

Interns Review 2010

When I first replied to Michael Alfano's email regarding employment in the New York area racing industry, I never believed that I would learn as much as I did, meet as many people as I did, and get to have the incredible experiences I had this summer.

First, a little about myself. My name is Nicholas Bruno and I am currently a sophomore mechanical engineering student at Syracuse University. I have been a racing fan since childhood, and I have been doing some indoor karting and autocross for the past couple of years. These two mediums have been fun and rewarding, but I've wanted the opportunity to run with the big boys and be a part of road racing since my first trip to Lime Rock Park six years ago. When Michael sent out that email, I saw it as an opportunity to break into the industry I longed to be a part of.

We exchanged emails, and eventually I went on what Michael calls "the tour". What a tour it was. We spent the day going around to different racing shops on Long Island. Some highlights included seeing a Porsche 962 at Wehrmann Engineering and meeting Mark Wehrmann, meeting Peter Marcovici and touring his engine building shop, touring Bobby Brown's race shop and meeting Angelo Zarra of Anze Suspension. Michael made a point to demonstrate that there is a small but dedicated contingent of racers on Long Island, and I was hooked.

During the summer, my experiences as an intern were full of challenges, education, and a lot of fun. I got to work on racecars for the first time in my life in Bobby Brown's shop, which was a real thrill for me. I also had the privilege to use any one of the many data acquisition systems Michael keeps in stock for my own autocross weekends, and then go over the data with Michael. I learned about the intricacies of racecar setup, something that had always fascinated me, but thought was too complicated. I learned about tooling and machining, something that I had tried to avoid because, again, I thought it was too complicated. With

Michael's guidance and know-how, I feel much more confident in both subjects. Finally, I was able to participate in my first ever professional race weekend through the intern program, helping Phil Picard run his Formula 2000 car at Lime Rock Park alongside the American Le Mans Series. It may have rained half the weekend and been brutally hot the other half, but seeing a car that you worked on and help set up going around the track and take a top 5 finish is truly indescribable.

For me, the TRS intern program was an incredible experience. I met incredible people and had incredible experiences, and learned so much that I will be taking back to school with me. I really feel that I have a leg up on my classmates because of my experiences this past summer. Michael taught me a huge amount, not only about racing, but engineering and life in general that I will keep with me for the rest of my life. Also, the food was always great!