

THE BLAT



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION, SCCA

DECEMBER 2003

Dick Faxon and Chris Brannon Capture Mid-Am Racing Championships

The 2003 *Mid-Am Road Racing Championship* concluded at Memphis Motorsports Park on Nov. 2 when MidSouth Region hosted the *Championship's* double-points "bonus" races. Going into this year's final event, four OMR drivers had a chance at *Mid-Am* titles. Dick Faxon (Spec Miata) and Chris Brannon (Touring 2 Firebird) were successful; Rick Carr and Shane Bennoch came up a little short. Faxon also finished Third in the *Mid-Am's* "Driver of the Year" standings.

Business commitments kept Rick from entering his GT2 Porsche 911 in the "bonus" round, and St. Louis Region's Ward Herst (Mazda RX7) snookered him by capturing the 24 points available at Memphis. Shane won a late season race at Gateway Int'l which gave him the Formula Continental class lead, but Kansas Region's Patrick Donnelly won enough points at Memphis to leap frog Shane and Kansas City Region's Willard King into 1st Place.

Final Mid-Am Racing Report By Rocky Enriken

The entry at the Bonus Race was unusually light this year, but, for the most part, those who went to Memphis made a difference in their Mid-Am Championships. And in many cases, those who did not go should have.

The most unusual development was that two different drivers will have to find places to hang two championship clocks, claiming 2003 titles in two different classes. It's quite an achievement just to get to enough races never mind winning a dozen each. **Mike McGinley** (KC) did it in CSR and ITE, while **Patrick Donnelly** (Kan) did the same in CF and FC.

Donnelly won eight straight Club Ford races early in the season to lock up that title. Then he bought a Swift DB6 to race in Formula Continental. He was third in the standings going to Memphis, with defending champ **Shane Bennoch** (OzMt) at 69 points,

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Traveling Tombstone Now Resides With Mitchell & Brannon

After years of trying (usually with various family members in the navigator's seat,) Terry Mitchell captured OMR's coveted *Traveling Tombstone* trophy at the Region's annual *Halloween Rally*. Riding shotgun this time was *Mid-Am* racing champion Chris Brannon who had never rallied before but was paired with Mitchell by racing czar Jeff Moore.

Fourteen teams contested the Nov. 15th "hare and hounds" event which was master-minded by Rally Manager Mike Eden with John Gresham doing most of the dirty work, tossing out 119 bags of marble dust to mark the 72.3 mi. route as Moore and Eden toured the course just minutes before the rally started.

The team of Loren Moore and Mary Porazzo finished Second in Loren's Acura NSX but not without drama. At one point, the Japanese supercar was high-centered on the shoulder of a narrow country road and teetering over a bottomless abyss. They were rescued by Chuck and Karen Leighton who finished out of the money but entered the final checkpoint with their Porsche on fire after oil dripped onto the 911's hot exhaust manifolds.

Coming home Third was the team of Chris Simons and Stephanie Thornton; placing Fourth were Forrest Tindall and grand-daughter Breanna.

Adding to the folklore surrounding our annual autumn rally were Shelley Rice, whose pajamas, robe, and hair rollers may or may not have been part of a costume, and the team of Gary Grantham/Josef Welsh who couldn't find the route because they were looking for lime green spots instead of lime splotches on the pavement!

The rally concluded with a bonfire party hosted by Clarissa and Jeff Moore at *The Automotive Archeologists* race shop southeast of Springfield. Thanks to them and everyone else who helped keep one of OMR's oldest traditions alive for another year.

"Merry Christmas & Best Wishes In The New Year"

From the Officers, Directors, and Managers of OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION - SCCA

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Submissions to *The BLAT* must be in the Region's P.O., Box by the 1st of the month – or delivered to the Editor at a monthly meeting – to be included in the following month's issue.

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OMR/SCCA MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month. Meeting locations are always noted on the first page of *The BLAT*. Guests are welcome.

Board of Directors Meetings are scheduled on Thursday of the second full week of the month. Meeting locations are always noted on the last page of *The BLAT*.

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www.midiv.org



Anderson On Autocrossing

By Erik Anderson, SOLO II Manager

With unseasonably warm temperatures in November, Ozark Mountain Region's *Last Chance* autocross saw another record entry with 67 drivers! AS, CSP, DSP, and HS swelled up again and helped with the great turnout. We were again able to start right at 11:00, and everyone got six tries at the course. **T.C.**

Pistole held another of his semi-famous drivers schools for those novices looking for hints from an experienced driver. A Bondurant driving school graduate, licensed SCCA road racer, and seasoned autocrosser, T.C. helped several novice drivers gain confidence and lower their times remarkably throughout the day. Unfortunately for OMR and next year's SOLO II program, T.C. will be moving to Texas to further his career in a new job.

