

NATIONAL RACING REPORT

The SCCA Club Racing Board, in its infinite wisdom, added five new national classes to the 25 that already existed. As a result, although not exactly in the way that might be expected, MiDiv has 30 National Racing champions in 2007. In only one of the five new classes did drivers even compete in the minimum three races required to earn one of the coveted leather-backed director's chairs awarded the champion, or the companion camp stool that goes to the two drivers on the next steps of the podium.

All awards are sent to the drivers' home regions for presentation at their annual awards banquets:

F/ATLANTIC • While everyone else, it seemed, was chasing points in out-of-division races, **David Wilcox** (Wich) stayed home, won three times and took his fourth FA championship. MiDiv Atlantic drivers raced 54 times in 2007, and exactly half of those were in races outside of MiDiv. **Keith Grant** (MidS) won his two hometown Memphis races to finish second while **David Grant** (MidS) won the finale at Heartland Park to place third.

F/1000 • For some reason this class is abbreviated FB. No one was interested enough to try it.

F/CONTINENTAL • **John McMurray** (StL) claimed his sixth FC championship since 1994 with victories at Memphis and Gateway. **Keith Williams** (KC) claimed the runner-up slot, also with two wins. **Michael Dierkes** (StL) is sharing a '96 Van Diemen with his neighbor Jim Krispin who runs it in Mid-Am races as a Club Continental. Dierkes still got two 2nds, enough to finish 3rd in FC.

F/SCCA • This one they're abbreviating FE -- for Big Iron? **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) and **Jason Mabee** (KC) each won twice but Chandler had better luck in other races to win the chair while Mabee gets the runner-up award in the only new class to produce award winners.

F/MAZDA • **Ken DeNault** (DMV) is becoming the big dog here, winning his fourth consecutive championship with a four-win season. **Michael Fling** (Okla) in second and **Gary Phillips** (KC) in 3rd also claimed awards.

F/FORD • An even bigger dog is **Cliff Johnson** (KC), winning his 11th FF championship in 15 years with a four-victory season. He was well clear of **Gerald Barrett** (Okla) and **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS) who were separated by only three points, each with one win and a handful of seconds.

F/VEE • **Brad Stout** (StL) won his fifth championship in a row, his eighth overall, with the maximum possible score of 72 points from six wins. **Lisa Noble** (Kan) in second had led the points all season with four wins until a DNF in the final race at Heartland Park. Fourth place at HPT was enough for **Neil Cox** (NeOk) to snatch 3rd by one point.

F/500 • Ever since Formula 500 began in 1997 only two drivers have ever won it. **Jack Walbran** (StL) ran up 72 points to repeat his 2000 championship. In second was 2-time winner **Kenny Price** (StL), ahead of Memphis winner **Rusty Cook** (MidS), who won all the other previous championships.

C SPORTS RACING • Of the five MiDiv drivers who won at the 2006 Runoffs, **Hans Peter** (KC) was the only one to repeat as a MiDiv champion. Six wins gave him a second title with double the score of runner-up **Mike McGinley** (KC).

D SPORTS RACING • **Charlie Smith** (KC) won twice to claim a 12th DSR crown, but his first since 2002.

SPORTS 2000 • **Rob Sherwood** (StL) won his first championship with a 6-win season. **Scott Bowman** (DMV) claimed second.

SPEC RACER FORD • A whole bunch of new names in the trophy positions led by champion **Michael Wold-Steele** (Neb) who won three of six starts. Runner-up was **Jim Coté Jr.** (KC), just three points clear of **Ken Sellenriek** (StL).

GT1 • **Shawn Gray** (MidS) won five times for his first championship. **Richard Grant** (MidS) and **Buddy Cisar** (Neb) tied at 35 points but one victory by Grant was the tiebreaker for 2nd place.

GT2 • **Milton Grant** (MidS) won by 3 points over **Andy Hauck** (Kan) but only **Bill Allman** (Kan) in third got in the three starts required for an award.

GT3 • **Milton Grant** (MidS) again, running his Celica in two classes. He has four wins here and enough to get his seventh chair.

GT LITE • **Peter Zekert** (StL) maxed out at 72 points from seven wins and remains the only MiDiv GT Lite champion there has ever been. **Chris Bovis** (Kan) won four and **Roy Lopshire** (KC) won two to place 2nd and 3rd respectively.

SUPER TOURING • **Jim Lynch** (StL) and **Scott Tucker** (KC) each won once to be listed jointly as the first champs of this new class.

TOURING 1 • **Mike McGinley** (KC) and **Jim Lynch** (StL) tied at 66 points, each with four wins and 2 seconds. The tiebreaker was a 3rd place finish McGinley had that is not even part of his scored points. **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb), finishing 2nd four times, is 10 points behind.

