

NATIONAL RACING REPORT

End of an era. No other appellation quite summarizes the 2013 season of National racing, not just in MiDiv but nationwide. Next year the new face of SCCA Club Racing will be the four Majors Tours in the Eastern, Northern, Western and Mid-States Conferences, with a second-level of Divisional Racing in each of the nine Divisions.

The Mid-States Conference – That’s us here in MiDiv plus the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Divisions. It’ll be conducted out of the National office, with championships tracked on SCCA.com. What you’ll get within MiDiv is a separate Divisional championship. Rules already are up on www.midiv.org. We’re retaining the name of The Mid-Am Championship as its title, but it’s the Divisional path to a Runoffs invitation.

Two dozen drivers will be the last names imprinted on the roster of National Racing champions in MiDiv. Two of them, plus a class runner-up, went on to Road America and claimed National Championships at the Runoffs. The summary of 51 years of Midwest Division Club Racing shows drivers have won 88 National Championships and 1192 divisional championships in 76 different classes. Twenty of the 24 champions met the participation requirements to receive the distinctive director’s chair awards with the hand-tooled leather seat and back, and 19 drivers placing 2nd/3rd also will receive awards.

MiDiv’s 2013 national champions are **Jim Drago** (MidS) taking his second consecutive crown in Spec Miata, **Charlie James** (NeOk) becoming SCCA’s first-ever B-Spec champion, and **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) winning his second T2 gold medal (his first was in 2008).

All of the MiDiv races this year were doubleheaders, Majors to begin the season at Hallett and end it at Gateway, Rational weekends at Iowa Speedway, Heartland Park Topeka and the Mid-America Motorplex (which is for sale!).

FORMULA

•**F/Atlantic** ~ **Jim Wright** (StL) won the class for the third straight year by winning twice at Iowa, finishing 2nd at the HPT races and third at the Gateway races. •**F/Mazda** ~ **Ken DeNault** (DMV) won three times at Iowa including the special “Festival” race there and claimed his ninth championship. •**F/F** ~ **Cliff Johnson** (KC) won his second director’s chair with double victories at HPT and Gateway. •**F/Vee** ~ **Bill Johnson III** (KC), who lost a championship tiebreaker a year ago, this time posted a 124-point season that included three Majors wins, two at Hallett and one at Gateway, plus victories at HPT and Road America. Lisa Noble (Kan), who spent the year as SCCA’s Chairman of the Board, finished second in class. •**F/500** ~ **Timothy Friest** and **David Vincent** (KC), racing neighbors from Leavenworth, Ks., finished just two points apart atop the class – 129-127. Both scored a win, three 2nds and two 3rds in Majors races, the difference came at the COTA Majors where Friest was 4th

and Vincent 6th. They swapped 1-2 finishes at MAM in June and a week later at High Plains in July. Vincent also won once at Heartland Park, but they ended up throwing out their HPT and MAM finishes. **Charles McAbee** (Kan) in 3rd place won six times – two at Hallett, two at COTA, one each at HPT and Gateway, for a 122-point score. Also... •**F/Continental** ~ **Allan Dale** (Kan) tops the chart for a fourth straight year after a trip to the Majors race at Circuit of the Americas.

SPORTSRACING

•**S2000** ~ **Jack Donnellan** (Okla) won both days at MAM and posted runner-up finishes at three Majors to win his fifth championship. •**SRF** ~ The father-son team of **Jim Coté Jr.**

and **Jim Coté Sr.** (KC) claimed the top two places. Junior won at HPT and twice at MAM and added two 2nds and a 3rd. Senior’s finishes were enough to hang on 5 points ahead of **Kirk Collier** (KC). Also... • **CSR** ~ **Chris Funk** (KC) won both days at Heartland Park, then repeated the trick at the High Plains season-ender for his second

championship. • **DSR** ~ **Tom Bootz** (KC) won his sixth championship with four Majors runner-up finishes.

GRAND TOURING

•**GT1** ~ **Tom Smith** (MidS) won double Majors at Hallett and Mid-Ohio. He also scored two “regular” wins at Eagles Canyon and three at Iowa (including the “Festival” feature) for a second championship. •**GT2** ~ **Mike McGinley** (KC) had a six-win season beginning with twice at Hallett. Then he did two at Iowa and two more at HPT. **Keith Moody** (KC) was runner-up with two Gateway Majors victories, just enough to finish one point ahead of MAM double-winner **Mark Kirby** (KC). •**GT3** ~ **Robert Herman** (Neb) had just one win, at Heartland Park, but four runner-up finishes in Majors races was enough for his fourth straight championship. **George Walker** (NeOk) did the four Majors, just enough to edge one point ahead **Chris Stevens** (KC), who won at Iowa and HPT. •**GTL** ~ **Kent Prather** (Kan) scored six wins, all in pairs, beginning with the COTA race in March, then Hallett in April, and finally Heartland Park in June. It’s his 11th MiDiv championship, his fourth in five years in GTL (the others in GP). **Roy Lopshire** (KC), with two wins at MAM, trophied 2nd in class.

SUPER TOURING

•**STU** ~ **Tom Kraft** (DMV) did the two Majors weekends in MiDiv and won all four races for his second consecutive STU championship and fourth overall. •**STL** ~ **Brian Laughlin** (NeOk), won four “regular” Nationals, twice at Eagle’s Canyon and twice at Heartland Park, and added three Majors runner-up finishes for a second straight STL trophy. **Tom Kraft** again, doing double duty with his Miata at the MiDiv Majors weekends, was the runner-up.



