

TEAM NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2025

MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY



2025 COMPETITION RECAP

With the fall semester in full swing, Osprey Racing has returned to campus after a packed and productive summer. Just a few months ago, we competed at Formula SAE Michigan with our 2025 car, the D13, finishing 41st out of 109 teams, matching last year's position but showing significant growth across the board.

Now, with a new school year ahead, we're carrying that momentum into a fresh season of design, development, and competition prep. This issue recaps our competition experience, shares highlights from the summer, and introduces our new 2025–2026 officer team.

Competition week began with technical inspection. We cleared half the checklist on day one, then completed inspection on day two after resolving a few compliance issues. That same day, we wrapped up our design and static presentations, allowing us to focus fully on dynamic events. On Friday, then-President Tip Ralston and chassis lead Mason Lovelace drove acceleration. Mason and ergonomics lead Alex Skigen handled skidpad, while Owen Shell and Nathan Stratton drove autocross and secured our endurance slot for Saturday.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU CAN EXPECT:

Competition Recap

Summer Highlights

New Year, New Team



A LONG TIME COMING

Saturday brought the highlight of the week. For the first time since 2022, Osprey Racing completed the endurance event. Drivers Owen Shell and Nathan Stratton piloted the D13 across the finish line, a milestone we had been chasing for the past two seasons. This endurance finish was the result of hard work, preparation, and the most testing we have ever completed before competition.



STATIC EVENT SUCCESS

Osprey Racing saw major improvements in static events. The team earned a perfect score in cost report accuracy and drawings, reflecting the effort and attention to detail that went into documentation and review.

Suspension lead Von Wilhite also earned a perfect score on his portion of the design presentation, a fitting send-off in his senior year and a culmination of his years of dedication to the team.



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Despite being well prepared, the team faced challenges. During Friday's dynamic events, an engine issue limited the car to three cylinders. Without enough time to return to the paddock and fix the issue before the day's events ended, the team regrouped and resolved the problem overnight. Thanks to quick work and determination, the D13 was fully operational for endurance on Saturday, allowing us to complete the event successfully.

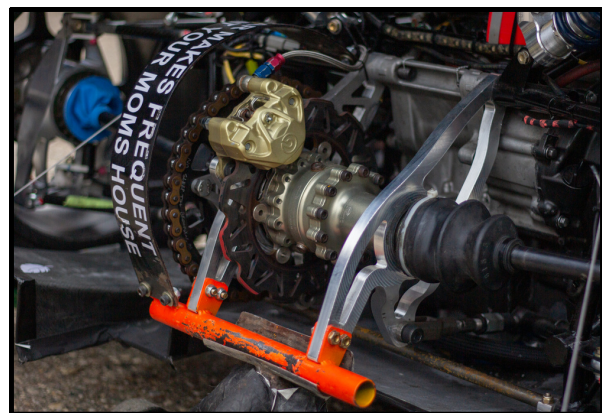


TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE D13

Last year's car saw the most changes ever implemented in a single season. The team completed more pre-competition testing than ever before, arriving at Michigan better prepared than in any previous year.

Aero lead Max Freitag led a complete overhaul of the aerodynamic package. It was the first major update since the D9 in 2021. The redesign introduced a ground-effect floor and diffuser, updated front and rear wings, and a reshaped nose cone to improve undertray airflow. These changes represent a major step forward in the aerodynamic efficiency of the D13.

Von Wilhite, along with suspension team member Jackson Thomas, led the design and manufacture of carbon fiber suspension arms for the D13. This upgrade, replacing the previous steel arms, brought a significant reduction in unsprung weight and improved overall performance. Chassis lead Mason Lovelace also spearheaded a major frame redesign, significantly reducing weight at the rear of the car. This design change also implemented a new, innovative mounting solution for the motor, differential, and inboard single rear brake.



SEASON CELEBRATION

We closed out the 2024–25 season with a special celebration hosted at a beautiful hangar provided by one of our great supporters, Atlas Air Ambulance. The event brought together teammates, friends, and family to reflect on the past year, celebrate the achievements of the season, and honor the contributions of our graduating members. With the D13 and D12 on display alongside other standout cars, the evening served as both a farewell and a fresh start.



