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Ricky Johnson Wins Inaugural Rick Huseman Memorial Cup in his Mopar® Ram Truck

- Mopar and Ram Truck drivers honor the legacy of Rick and Jeff Huseman
- Johnson claims \$36,000 top prize in PRO 4/PRO 2 challenge race
- Andrew Caddell finishes on the podium in Second Annual Traxxas PRO Lite Cup

September 29, 2012, Lancaster, Calif. - With the pressure of battling for a championship behind him, after clinching his second straight Traxxas TORC (The Off-Road Championship) Series PRO 4 title and third consecutive overall championship on Saturday, Mopar® and Ram Truck driver Ricky Johnson focused on honoring the legacy of former off-road racers and close friends Rick and Jeff Huseman on Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds in Lancaster, Calif. Johnson paid tribute to the brothers in the best way possible, running every lap as hard as he could to score the victory in the inaugural Rick Huseman Memorial Cup Presented by Peak Performance, which paid \$36,000-to-win.

"Congratulations to Ricky Johnson for winning the Rick Huseman Memorial Cup today at Lancaster," said Pietro Gorlier, President and CEO of Mopar, Chrysler Group LLC's service, parts and customer-care brand. "Adding a win in this prestigious race was the perfect way to cap off another outstanding season. With a very strong field assembled the Mopar/Ram Truck package again rose to the occasion and showed just how strong the pairing is."

"I'm really proud and honored to be the first name on the trophy," said Johnson. "I hope Rick and Jeff are smiling down. We gave it our all today and put on an amazing show for the fans. To race against Kyle (Leduc) was great. He's been the fastest guy on the west coast and we were really mixing it up out there and that's what this sport is all about. It was just a fantastic weekend and I can't thank everyone who supports this team enough. As always, my crew gave me a great truck and we were fast. This was the perfect way to finish a perfect weekend."

The Huseman Cup used a special Le Mans-style standing start with the PRO 2 drivers receiving the green flag first, followed by the PRO 4 entries about 40 seconds later. Johnson lined up in the second position and ran second among the PRO 4 drivers for the first four laps. He then had a spirited duel with Kyle Leduc for the top PRO 4 spot, as they tracked down the PRO 2 drivers ahead of them. Once Johnson became the front-running PRO 4, he began to reel in the lead three PRO 2 trucks of teammate Bryce Menzies, fellow Mopar Ram driver Rob MacCachren and Chad Hord, who was leading.

After Menzies spun while running second, Johnson moved into third overall and began to set his sights on MacCachren, who ended up having a mechanical problem that ended his day. At this point, Johnson was in second and pressuring Hord. Johnson would get around Hord on the 11th lap and lead the remainder of the 16-lap race to earn his third win of the weekend and 11th overall on the season.

Menzies, who claimed his second straight PRO 2 title on Saturday in his Mopar Ram, started fifth among the PRO 2 drivers in the Huseman Cup. The Las Vegas native used a strong start to move into second at the drop of the green. He battled Chad Hord for the first eight laps of the race, nearly taking the top spot a couple of times. He spun while second on the ninth circuit and pulled his truck off the track.

"Running for Rick (Huseman) today was awesome," said Menzies. "I had the pleasure of meeting him a few times and he was a great guy and had a great family. I ran the race like Rick would and that's what we all we wanted to do. To win two championships and to have Rick (Johnson) win today, it was an awesome weekend for our whole Menzies Motorsports team."

MacCachren, who was the fastest PRO 2 qualifier for the Huseman Cup, lined up in the sixth position in his Mopar

Ram, following an inversion of the six-fastest qualifiers. The veteran driver used a strong launch on the standing start to move into third, and was running second on the 13th lap when a mechanical problem ended his day.

"This weekend meant a lot to me," said MacCachren. "Rick and Jeff were great people. Rick was a super likeable guy and very easy-going off the track. It was always a pleasure talking to him. He was always cool, calm and collected, and then out on the race track, there was a different side of Rick that came out, where he would drive the heck out of that truck. We definitely miss having him around and hearing him driver that truck in the distinct way that he did. We want to always remember them and having this race is a great way to do that. I'm proud that I was part of it."

