

NATIONAL RACING REPORT

Hallett's Fourth of July Weekend races stand like an island in the middle of the Midwest Division schedule. After June stood empty of racing in the MiDiv season, Hallett became the only in-division opportunity to get on track until the August races at Gateway and MAM to finish the year.

That's only two more chances to get those three-in-division starts to qualify for MiDiv National Racing awards (if you don't have one already, you're out of luck). Also, Gateway and MAM represent the last two chances to score the minimum two in-division starts (four total required) which is part of the Runoffs minimum qualifications this year. Drivers also need four finishes to qualify -- the difference is an in-division DNF can be counterbalanced by a third out-of-division finish.

On the other end of the 2009 pointskeeping rule changes is the one that lets drivers score their best seven races. A perfect score will be 84 now. Nobody's there yet. In fact, nobody has yet thrown out any MiDiv races from their score (although several drivers have more than the max 3 out-of-division races)

Here's how the classes are shaping up now -- for simplicity, awards need three races, Runoffs need four (two in-division)

•**FA** ~ Hallett winner **David Wilcox** (Wich) has a 12-point lead. **Bernie Sunier** (StL) and **Jim Wright** (StL) are four points apart, both with their minimum races in for awards but needing one more for Runoffs. •**FB** ~ Nobody. •**FC** ~ **Phil Hemes** (KC) and **Richard Learned** (Wich) are 2 points apart. Both have four starts. **Allen Dale** (Kan) is in third and needs one more race •**FE** ~ For reasons not revealed to this corner, the Enterprises guys have all raced only at Hallett this year. Maybe because they're all from Oklahoma. But between the four of them they have 7 in-division starts and 11 OOD starts. **Lee Walther** (Okla) leads **Richard Stephens** (NeOk) by 15 and both have their Runoffs minimums in but need one more for awards. **Michael Fling** (Okla) in third has been unlucky out-of-division, two DNFs, so he needs two more finishes. •**FM** ~ **Ken De Nault** (DMV) with five MiDiv wins has the second-highest points total of anyone in MiDiv. **Mark Greb** (DMV) would need to win four races to catch him and there's almost not enough races left nationwide to do it; Greb needs at least one more finish anyway for the Runoffs. **Roger Addison** (Okla) is 2 points behind Greb and has met minimums. **Charles Dillon** (KC) and **David VanHooser** (Okla) are tied 2 points behind Addison -- Dillon has met the awards minimum, VanHooser the Runoffs minimum (both need one more to be solid). •**FF** ~ It's been very quiet in this class, once SCCA's most popular. **Cliff Johnson** (KC) leads **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS) by 2. Both need one more race to get to the Runoffs and Livingston needs two for awards. •**FV** ~ National Champ **Brad Stout** (StL) has four wins and leads **Patrick**

Hughey (KC) by 11. **Lisa Noble** (Kan) is in third. All three have met all minimums. •**F500** ~ **Jack Walbran** (StL) has made every MiDiv race this year plus four OOD so he has a healthy points lead and no qualifying worries. **Chris Huskamp** (StL) has three wins but needs one more finish for the Runoffs.

•**CSR** ~ No players. •**DSR** ~ **Tom Bootz** (KC) has three wins. **Charlie Smith** (KC) has one. Both need more finishes to race at Road America in September. •**S2000** ~ **Jack Donnellan** (Okla) got his second win and third finish at Hallett. He's good for MiDiv but needs one more finish for the Runoffs. •**SRF** ~ with as many guys as there are racing these cars it is surprising that only two are Runoffs-qualified — points leader **Mark Hutchins** (Neb) and **Kirk Collier** (KC) down in 6th place. **Scott Goolsbey** (DMV), just one point behind Hutchins, has his awards minimums but needs another finish for Runoffs. **Chris Funk** (KC), another two points back, needs at least one more in-division finish for the Runoffs and needs both races to receive any award. **Clint Lindberg II** (StL) and **Ken Tripkos** (Kan), tied for 4th, are both short one race.

•**GT1** ~ Defending national champ **Bill Gray** (MidS) has no worries with four wins already. **Buddy Cisar** (Neb) is a distant 2nd but needs one more finish. •**GT2** ~ Young **Crispin Beaver** (OzMt) is being the racin' fool this season and veteran **Bill Allman** (Kan) is trying to keep up. Both have done all six MiDiv races so far and so have no qualifying issues. Beaver is 13 points ahead. **Jim Blakewell** (Okla) in 3rd and **Tony Giordano** (KC) in 4th have also meet all minimums. •**GT3** ~ Three points separate the top three, **Robert Weaver** (Okla) ahead of **Robert Herman** (Neb), who's 1-up on **Jim Duea** (Okla). All have met minimums except Duea needs one more finish. •**GTL** ~ it's an eight-point spread covering the top three and all have met all minimums. **Chris Bovis** (Kan) with three wins tops the list chased by Hallett winner **Roy Lopshire** (KC) and **Kent Prather** (Kan). National Champ **Peter Zekert** is in fourth despite a terrible year, three DNFs in six starts and he dearly needs one more finish.

