

# MID-AM REPORT

After 42 years, Regional racing as it has been known in the Midwest Division comes to an end. Begun in 1972 as the Midwest Division Inter-Regional Road Racing Championship, this series was revised in 1986 to become the much less polysyllabic Mid-Am Championship.

Now, with the completion of the Mid-Am Bonus Race at Gateway on Oct. 20, Regional Racing is no more in MiDiv. But the Mid-Am lives on!

As of 2014 a new Mid-Am Championship will be the SCCA-approved Divisional Championship in MiDiv. For the 27 Runoffs-eligible classes it will provide an alternative path to go to SCCA's National Championship race. For all 39 GCR classes plus any added classes we choose to run (currently Club Ford, ITE and IT7) it becomes our primary championship series.

So now we celebrate our last Regional-racing champions, the Mid-Am Champions of 2013. The series ran 10 races this year on five weekends, beginning with the driver school weekend at Gateway in April, our first visit to Iowa Speedway in May, Heartland Park the beginning of June, Mid-America the end of June, then nearly a three-month wait for the Bonus Race weekend back at Gateway.

**Stephen Johnson** (KC) had only one possible path to both the ITA championship and Driver of the Year honors at the Bonus Race: win everything. **Don Wiseman** (OzMt) had 64 points in ITA, while **Bruce Bettinger** (Wich) had 42 and Johnson had 39.

**John Waldbaum**, meanwhile, had 72 points to lead ITE from a perfect 6-win season, but only two of those were "outright" wins. He'd scored both days at Iowa, HPT and MAM, but only the Heartland Park finishes were outright wins – first on the track in a class of at least two cars. He needed two more to be eligible for DotY, but Saturday's race at Gateway gave him a 3rd place finish.

That meant Wiseman was now atop the DotY rankings with four ITA wins – Gateway (April) and MAM. Johnson, 25 points behind, had two Iowa wins (one outright) and one more at HPT from just four finishes. Saturday in the "regular" race, Johnson led Wiseman home for his third outright, 12 more points, while Wiseman scored a 9 and threw out a 7 for a net

gain of 2 points. Bettinger was 3rd, also a net gain of 2. The score was now Wiseman 66, Johnson 51, Bettinger 49. Sunday was the Bonus Race, paying double points to qualified drivers, which all the ITA contenders were. At the checkered flag Johnson had a 17-sec. lead for his fourth outright and 24 points to Wiseman's 18. Johnson would score all 24, Wiseman could keep only 9 points and they ended in a 75-point tie – broken in Johnson's favor, both for the class

championship and Driver of the Year, by that 5th victory, the non-outright score at Iowa Speedway.

Six other classes crowned champions after the Bonus Race.

In Spec Racer Ford, **Tom Muffler** (StL) added the bonus-max 36 points to take the championship from points

leader **O.L. Kinney** (KC) who missed the race. It was Muffler's first wins of the season. Kinney, who had double wins at the Iowa and HPT races, was nonetheless tied for 3rd in the Driver of the Year standings.

**James Wood** (Neb) won the last four races of the season, MAM and Gateway, in a Honda Del Sol to become the GTL champion. It's his eighth championship in his fourth different class.

In Spec Miata, **Jeff Leavell** (StL) also won both days at Gateway. Earlier in the season he'd won the two HPT races over **Harold Tubbs** (StL), who'd won the April Gateway races. The HPT result was the championship difference. Leavell is the other tied for 3rd in the DotY standings.

**Harold Janke** (Neb) is the ITS champion with victories at HPT and MAM, taking the class his son Trevor won last year.

**Chris Albin** (Sill) won all four Gateway races in ITB plus one more at MAM for his 21st consecutive championship, an incredible record. Five 2nd-place finishes including one at the Bonus race earns the runner-up award for **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV), while **Ralf Lindow** (Neb) is 3rd with wins at Iowa Speedway twice and once at MAM.

**Bill Miller** (KC) won both ends of the Gateway opener, took a first and a second at Heartland Park, then came home second both days of the Gateway closer to win the IT7 championship.—*Rocky Entriken*

