

# USGPRU

**United States Grand Prix Racers Union**



Photo by: Kory Hjelm  
Racers: Melissa Paris

The 2009 racing season continues to charge along with some outstanding racing action. Recently our racers headed north to the fabulous Road America road course for another east coast event.

The kids were up first on their Moriwaki MD250H race bikes, and proved that these spec bikes do not disappear when it comes to exciting racing. There were battles throughout the pack, but the best race was up front as Garrett Gerloff, Jake Lewis, and west-coaster Ryan Matter all jockeyed for position. They swapped the lead numerous times per lap and sometimes several times just on the front straight! The battle came down to the last lap and the last turn, but Garrett Gerloff narrowly nipped Lewis and Matter at the line to claim the \$2000 prize for the win.

The original USGPRU class, the Pilot 125GP race was up next and the combination of Garrett Gerloff on his Danny Turner built, hot-rod Moriwaki was the story of the race again. Due to a crash on Saturday, he was not able to qualify and had to start on the back row of the grid. But the superior torque of the Turner built four-stroke Honda motor allowed him to jump up into 3rd position into turn one behind Nobu Iso and Jake Lewis. Pole position winner, Jake Lewis, seized his motor going into turn 3 on the first lap, and had to watch the rest of the race from the side. And what a great race it turned out to be! Defending Champion, Nobu Iso had his hands full with young Gerloff. Iso's normally dominating Aprilia was jetted too rich and he had trouble pulling full RPM in his top 2 gears. This was just enough to allow the Moriwaki of Gerloff to hang with Iso on the straights. Gerloff was clearly hungry for a win as he constantly dove under Iso on the brakes. Iso found himself watching the tailpipe of the thundering Moriwaki more than once, but finally pulled out a few old tricks and snuck by for the win.

The final USGPRU race of the weekend was the Moto Liberty / RS-Taichi 250GP event. Melissa Paris qualified first at almost 1.5 seconds faster than her closest competitor, Adam Roberts. Off the line, she shot into the lead, but Adam sat on her rear wheel and refused to let go. Melissa opened a small gap on him, but Adam learned quickly where those extra seconds were being made up. From there, the battle was on. Melissa was hungry for a win and you could see it in her riding style. She was extremely aggressive on the brakes and

would pass Adam at any opportunity. Adam's RAT racing Yamaha TZ250 seemed to have a little more horsepower, but not so much that he could get lazy. Adam seemed to lose ground on the penultimate lap and Melissa looked to be checking out. But Adam turned up the aggression level on the final lap, reeled in Melissa, and passed her into Canada corner, a mere 3 turns from the finish. Melissa made one last dive under Adam into the final corner, momentarily capturing the lead again, only to spin up her rear wheel, ruining her drive. Adam squared up the corner, and drove past Melissa going up the final hill and crossed the line a mere half-bike ahead of her.

Melissa Paris is building on her USGPRU lessons learned by heading off to Miller Motorsports Park to participate in the World Superbike weekend. She was fortunate enough to be selected as one of the wildcard riders for this year's event. This is a clear testament to Melissa's racing skills and the caliber of racers we have in the USGPRU. We attract and develop some of the best up-and-coming racers in the country!

If you would like to come out and see the fastest GP racers in the country, there are many opportunities left this season. The west coasters head out to Miller Motorsports Park on 15-16 Aug to join the Utah Sportbike Association. The wide, smooth, and fast track will really allow the GP bikes to push their cornering limits to their maximum. While it's relatively easy to pull the trigger on a 1000cc sportbike, it's a true test of a motorcycle racer's skills to be able to ride a bike to its limits in the corners. This is where the GP bikes really shine.

On the east coast, we will be rolling into Ohio for the AMA Road Race Grand Championship weekend, 12-13 September. The undulating roadcourse is a favorite of the racers due to its classic, challenging layout. This weekend's races will see the convergence of the fastest racers from every club across the country in one great weekend. All of the racers will be competing for the title of amateur national champion.

Every USGPRU weekend is chock full of great racing action. We consistently provide some of the closest racing action available. Come on out to the track and watch some of the closest races with some of the best up-and-coming talent. Better yet, go out and get yourself a GP bike and join us on the grid!

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## 2009 Schedule

### Eastern Region:

Apr 4-5 Jennings GP

May 2-3 Road America

July 11-12 Heartland Park

July 25-26 NJ Motorsports Park

Sept 12-13 Mid-Ohio

### Western Region:

Mar 21-22 Buttonwillow

Apr 18-19 Firebird East

Jun 6-7 High Plains Raceway

July 11-12 Thunderhill

Aug 8-9 Miller

### National Final:

Oct 3-4 Barber Motorsports

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