

# PRESS RELEASE

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## RJ Valentine 17<sup>th</sup> at Rolex At Daytona – Unveils CRG Karts Sponsorship Program

**January 28, 2007 – Daytona Beach, FL,** The #66 CRG Karts/iRise/TRG Porsche of Andy Lally, Spencer Pumpelly, RJ Valentine, Mark Greenberg and Kevin Buckler finished 17<sup>th</sup> in class today, after a disappointing incident while the team was running 2<sup>nd</sup> in class in the 18<sup>th</sup> hour. Kevin Buckler had just received a full tank of fuel and a new set of tires to start the second of his consecutive stints when he was hit from behind by a passing prototype, destroying the right-rear suspension and requiring extensive repairs in the garage.

The team qualified 4<sup>th</sup> in the GT class for the 45<sup>th</sup> running of the endurance classic, held at Daytona International Speedway, in a record class of 43 cars. Andy Lally, the first and only three-time Grand-Am driving champion, qualified and started the race, and soon after the green flag, the team settled into a steady, up-tempo rhythm on track. Lally, Pumpelly, Valentine and Greenberg all had uneventful stints in the car until the 12<sup>th</sup> hour of the race, when a GT competitor crashed hard into a retaining wall, destroying fully 80 feet of Armco and necessitating a 90-minute stoppage of the race for infrastructure repairs.

Valentine described the feeling of racing at Daytona: “In my first stint, with the size of the traffic, it was constant activity. Everyone gets their butterflies before they get in the car, and to be out running with almost 70 cars, even though the track is so big, requires you to concentrate. The closing speeds of the Daytona Prototypes – especially with guys like Jan Magnussen, Jeff Gordon and Juan Pablo Montoya driving them – makes GT drivers keep one eye on the rearview mirror at all times, but I didn’t have any issues. TRG prepared a great car for us, so we as drivers were able to focus solely on the act of driving, rather than trying to solve some problem with the car or compensate for some weakness.”

The team had the car up to 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 18<sup>th</sup> hour, on the lead lap, with a full tank of gas and fresh tires under team owner Kevin Buckler, but a passing prototype car hit the #66 car squarely in the right rear wheel, causing Buckler to grind to a stop on the skirting of the track. After a tow back to the garage, the team diagnosed a broken right rear suspension and a broken half shaft, necessitating nearly three hours of repairs. The team’s chances at improving on 2006’s 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish dashed, the drivers focused on regaining laps in the chase for valuable championship points.

Valentine said, “Of course I’m disappointed not to have a better result at Daytona, but if I’ve learned one thing in racing, life or business, it’s that resilience pays off. There’s that saying ‘that’s racing’, which just about sums it up – but knowing TRG and Kevin Buckler, they’ll pull it back together and I’d speculate that we’ll contend for the championship again this year.”

TRG ran five Porsches in the race, and the sister car, the #64 Porsche 997 of JLowe Racing - driven by Jim Lowe, Jim Pace, Johannes van Overbeek and Ralf Kelleners - finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Rolex 24, one lap down from the winner. The #64 car engaged in a 24-hour sprint, and if not for a slight miscue in the pits which cost the team 90 seconds, the result might have been even better. Valentine said, “I couldn’t be happier for Jim Lowe and his co-drivers. Jim has a lot of passion in life, and is about the friendliest, most enthusiastic driver I’ve met. For his team to have this result at Daytona is absolutely stellar.”

Daytona also was the venue for the launch of a new sponsorship program for Valentine – Italy’s CRG Karts. RJ explained, “My company SSC East has been named East Coast distributor for CRG Karts, which we use at my F1 Boston and F1 Outdoor karting centers. I approached them about developing an awareness campaign within the auto-racing world, and they were responsive. Given what we’ve done in New England to build awareness of karting as a sport, we have some big ideas about how to promote CRG’s brand and products. We’ll do promotions all season with the TRG Porsches, as well as events, and strive to create brand preference for CRG’s products. I am also thankful for the financial support from Rotax, Bombardier, The MBA Group, F1 Air and National Financial Partners (NFP NYSE).”

The Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series races next in Mexico City on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez. Television coverage will be on Speed.

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To learn more about Valentine and his businesses, visit:

MBA Group, a holding company and small business network — <http://www.MBAgroup.com>

F1 Boston, America's premier karting and entertainment center — <http://www.flboston.com>

F1 Outdoor — <http://www.floutdoor.com>

Kiss Barriers — <http://www.kissbarriers.com>

Arrayworks — <http://www.arrayworks.com>

National Financial Partners — <http://www.nfp.com>

Racing Means Business — <http://www.racingmeansbusiness.com>

RJ Valentine's personal website — <http://www.RJValentine.com>

To learn more about TRG and the Porsche GTR3s, visit:

<http://www.theracersgroup.com>

For the latest racing news, visit:

<http://www.grandamerican.com>