Andrew Caddell pulled double duty on Sunday, competing in both the Huseman Cup in a PRO 2 and the Traxxas PRO Lite Cup, which was run in memory of Jeff Huseman, Rick's brother. In the PRO Light event, he finished third in his Mopar Ram for Jenkins Brothers Racing. He lined up on the pole for the 16-lap event, which ran straight through, with no competition caution at halfway. In just his fourth-ever PRO 2 start, the 2011 PRO Lite champion finished sixth in a Jenkins Brothers Racing machine.

"To be part of the Huseman Memorial Weekend was pretty cool," said Caddell. "It feels good to be on the podium in a Cup race. Last year we struggled in the Cup race and were able to turn in a pretty good run today. To have Rick's whole family out here watching was pretty special."

The inaugural Rick Huseman Memorial Cup and Traxxas PRO Lite Cup brought a completion to the 2012 Traxxas TORC Series season. Each of the three PRO champions will be feted during the annual USAC Night of Champions in Indianapolis in December. For more information on the TORC Series, visit www.TORCSeries.com

About Mopar Motorsports

Mopar's commitment to professional motorsports competition was established in the 1950's when a partnership ignited with drag racing pioneer, Don Garlits. Combined efforts between Garlits and the Mopar brand resulted in the breaking of numerous speed and performance barriers in a HEMI-powered car over the next several decades. Mopar has remained a fixture on the racing scene in the North America ever since and is currently involved with the NHRA, NASCAR, USAC and TORC series. Mopar also sponsors many motorsports events, including title sponsorship of the Mopar Mile-High NHRA Nationals in Colorado for nearly 25 consecutive years; and it is a proud supporter of amateur racing within NHRA and USAC.

Mopar-First Features

Mopar has introduced numerous industry-first features including:

- Vehicle-information apps: first to introduce smartphone vehicle-information applications, a new channel of communication with consumers
- Electronic owner manuals: first to introduce traditional owner manuals in a DVD and brief user-guide format
- Wi-Fi: first to offer customers the ability to make their vehicle a wireless hot spot
- Wireless charging: first to introduce in-vehicle wireless charging for portable devices
- Electronic Vehicle Tracking System (EVTs): first to market with a new interactive vehicle tracking device that sends owners a text when the vehicle is driven too fast or too far based on pre-set parameters
- 2011 Mopar Challenger Drag Pak: first to introduce a 500-plus cubic-inch V-10 drag-race package car
- Camper trailers: first to introduce off-road camper trailers
- WiTECH: first to support vehicle diagnosis and software updates leveraging off-the-shelf personal computers and a dedicated wireless tool network

About the Mopar Brand

Mopar is Chrysler Group LLC's service, parts and customer-care brand and distributes 280,000 parts and accessories. With the creation of the Chrysler Group and Fiat S.p.A. partnership, Mopar is extending its global reach, integrating service, parts and customer-care operations in order to enhance dealer and customer support worldwide. Combined with Fiat SpA, Mopar's global portfolio includes more than 500,000 parts and accessories that are distributed in more than 120 countries. Mopar is the source for all genuine parts and accessories for Chrysler Group and Fiat SpA brands.

Mopar parts are unique in that they are engineered with the same teams that create factory-authorized vehicle specifications for Chrysler Group and Fiat S.p.A. vehicles — a direct connection that no other aftermarket parts company can provide. A complete list of Mopar accessories and performance parts is available at www.mopar.com.

75 Years of Mopar

Mopar (a simple contraction of the words MOtor and PARTs) was trademarked for an antifreeze product in 1937. The Mopar brand made its mark in the 1960s — the muscle-car era. The Chrysler Corporation built race-ready Dodge and Plymouth “package cars” equipped with special high-performance parts. Mopar carried a line of “special parts” for super-stock drag racers and developed its racing parts division called Mopar Performance Parts to enhance speed and handling for both road and racing use. The brand has expanded to include technical service and customer support.

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