TOURING 2 • **Dennis AuBuchon** (StL), four times a winner, takes his fourth championship, his first since 2004. **Kumar Viswalingam** (StL) clipped 2nd by 2 points from **Chris Brannon** (OzMt).

TOURING 3 • **Dwight Faitz** (StL) won five times to dethrone 2006 champ **Steven Burkett** (StL).

B PREPARED • **Jeff Demetri** (Neb) raced twice in the World Challenge Mustang he's been running as an ITE car.

D PREPARED • **Ron Pawley** (NeOk) won five races in his Lexus.

E PRODUCTION • **Brian Haupt** (KC) repeated his same championship formula from a year ago: win once at Hallett and hold 'em off the rest of the season. **Don Tucker** (MidS) and **Charlie Clark** (KC) were tied four points behind, Tucker breaking the tie with three wins to Clark's one.

F PRODUCTION • **Eric Prill** (Kan) had three wins and only needed a finish at Heartland Park to take the crown from national champ **Jesse Prather** (Kan), but he almost didn't. Prill got in just 9 laps of the 18-lap race while Prather scored his fourth win but came two points short. **Bob Bramlage** (Kan) is third for the only 1-2-3 trophy sweep by a single region this year.

G PRODUCTION • The move of all the LBCs to HP has left GP with not many drivers but no shortage of desire. National champ **Chuck Mathis** (Sill) won five times for his first MiDiv title. Three-time winner **Chris Albin** (Sill) ended up just five points clear of **Kent Prather** (Kan), also a 3-time winner.

H PRODUCTION • And now, suddenly, HP is the second-most populous Production class. **Loren Moore** (OzMt) scored a perfect 72 to top this 12-car group. Behind him came teammates **Mark Weber** (StL) ahead of **Bob Eichelberger** (StL).

AMERICAN SEDAN • **Jim Wheeler** (KC) got his third championship in four seasons with a four-win season. **Scott Bettinger** (Wich) won twice on the way to second place ahead of **Philip Smith** (StL), also a 2-timer.

SHOWROOM STOCK B • **Jim Daniels** (MidS) didn't get started until midsummer and won four times.

SHOWROOM STOCK C • **John Saucier** (Okla) now has an even two dozen MiDiv championships spread over 37 years of racing, including the last 16 championships in SSC. They say you never remember who finished second, but we remember Saucier's stirring run to that podium step at last year's Runoffs. This year he has eight wins and five seconds, which didn't leave much for **Steven Christopher** (KC) in second place but Christopher still got one victory out of the season.

SPEC MIATA • For a class with 44 drivers listed -- more than every other whole *category* except Formula -- The scene at the top seems very familiar. **Jim Drago** (MidS) is champion again with three wins over two-time winner **Charlie James** (NeOk). **Sam Henry** (OzMt) won once to grab third.

--Rocky Entriiken

The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

Only one 2006 I.T. Tour champion repeated in 2007, and it was not the fellow you might expect.

The Olympic-style I.T. Tour medallions will be presented in every class but one. The new **ITR** class crowns a champion, **Ralph Woodard** (Neb), but he did it with one win from two starts, not the three races required to qualify for awards.

ITS saw the top two from last year flip-flop with **Bill Denton** (MidS) taking the gold with a 2nd and three 3rds from five starts. Silver goes to **Mark Andrews** (StL) who won two of three starts, ending up three points behind. Another three back is bronze medalist **Jim Bishop** (Miss), who won the final round at Gateway.

Ed Mabry (Ark) likewise stepped up one place from last year to take gold in big **ITA** class. Scoring a maximum six finishes, Mabry was five points up on **Jeff Seelig** (StL), who similarly had a 5-point margin on **Mac Spikes** (MidS).

The surprise of the year came in **ITB** where **Douglas Warren** (StL) becomes only the second driver to win gold in this class since the Tour began 11 seasons ago. With two victories and a 3rd place finish he held on to a one-point lead over 10-time champ **Chris Albin** (Sill). The bronze goes to **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV), two points behind Albin in what ended up the series' tightest class.

Curt Weilandich (StL) was high-point man in the I.T. Tour this year. The **ITC** gold medalist won all five of his starts for a 60-point total.

ITE saw the only repeat winner, **Andy Wolverton** (Neb), who took his second championship with four wins in five starts. **John Waldbaum** (Neb) took silver with a win at Hallett.

A new face, **Charles Casteel** (KC) scored three victories in **IT7** to claim that title over **Nadeem Bari** (StL), himself a two-time winner. --*R.E.*