

# ESMRA kicks off the opening weekend of the first ever Supermoto Can/Am: The Eastern North American Championship

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It all began with a conversation after an ESMRA event at Batavia in 2008. The discussion was about how convenient Batavia International Motorsports Park was for its Canadian patrons and somehow a joke was told by Batavia curator, Chris Ranson, about how the event might as well have been a Can/Am. As everyone laughed, ESMRA CEO Tony Murray said: "Chris, you might just be on the right track!" Tony told Chris that he would think on it but, it might be something that could be put in play by the 2009 supermoto season. After careful thought, in November 2008, Tony Murray began contacting promoters in both the United States and Canada, whom he knew had held supermoto events during the season. By the end of March 2009, all the promoters had taken a joke, turned it into an idea, and developed a concept which all carried forward and created the first ever supermoto Can/Am series: The Eastern North American Championship!

Opening weekend: Saturday, June 13, 2009, under partly cloudy skies, ESMRA in conjunction with Dunlop presented a supermoto school with instructor Mark Burkhardt of Monster Energy Burkhardt HMC Racing and special guest, motorcycling legend, Doug Henry. Jason DiSalvo, nationally acclaimed Super biker with Team M4 EMGO Suzuki, gave aid to Mr. Burkhardt and Mr. Henry during this exceptional day of instruction. Every school participant that was spoken to stated that they learned more than they thought possible and described the school and the day as an invaluable experience. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Treharne of Subway, NY and Bob Trimper of Batavia International Motorsports Park, everyone's lunch and open practice were included with their paid school fees. Interestingly enough but, to no surprise, most who participated in the school were completely worn out by the time open practice began.

Race day: Sunday, June 14, 2009, amidst sunny skies and ideal temperatures, round 1 of the first ever supermoto Can/Am was set to begin. Expert and amateur riders from Quebec to Detroit were in attendance and ready to participate; and, participate they did. The Canadian – American battle had begun! Three of the four official 2009 Can/Am classes ran in round 1, with the Canadians' Maxime Sylvestre taking the top honors in the SMX Open Class, and the Americans' Greg Hunt and Mike Treharne taking the top honors in the Open Amateur and Open Novice Classes, respectively. Overall, it was a fantastic day of racing by all involved and a great start to a newly introduced, all promoter sponsored, international series!

Not only was Sunday the first ever supermoto Can/Am but, it was also ESMRA's Race #5. All riders from [ESMRA](#), [408 Racing](#), [MiSupermoto](#) and [Mecaglissè](#) were able to participate in the remaining nine (9) classes of ESMRA's race day. This was a weekend of many firsts, great comradery, and lots of excitement.

For more information on any of the upcoming rounds of The Eastern North American Championship, please visit [www.esmra.com](http://www.esmra.com) or contact Tony Murray – [tony\\_esmra@comcast.net](mailto:tony_esmra@comcast.net) or contact Sonja Lifsey – [sonja\\_esmra@comcast.net](mailto:sonja_esmra@comcast.net).