We had three ladies driving three very popular cars! **Misty Hembree** entered her MINI Cooper S (GSL) while **Tannia Dobbins** drove Jeff Hermann's WRX Sti in ASL and **Linda Corrigan** brought out her white Trans Am. After PAXing their best times, Misty took the 1st place trophy with a 33.140 beating Tannia by a mere 0.375 seconds. **Jeff Hermann** then took the wheel of his blue Sti and drove it to 1st place in AS over **Pat Mitchell** in his CS Miata (by only 0.017 seconds!) and 3rd place **Randy McCall** in his black Sti.

BSP pitted the Corvettes of **Mark Rountree** and **Dave Acuff** against the 300ZX of **Damon Robinson**. Dave finished 2nd to Damon while Mark gets Honorable Mention for "Best Impromptu Production of Tire Smoke" after his spin on the back slalom!

With only one entrant each in SS (**Peter Jasan**) and DM (**Ted Hollis**) they were bumped until they came together in CM where powerful and sleek RX7 of Peter bested Ted's Convertible Suzuki That Could. I think Ted has done as much as he can with regards to weight savings!

CSP drew six drivers on Nov. 9. **Matt Searing** returned with his silver Audi S4, while **David Quinonez** co-drove **Mike McMellen's** new Sentra (with pimpy OEM Brembo brake upgrade!), and **Malachi Stowe** brought back his yellow Neon SRT-4. Matt drove the Audi to 3rd place behind David in 2nd who again proved that borrowed cars go faster, and Malachi - in only his second autocross (ever?) - took 1st place as well as FTD-S! I'm not the club historian, but I think that might be a record!

DSP also had six drivers with **Nick Taliaferro** and his Saab Viggen, **Robert McLaren** and **Skyler Spartan** driving Robert's blue 4WS Prelude, **David Small** (bumped from FSP) testing his yellow Alfa, **Dan Fischer** bringing back his red/lack Dodge Shelby, and **Mike VanAmburgh** visiting from Sedalia with a BMW 325is. David drove the Alfa to 3rd behind Dan's Shelby, but the ringer was VanAmburgh in the unassuming BMW that took 1st place. He and KC autocrosser **Chris Conant** (SM BMW M3) traded fastest raw times throughout the day (36 seconds!) and had everyone

listening for their times as they finished the course!

In ES we had the usual suspects (**Dick Faxon** and **Sam Henry** driving Dick's Miata) as well as **Sean Burke**. Sam and Dick's battle for the class championship was on the line with Dick needing a win to create a tie. It came down to the last run with Sam taking 1st place (2nd place in PAX) by 0.37 seconds. Sam isn't the only one who could be accused of biting the hand that throws him the keys (more on that below)!

ESP found **Kevin Fulks**, **Stan Bell**, and **John Boiger** challenging **Derek Gresham**. The odd car out was Gresham's Yenke Corvair which appeared to be the underdog, but Derek expertly piloted the Stinger to 1st place (and a class title) while Boiger finished 2nd..

FS grew to four drivers this event with two Camaros (**Bobby Jasan's** pewter Z28 and **Paul Duval's** white Z28) battling a Mustang Mach1 shared by **Matt Huntman** and **Charles Trebilcock**. Matt was able to grab 2nd with the Mustang while Bobby Jason flung the Z28 wildly (yet with some degree of precision!) around the cones to take 1st place in FS and also capture the FTD-R trophy!

Lester Henry (Maxima) and **David Hembree** (MINI) duked it out in GS, and, after the tire smoke dissipated, Lester had taken 1st place with a time of 38.947 and 9th place in the PAX standings.

A horde of drivers (seven!!) showed up to run HS at this event! **Tom Bishop** brought out his red Celica, **Joel Messina** drove his Focus, and **Robert Marsh** pulled his Volvo wagon out of retirement! But the class leaders turned out to be **Jonathan Fessenden** who took 4th with his burgundy Focus, **Ben Whitacre** and his yellow Geo Storm in 3rd place, **Brad Eldred**, driving a borrowed Cavalier, in 2nd, and, as usual, **Forrest Tindall** in 1st place.

