

# NATIONAL RACING REPORT

Ten weeks went by through a lazy summer in MiDiv during which only one National race, the traditional Firecracker round at Hallett, took place. And then came August with four Nationals in five weekends at Gateway, Mid-America, and concluding with the big Sunday-Monday double National at Heartland Park Topeka. Almost half the schedule happened between Aug. 3 and Sept. 1.

## FORMULA

• **FA** ~ **Dave Wilcox** (Wich) knocked off two wins at HPT to vault from third to first in the standings. A year ago a points error showed Wilcox in first instead of the proper FA champion, **Keith Grant** (MidS). This year Wilcox claimed the champion's leather chair for real, his third championship. Current national champion **Hans Peter** (KC) and **David Grant** (MidS) tied at 48 points each, the GCR tiebreaker rule making Peter second on the basis of five wins including three out-of-division although he could only score two of those for points. • **FB** ~ This Formula 1000 class hasn't had a lot of action yet in MiDiv but **Michael Stephens** (NeOk) got in a couple of finishes including one win to become MiDiv's first-ever FB champion. • **FC** ~ **John McMurray** (StL) had a 2-point lead at mid-season but opened it up to 16 points by Labor Day for his sixth championship. **Allen Dale** (Kan) ran all three August tracks including a win at MAM to leap into second place ahead of **Phil Hemes** (KC). • **FE** ~ At mid-season three drivers had posted one start each, all solo wins, in Formula SCCA or Formula Enterprises or whatever they're calling it now (I still think FE means "Big Iron".) Then **Lee Walther** (Okla) and **Michael Fling** (Okla) got busy, did the MAM and HPT rounds and finished 4 points apart with Walther taking the championship. • **FM** ~ **Ken DeNault** (DMV) and **Roger Addison** (Okla) were tied at mid-season and Addison seemed to have the edge with two wins. But then DeNault ripped through the last four races with two wins of his own plus two seconds to take his fifth straight FM title. Meanwhile **Mark Greb** (DMV) posted a couple good finishes of his own including a MAM victory to jump to second place ahead of Addison. • **FF** ~ Unlike most of the other formula classes, the FF drivers did nearly all of their action in the first half of the season. Among the top four drivers only **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS) raced to a points finish in the final four races; it was a victory but it didn't change the standings any. **Gerald Barrett** (Okla) won his second championship with a 4-win season with Livingston second and **Thomas Webb** (NeOk) third. • **FV** ~ The past

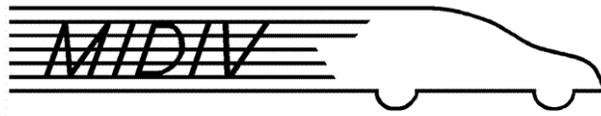
two years **Lisa Noble** (Kan) went to the final race at HPT with a chance to win the championship and came home with a DNF. Not this year! Noble and **Stephen Dreizler** (OzMt) traded wins at HPT which meant Noble kept her 6-point margin for her first championship. A Sunday DNF dropped **Don Schanche** (StL) to third place. • **F500** ~ **Jack Walbran** (StL) "hit for the cycle" in August with a win at MAM, 2nd and 3rd at HPT and 4th at Gateway for his third F500 crown. **Chris Huskamp** (StL) traded positions with Walbran at HPT for the points that scootched him into second by 1 point over **Kenny Price** (StL).

## SPORTSRACING

• **CSR** ~ **Mike McGinley** (KC) won four times to take his third championship. • **DSR** ~ **Tom Bootz** (KC) moved into MiDiv and won four times to claim his first leather chair. **Charles Smith** (KC) edged past **Deane Todd** (StL) by just three points for second place. • **S2000** ~ **Bob Henson** (KC) was the last man standing, quite literally in an attrition-heavy HPT weekend, to win his second championship (his first was in 1993!). A brake failure left **Rob Sherwood** (StL) stranded on the grid Sunday foiling his chance to repeat as champion. • **SRF** ~ **Kenneth Sellenriek** (StL) has just been dominant this year, racing just five times and winning all five including his last two races at Gateway and MAM. He rolled the dice a bit passing up the HPT weekend, but of the top three only **Ken Tripkos** (Kan) raced and held onto his second-place standing ahead of **Frank Stone** (KC). **Mark Hutchins** (Neb) gave it a shot at HPT, ending in a points tie with Stone for third place but losing the tiebreaker.

## GRAND TOURING

• **GT1** ~ A stout field of 10 GT1 cars came to HPT but **William Gray** (MidS) showed them all the way around the track for his fifth win of the year and his eighth championship. **Richard Grant** (MidS) and **Buddy Cisar** (Neb) took the next two podium positions. • **GT2** ~ **Bill Allman** (Kan) posted his third win at MAM for the championship. **Tony Giordano** (KC) has had a rough year, never managing to get his 240Z to a green flag but borrowing an IT-prep Mazda for the finishes to take second in points. With identical records, two wins and a 2nd, **Howard Roth** (DMV) and **Barry Shonberger** (StL) tied for third. • **GT3** ~ **Milton Grant** (MidS) won his eighth championship, his seventh in a row, but by only one point over **Jim Duea**



## Midwest Division SCCA National Racing

### HEADS UP: THE RULES ARE CHANGING

The rules for scoring points will change next year after decades of counting a driver's best six finishes. In 2009 drivers will score their best seven, and may include up to three finishes out-of-division. MiDiv drivers will still need a minimum of three starts in MiDiv races to receive awards.