Midwest Division SCCA National Racing

TOURING

•**T2** ~ Class reorganization left nobody to race T1 but the class's 2011-12 champ **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb) is now in T2 where eight wins brought her a third championship. She took Majors wins at High Plains in July and Gateway (twice) in August, plus regular wins at all three Iowa races and twice at Heartland Park. **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) began his season with two Majors wins at Hallett, then won a couple more at MAM in June and Road America in July. Actually, he won a third one at Road America, in September at the Runoffs. •**T4** ~ With the departure of Showroom Stock from the Club Racing scene, **James Wood** (Neb) took his SSC Honda Civic to this new class and became the first champion after double victories at both Iowa Speedway and Heartland Park.

PRODUCTION

•**EP** ~ **Bill Allman** (Kan) went on a five-race winning streak, which was barely enough to hold off **Brian Haupt** (KC) for the championship by four points. Allman won the races at Heartland Park and Mid-America and the first of the two Gateway races, finishing 2nd in the other one. A second-place at the High Plains season-ender was enough for the winning margin. Haupt's season included an Iowa win. •**FP** ~ **Sam Henry** (OzMt) lost a tie-breaker to **Eric Prill** (Kan) last year. This year three Majors wins (Hallett, COTA and Gateway) brought him the championship. Prill, whose duties as an SCCA VP sometimes makes getting to races problematic, also had three majors wins (COTA, High Plains, Gateway) and ended up 13 points back. Third place was **Randy Wagner** (NeOk). •**HP** ~ **Chris Albin** (Sill) collected his fourth championship in five years with Majors double wins at Hallett and Gateway, sandwiching a pair at Heartland Park. **Jack Schulz** (OzMt) chased Albin home in those races three times, and won one at MAM.

AMERICAN SEDAN

•**AS** ~ **Jim Wheeler** (KC) was the No. 2 points scorer in MiDiv with a 134-point season from eight victories, six of them in Majors (one of which he had to throw out). He won the doubleheaders at Hallett, Pikes Peak and High Plains, as well as his "hometown" race at Heartland Park. In second place, **Dane Smith** (MidS) won a Majors at Mid-Ohio and two "regular" races at Eagles Canyon. **Kim McDonald** (Neb) took third in class with a 2nd, two 3rds and a 4th in Majors.

B-SPEC

•**B-Spec** ~ **Charlie James** (NeOk) became the first MiDiv champion in SCCA's newest National Class with twin victories in two Majors doubleheader weekends, first at COTA in March, then at Hallett in April. With only the two MiDiv races James did not qualify for awards, but any disappointment there is surely soothed by his fifth victory when he became the first B-Spec National Champion at the Runoffs. **Michael Asselta** (KC) was second behind James at one COTA race and both days at Hallett, then won a round at Gateway for his third (and award-winning) MiDiv finish.

SPEC MIATA

•**SM** ~ By the time **Jim Drago** (MidS) got to the MiDiv lid-lifter at Hallett he already had enough points to win the championship with wins at COTA and Road Atlanta, but he kept going. Another win at Hallett, two more at Gateway, and he had the season's highest score with 146 points. Then wrapped things up with a no-points victory at Road America's Runoffs for his second National Championship. **Scott Bettinger** (Wich) scored his best points at Pikes Peak and Gateway to be class runner-up, with **David Schroeder** (DMV), a double-winner at MAM, in third.

—Rocky Entriiken

The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

The changes coming in SCCA Club Racing also spells the end of the Midwest Division I.T. Tour after 17 seasons. The series' genesis came in the mid-'90s when the basic MiDiv race weekend was a Regional/National and someone scheduled a "Restricted Regional" on Sunday for the Improved Touring cars so the popular category could have two races like everyone else. Soon everyone was doing it and in 1997 a series was born.

Now, with double Divisional races expected to be the norm, I.T. will vie for the same championship as all other classes. So 2013 – with a short six-race season (two each at Iowa, HPT and MAM) because the Hallett and Gateway Majors did not accommodate regional-only classes – is the final time the series' Olympic-style medals will be awarded.

•**ITS** – **Harold Janke** (Neb) won both the HPT races and both times at MAM to win the gold medal.

•**ITA** – The most popular I.T. class had 11 drivers scoring points. **Don Wiseman** (OzMt), won both the MAM races, and scored a 2nd and a 3rd at HPT, to win a second consecutive



championship by just four points over **Stephen Johnson** (KC). Johnson was a winner at both Iowa and HPT. The bronze medal went to **Bruce Bettinger** (Wich) who had a 2nd and a 3rd at MAM.

•**ITB** – **Chuck Hemmingson** (DMV) won at Iowa and at MAM, and added a 2nd and a 3rd, to top a very orderly progression of scores in the points table. He had 40 points, **Ralf**

Lindow (Neb), also an Iowa winner, had 30, and **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV) had 20.

•**ITE** – **Jeff Demetri** (Neb) won both days at Iowa and did the same at MAM for his second straight gold medal. The silver went to **John Waldbaum** (Neb), the only I.T. driver in any class to do all six races, who won both days at HPT and was runner-up in the others. The bronze goes to **Alex Wiley** (Kan), who chased Waldbaum home at HPT with his Chumpcar Opel Ascona.

•**IT7** – **David Vande Berg** (DMV) won both days at the Iowa Speedway to take the gold. The silver belongs to **Bill Miller** (Kan), who got a win and a 2nd at HPT.

—R.E.