TEAM DRIVE DAY

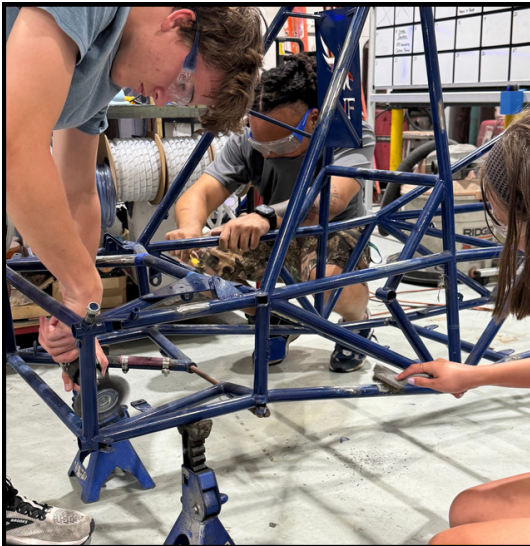
Early this fall, we hosted a drive day to put some miles on the car and give everyone more seat time. Alumni got behind the wheel for their final laps, with Nathan Stratton doing some donuts to properly send off both his last drive and a used set of competition tires. New members who came with us to Michigan also got the chance to drive for the first time, making for a fun day out with the D13.



SIMULATOR PROJECT

The team also completed a unique shop project this summer: transforming our old rolling chassis, the D3, into a full racing simulator. The car had been sitting in the engineering building for years, and the team decided to give it a new life. We stripped it down to its bare bones, repainted the frame, and outfitted it with a Fanatec wheel and pedals, an ultrawide monitor, and kept the wheels and suspension intact so the sim can be rolled to different events.

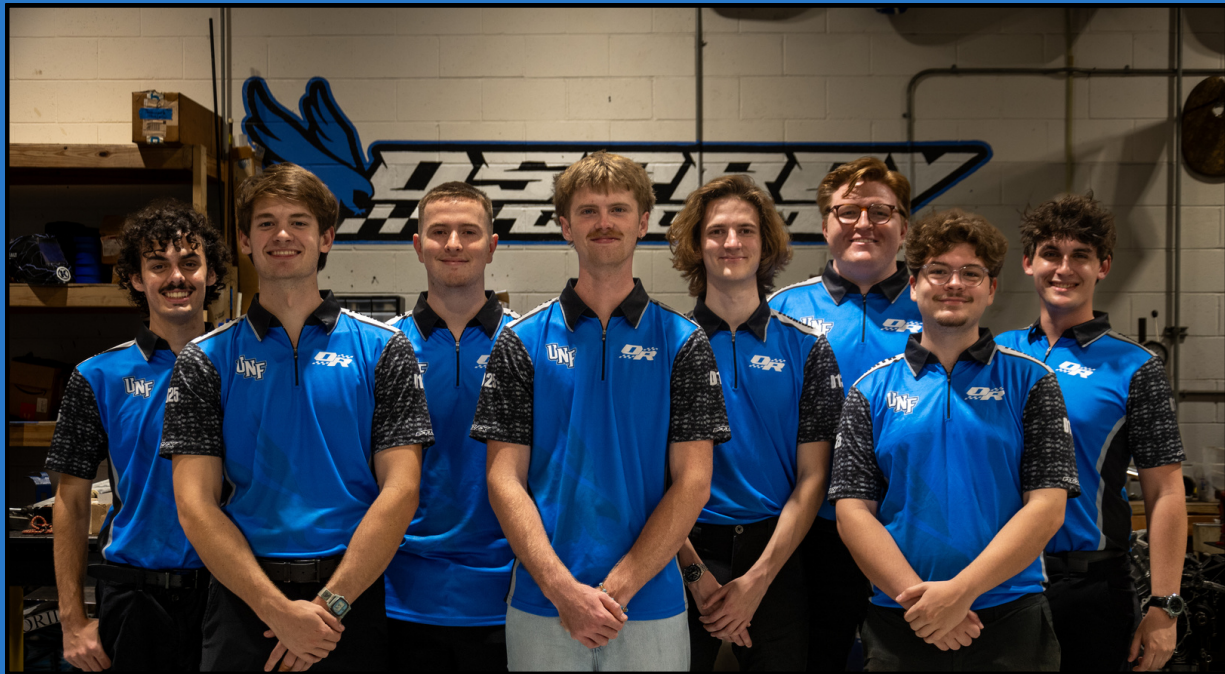
The simulator now serves several purposes, from driver training and preparation for competition, to being a centerpiece at outreach events, and even providing a fun way for the team to unwind in the shop while setting some laps. To replace the D3 in the engineering building, we placed the D12 on display, giving students and visitors a chance to see one of our more recent cars up close.



MEET THE 2025-26 OFFICER TEAM

This season's leadership group combines returning experience with fresh faces stepping into officer roles for the first time. Owen Shell, who served as Public Relations lead for the past two years, now takes on the role of captain. Alex Skigen, last year's ergonomics lead, steps up as president. Zach Lister returns for another year leading powertrain development.

Rounding out the team are several new officers: Gavin Godwin (composites), Jackson Shirey (treasurer), Jackson Thomas (chassis), Harrison Sparaco (public relations), and Isaac Montes (aerodynamics).



Thank you for reading!



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