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(Okla) and three points over **Rick Taylor** (Kan). • **GTL** ~ **Peter Zekert** (StL) ran up a perfect 72-point score for his fourth GT Lite crown, easily outdistancing **Brad Lewis** (StL) and **Keith Maloney** (OzMt) who finished just one point apart from each other.

### TOURING

• **T1** ~ **Jim Lynch** (StL) competed in every MiDiv National this year and ran up a maximum 72-point score. **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb) took second after **Mike McGinley** (KC) stuffed his 'Vette in practice at HPT leaving him third. • **T2** ~ **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) also posted a perfect 72 in points with his seventh win of the year at HPT. **Tommy Joe Martins** (MidS) won four times for second, ahead of **Richard Kulach** (MidS). • **T3** ~ **Dwight Faitz** (StL) won five times for his second straight championship

### PREPARED

The difference between 2007 and 2008 is that the champions both won four times and will receive the first-ever leather chairs awarded to Prepared-class champions, although each is officially listed as champion for a second time • **BP** ~ **Jeff Demetri** (Neb) finished his year winning twice at HPT. • **DP** ~ **Ron Pawley** (NeOk) got his fourth win at HPT.

### PRODUCTION

• **EP** ~ **Charlie Clark** (KC) had a so-so weekend at HPT, never improving his points score, but challenger **Jon Brakke**

(DMV) had a worse one with a Monday DNF that still left him 8 points behind Clark. **Brian Haupt** (KC) had a weekend barely good enough to hold off **Jesse Prather** (Kan) by one point even though Prather won both days. • **FP** ~ **Rick Harris** (Wich) got his fourth win of the year and his first championship over Monday winner **Eric Prill** (Kan). **Bob Bramlage** (Kan) got the third-place award. • **GP** ~ **Frank Axelrod** (StL) went to Joliet on Aug. 17 to score the only GP points by anyone all year and that makes him the class champion. • **HP** ~ **Loren Moore** (OzMt) and **Chris Albin** (Sill) traded wins at HPT, which left them 1-2 in the final standings. It's Moore's second title. **Mark Weber** (StL) showed up Monday and took 3rd, enough to claim third in the standings by one point.

### STREET TIRES

• **AS** ~ **Jim Wheeler** (KC) took a DNF at HPT but had enough points in hand after a MAM win for his fourth championship in the last five years. Three wins gave **Chris Brannon** (OzMt) the points to edge **Bill Tucker** (KC) for second. • **SSB** ~ Three wins and two 2nds give **Dennis AuBuchon** (StL) this championship. • **SSC** ~ **John Saucier** (Okla) got his sixth win of the year at HPT and his 17th championship in a row in SSC. • **SM** ~ **Charlie James** (NeOk) also ran all 10 MiDiv races and finally got his championship. **Sam Henry** (OzMt) got second by just one point over **Eric Foss** (NeOk) despite Foss winning all four of his starts including both ends of both the Memphis and HPT doubleheaders.

—Rocky Entriiken

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## The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

The late addition of a double Tour event with Kaw Valley Race Group's double National ended up making no difference in the final champions, not that some of them didn't have to fight to keep their gold medals. A few drivers who were out of the medals going in stepped up to silver and bronze.

• **ITR** ~ **Ralph Woodard** (Neb) had this one locked away after getting his fourth and fifth wins of the season in the early- and mid-August races at Gateway and MAM for his second gold medal. The silver goes to Hallett winner **Don Melvin** (StL).

• **ITS** ~ **Robert Herman** (Neb) and **Mark Andrews** (StL) traded wins at Heartland Park after each had won earlier in August at their home tracks. That result still left Herman on the top step of the podium, eight points clear of Andrews. **Ryan Staub** (KC) was also in the mix at HPT to retain his hold on third in class.

• **ITA** ~ The largest I.T. class has 39 drivers with points and more than a third of them showed up at HPT. **Mac Spikes** (MidS) kinda took a chance not being among them but with 13 other ITAs beating up on each other Spikes still survived to take the gold. How close was it? **Oren Tucker** (Ark) held silver with a pair of sixth-place finishes and was just 9 points behind Spikes. The big jump was by **David**

**Gird** (Wich) who won at MAM in his not-a-Miata (Dodge Neon) and scored 9 more points at HPT, up from 15th place to win bronze.

• **ITB** ~ A familiar name, **Chris Albin** (Sill) back atop the list. After missing it by one point a year ago Albin won five times for his 11th gold medal. Over the final three races **Alex Wiley** (Kan) won the duel with **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV) for silver and bronze.

• **ITC** ~ This one was decided earlier in the year as **Curt Weilandich** (StL) posted three wins for his second championship.

• **ITE** ~ **John Waldbaum** (Neb) got his third win in six starts in the second race at HPT, reclaiming a championship he won once before in 2003. **Mark Kirby** (KC) won the first-day race at HPT to claim the silver medal. **John Slinkard** (Neb) was DNF in that race, but the start was all he needed to get the bronze.

• **IT7** ~ **Trey Scott** (StL) had a 48-19 lead on the class before HPT so he must have felt confident in holding the gold. Late-starting **Matthew Rivard** (KC) won both Gateway and MAM and two more wins would have tied Scott and won the tiebreaker, but it didn't quite work out that way and he settled for silver. Bronze went to **Charles Casteel** (KC). —R.E.