•**STO** ~ The Super Touring classes won't be racing at the Runoffs so these guys just want MiDiv glory. **Jeff Demetri** (Neb) leads with three finishes. •**STU** ~ Hallett was a second win for **David Bennett** (KC) and he needs one more to qualify.

•**TS** ~ Empty. •**T1** ~ Only three drivers but all three have been making races and all three are going to Road America. **Jim Lynch** (StL) and **Mike McGinley** (KC) both have three wins but other finishes give Lynch a 13-point edge. **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb) is right there in her "Li'l Red Corvette." •**T2** ~ National Champ **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) has five wins and gave Hallett a pass. **Stephen Christopher** (KC) in second needs one more race for awards, two more for Runoffs. •**T3** ~ Also empty.

•**EP** ~ **Jesse Prather** (Kan), champion the past three

years (2 FP, 1 EP), has left nothing to chance this year winning the first five MiDiv races. He has a sizeable margin over **Charlie Clark** (KC), Hallett winner **Brian Haupt** (KC) and **David Long** (KC), all of whom are fully qualified for everything. •**FP** ~ National Champion **Rick Harris** (Wich) has two wins and a 6-point lead on **Bob Bramlage** (Kan). **Sam Henry** (OzMt) is in third, all three fully qualified. •**HP** ~ **Chris Albin**'s four victories give him a 20-point margin over **Bob Eichelberger** (StL), followed by **Mark Weber** (StL) and **Rob Horrell Jr.** (MidS). Everybody's Runoffs-ready but Weber and Horrell need one more start for MiDiv awards.

•**AS** ~ **Shawn Gray** (MidS) and **Jim Wheeler** (KC) have raced each other five times this season, trading wins each time. Hallett was Gray's turn to win and that gives him a 3-point edge. **Bret Volkamer** (MidS) lurks in third place having done all six races to date. •**SSB** ~ **Dennis AuBuchon** (StL) has three wins. **Rob Jones** (OzMt) has three 2nds, but only one was chasing AuBuchon. It's a 9-point difference and each needs one more finish to go to the Runoffs. •**SSC** ~

John Saucier (Okla) has the highest points total of anybody in MikDiv right now, 76 points from five wins, a 2nd and a 3rd. **Rob Jones** (OzMt – yes, same guy) has 61 from three wins, two 2nds and a 3rd. Both are fully qualified. **Steven Christopher** (KC) in third has 10 races but only 30 points because eight of those races are out-of-division and he can only count three of them. Meanwhile he has only two in-division finishes, enough to get to the Runoffs but not to get awards. **Mac Spikes** (MidS) is only two points behind with just four races, Runoffs-ready but needing one more to be award-eligible. •**SM** ~ As busy as this class is one would think everyone would be fully qualified by now. Well, almost. All of the top 6 have met Runoffs qualifications, led by 4-time winner **Richard Wiese** (StL) who's 8 points ahead of **Kyle Jones**. But **Jim Drago** in 3rd has only two MiDiv starts and needs one more to be award-eligible. Just 2 points behind Drago is **Crispin Beaver** racing in two classes this year. **Chris Edens** (Ark) and **Tom Kraft** (DMV) also are fully qualified.

—Rocky Enriken

The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

The I.T. Tour also has just two races left at Gateway and MAM, but with no Runoffs glory on the line these drivers are just looking for MiDiv awards, for which the qualifying requirement is three starts. Some classes might go empty!

• **ITR** ~ Four drivers have one start. Only **Scott Orr** (StL) and **Ron Pawley** (NeOk) have a finish and are tied at 12. •**ITS** ~ **Brian Landers** (KC) leads with 30 points from three races, but **Ryan Staub** (KC) has won both his starts and is just 6 behind. •**ITA** ~ Twenty drivers have points in the largest of the I.T. Tour classes, but only **Brian Laughlin** (NeOk) has met the three-start minimum. He's 19 ahead of **Oren Tucker** (Ark). **Nadeem Bari** (StL), **Ray**

Yergler (DMV) and **Chuck Grauel** (Wich) all have 12 points, but Grauel's comes from two starts so he's closer to getting that third-place trophy ... if **Scott Bettinger** (Wich) doesn't also get his third race in to snare the final award. •**ITC** ~ **Jerry Behnke** (KC) got his second start in at Hallett and now leads with 24 points. He needs one more race. •**ITE** ~ **John Waldbaum** (Neb) and **Frank Safranek** (Neb) raced each other at MAM with Waldbaum winning. Both need two more starts. •**IT7** ~ **Trey Scott** (StL), **Todd Smith** (KC), **Jim Wyatt** (KC), **Curt Faigle** (StL) and **Lynn Lamb** (Okla) all have one race each. Will anyone get in two more?

—R.E.