenge is on permanent display at the El Paso Museum. A solar car taking part in the 2010 Solar Car Challenge may become part of a permanent display at the *Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute of Oceanography*, La Jolla, CA.
