

# NATIONAL RACING REPORT

First off here's a big *HOORAY* for **Dave Wilcox** of Wichita Region, who won the closest Formula Atlantic National Championship in SCCA history. With a drive in Mirl Swan's Swift 014.a, Wilcox got to the line first by just 0.051 of a second after a 52-mile race.

Also on the podium at the Runoffs – **Rick Harris** (Wich), 2nd in F Production; **Chris Albin** (SIII), 3rd in H Production, and **Kent Prather** (Kan), 3rd in GT Lite.

Although drivers can now score their best seven finishes, nobody was able to run up a perfect 84-point score. In fact only three drivers scored 70 or more points, while only two others were able to rack up as many as five wins. Awards (top-3) go only to those with at least three MiDiv starts. Here's how MiDiv's top drivers did this year:

## FORMULA

•**FA** ~ **Shane Bennoch** (OzMt) won the championship by just 4 points as a result of wins at Gateway and twice at Heartland Park Topeka. **Dave Wilcox** (Wich) in 2nd only raced twice in MiDiv, winning both Hallett rounds and once in Texas. •**FC** ~ **Allen Dale** (Kan) won by just 9 points, taking the checker at HPT in May and Hallett in July. **William McGinnis** (StL) in 2nd only had two MiDiv starts including a Gateway win. **Richard Learned** (Wich) gets the 3rd place award after winning the June HPT race. •**FM** ~ **Ken DeNault** (DMV) won his 7th straight championship with a 70-point season that included wins at both Hallett races plus Gateway in August. **Bill Allman** (Kan) was 10 points behind, also with a 3-win season taking the March opener at Gateway, a mid-season round at HPT and the August closer at the Mid-America Motorplex. •**FF** ~ It's not "Formula Ford" any more, just Formula F since the Honda Fit motor is now legal, but Ford-powered cars took the top three places. **Cliff Johnson** (KC) is the first Formula F champion but it's his 12th leather chair. He won twice at Hallett, once at HPT and a May race at Road America. **Frank Chambers** (NeOk) closed his season with a win at MAM. **Dan Layton** (StL) in 3rd got a May win at HPT. •**FV** ~ **Bill Johnson III** (KC) won the opener at Gateway and both races at MAM. The last win was enough to take his first championship by 5 points. **Lisa Noble** (Kan), a June winner at HPT, came in 2nd ahead of **William Lauer** (Wich), who had three runner-up finishes. •**F500** ~ This class has been around for 14 years and in all that time only two men have won it, until now. **Charles McAbee Jr.** (Kan) became just the third F500 champ and the other 70-point scorer with wins at Hallett in April, HPT in June, Houston and MAM in August. McAbee ended the three-year championship streak of **Jack Walbran** (StL), who was just 4 points behind after a 12-race season which included wins at both ends of a Texas World double National and Hallett in July. **Timothy Friest** (KC) and **David Vincent** (KC) tied for third at 42 points but the tiebreaker went to Friest who had two 2nd-place finishes to Vincent's one.

## SPORTSRACING

• **S2000** ~ **Jack Donnellan** (Okla) won for a second straight year with victories at HPT in May, Gateway and MAM in August. •**SRF** ~ **Mark Hutchins** (Neb), won at MAM in May while **Ken Tripkos** (Kan) had a 3-win season taking both Hallett races and HPT in June. It came down to a showdown at MAM in August when Hutchins won again and Tripkos was third to finish one point behind. **Jim Rishel** (Wich) takes the third-place award, again by just a single point over fourth.

## GRAND TOURING

•**GT2** ~ **Tony Giordano** (KC) scored wins at HPT in May, Gateway in August, and both MAM races for his third championship. The other two were 16 and 19 years ago in the same 280Z. •**GT3** ~ **Robert Herman** (Neb) ran off a 4-race mid-season string of victories, HPT, MAM, HPT again and Hallett for his first

chair. **Richard Allen** (Okla) didn't get on the track until the Hallett July race but got in four finishes. •**GTL** ~ **Jesse Prather** (Kan) took a ride in Don Christman's RX7 to win early rounds at Gateway and Hallett, then both HPT rounds. It's his fourth championship, his first in GTL. **Roy Lopshire** (KC) broke up a Prather family celebration by taking second place after a win in the last race of the season at High Plains in Colorado. That was enough to finish just 2 points ahead of **Kent Prather** (Kan), who won the July race at Hallett.

## SUPER TOURING

•**STO** ~ **John Slinkard Jr.** (Neb) took his Honda S2000 to STO and won both MAM races plus the June round at HPT. **Mark Kirby** (KC) won the May race at HPT and was 2nd in points ahead of **Jeff Demetri** (Neb). •**STU** ~ **Ralph Woodard** (Neb) ran his BMW in STU for National points, taking wins at HPT, MAM, HPT again and Gateway in August (while also racing the car in ITR for Regional racing, winning Mid-Am Driver of the Year).

## TOURING

•**T1** ~ Just like last year, there were only three drivers but all three ran busy seasons. This time it was **Mike McGinley** (KC) on top with one of MiDiv's two 5-win seasons, taking the April race at Hallett and then both HPT and both MAM races. For his fourth T1 title. That was still only enough to finish 3 points ahead of **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb), who won Hallett in July and added six runner-up finishes. **Jim Lynch** (StL) won the two Gateway rounds plus both ends of a double National at Road America in May. •**T2** ~ **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) won at Hallett in April, Road America in June and MAM in August for a third straight T2 crown.

## PRODUCTION

•**EP** ~ **Brian Haupt** (KC), only won once, at HPT in May, but it was enough for his fifth championship and to finish 5 points ahead of **Charlie Clark** (KC), who won twice at Hallett and the June round at HPT. **David Long** (KC) made it a Kansas City 1-2-3 with a May win at MAM. •**FP** ~ **Randy Wagner** (NeOk), who has long concentrated on Regionals, put in a full National season including a win at the new Eagle's Canyon track in Texas last May to win by 6 points. Tied for second were **Rick Harris** (Wich) and **Sam Henry** (OzMt) with identical records that included two wins each. Harris took both HPT races while Henry won MiDiv's final two at Gateway and MAM in August. •**HP** ~ **Chris Albin** (SIII) won the first three races at Gateway, Hallett and HPT, then the closer at MAM to become the only driver to win on all four MiDiv tracks and take a second straight championship. **Jack Schulz** (OzMt) won MAM in May and Hallett in July. **Rob Horrell** (MidS) in third place scored his only victory at Road Atlanta in May.

## AMERICAN SEDAN

•**AS** ~ **Jim Wheeler** (KC) was the other driver to post a 5-win season, scoring at Hallett in April and then both HPT and both MAM races. **Chris Brannon** (OzMt) won at Hallett in July and Gateway in August.

## SHOWROOM STOCK

•**SSB** ~ **Tom Kraft** (DMV), long a Spec Miata stalwart, took his Miata to a new class and won the opener at Gateway, both HPT rounds and the May race at MAM. •**SSC** ~ **John Saucier** (Okla) got championship No. 27, and his 19th in a row in SSC, with a 4-win season. He won two at Texas Motor Speedway in May, Hallett in July and Gateway in August.

## SPEC MIATA

•**SM** ~ **Kyle Jones** (OzMt), scored the most points of any MiDiv driver with a 73-point score. He was also the only driver to race in all eight MiDiv Nationals, winning twice at HPT as well as the August races at Gateway and MAM. **Jim Drago** (MidS) won the Gateway opener, twice at Hallett and at Road America in May. Takikng third was **Chris Edens** (Ark) with four podium finishes. —*Rocky Entriken*

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## The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

Five champions will be receiving gold medals this year in the I.T. Tour, which is showing signs of reacting to the economic recovery. The Olympic-style medals go to the top three in each class, providing they've met the minimum of three starts out of the eight races.

In all, 68 drivers scored points in the Tour, compared to 63 a year ago. On a per-race average, 2010 entries were on par with 2009 – an average of 16.63 over eight races this year compared to 17.17 over six 2009 races .

• **ITA** – The series' largest class, 34 drivers taking a green flag, was won by **Brian Laughlin** (NeOk) who won four times in six starts including both of his home-track Hallett races. It's his second championship. He also scored at Heartland Park and Gateway. **Chuck Grauel** (Wich), who chased Laughlin home on three of those occasions, took the silver medal while the bronze went to **Brett Westcott** (Neb).

• **ITB** – This is the 14th year of the I.T. Tour and **Chris Albin** (Sill) won his 13th ITB gold with a 5-win season, taking the checker twice at Gateway, twice at Hallett, and once at Heartland

Park. Silver went to **Gary Learned** (Wich) with a couple of mid-season wins at Mid-America and Heartland Park.

• **ITC** – **Curt Weilandich** (StL) won his third championship in four seasons with a pair of Gateway victories and one at Hallett.

• **ITE** – **Kim McDonald** (Neb) won three times in five starts, getting victory laps at Heartland Park, Hallett and Mid-America. **Rob Jones** (OzMt) had a Gateway win to claim silver.

• **IT7** – The closest championship in the Tour this year was in IT7, where **Sean Maloney** (StL) grabbed the gold with his only win of the season at the last race at MAM. That put him just four points ahead of silver medalist **Lynn Lamb**, a winner at both Hallett races. Bronze goes to **Todd Smith**, a winner at HPT.

No medals are awarded in ITR or ITS as no driver met the three-start minimum. Nonetheless, champions are recognized.

In ITR **John Byram Jr.** (KC) won twice at HPT and MAM in May.

In ITS **Matthew Reynolds** (NeOk) scored his only victory at Hallett on Independence Day. —R.E.