SM saw **Stan Schultz** returning with his turbo Toyota Paseo, **Ben Dow** sharing **Chris Simons'** white Cavalier, **Korry Berger** returning in his black Z28, and **Chris Conant** visiting from KC with his red M3! Korry Berger who has been a regular from Arkansas since mid season took 3rd place in his Z28. Chris Simons took 2nd place with a 39.339 but was hopelessly underpowered against the other Chris' M3. With a blistering 35.987 (the fastest raw time of the day) Chris Conant took 1st place and a 7th place PAX!

SM2 was a bit confusing as **Andy Hohl** and **Dave Whitworth** started off in a black Mustang that somehow morphed into an Sti during one of the runs (someone teach the rest of us that trick!). Serpentine belt problems were rumored to have caused the Mustang's early retirement. Facing Andy and Dave were **Allen Woody** and **Raymond Talley** in Raymond's MR2 and **Bud Weeks** driving another red MR2. Dave took 1st place with a 37.591; Andy was a close second at 37.633; and Raymond took 3rd with a 38.041

After starting off the year as our biggest class, STS lost entrants to other classes (SM and DSP) as the season progressed, but there were still seven drivers to keep it among the largest classes on Nov. 9th. **David Provenzano** entered his clean, black Subaru

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MORE Anderson On Autocrossing From Page 3

Impreza RS, **Justin Campbell** drove his white Integra, **Chris Gilbert** returned with the "Team Couch" Civic Si, **Travis Tyler** was back with his blue Neon R/T, and newcomer **Mark Bishop** joined the class in his stock Celica. **Bob Heisler** entered his silver Neon and, after sufficient bribing, even allowed **Erik Anderson** to drive it. The results show Travis rounded out the Top 10 PAX finishers with his 4th place finish in STS but was just edged out by Mark Bishop's Celica who took 3rd in class and an 8th in PAX and surprised a lot of veterans at the same time! Bob and Erik have traded 1st place finishes all year, and Nov. 9th saw Erik in a position where he had to win again if he wanted to claim the STS championship. With Bob sitting comfortably in his points position, Erik tried the "110%" approach on the majority of his runs and spun the Bob's Neon more times than not. In the end, Bob and Erik were separated by only 0.228 second with Bob taking a close 2nd behind Erik.

In checking the results for this last event, the top 10 PAX times were only 1.060 seconds apart! At the beginning of the year, the top 10 were separated by 2.306. We had two classes this year whose championship results came down to the last event. The racing and competition at OMR events has improved over the year, and I can't wait to see what changes next year brings! . Over the winter stay in touch with everyone with our new on-line forum at <http://www.omrscqa.org/forums/> and contact Erik Anderson (ludikris@mchsi.com or 417-766-1974) if you would like copies of any of your photos from this year. Thank you to all that have come out to support the Ozark Mountain Region and we will see you next year!

MORE Mid-Am Racing Report From Page 1

Willard King (KC) at 63 and Donnelly at 52. But Bennoch didn't go. King did, but had to toss a 9-point score. Donnelly, with just five finishes would keep every point he earned. He won the race, with King second, and the final tally would be 76-72-69, Donnelly-King-Bennoch. It was the biggest turnabout at the Bonus Race.

McGinley had CSR pretty well sewed up with six wins, and the only driver who could even have tied him did not go to Memphis. But in ITE McGinley was five points behind **Jeff Demetri** (Neb) so he took his Mustang Cobra to the Bluff City. Demetri didn't go. McGinley won the race and his second clock.

Even closer was the score in ITC, with all three of the top contenders present. **Jeffrey Jenkins** (KC) led a 72-69-66 showdown over **Larry Orr** (MidS) and **Nick Chinopulos** (MidS), facing them on their home track. Jenkins won race and championship, but the showdown really was between the Memphis boys. Orr had won four previous matchups, but Chinopulos came home second with Orr third and took over second place 75-74.

Here's a rundown of each Region's award winners:

OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION has two champion drivers this year.

Dick Faxon finally won the Spec Miata title that had eluded him the past two years, and surprisingly was virtually unchallenged at Memphis in what has been Mid-Am's most popular class in 2003. **Chris Brannon** did not begin racing until the end of July, but ran every one of the final 10 races to win the T2 crown. **Rick Carr** is the runner-up in GT2, and **Shane Bennoch** is third in FC.

KANSAS CITY REGION again topped the tally of champions with six this year, led by **Mike McGinley's** pair and **Jeffrey Jenkins'** ITC title. **Bob Gill** in ITS and **Ron Lentz** in SRF both also scored 84 with Bonus Race victories. For Lentz it was his fifth straight championship. **Al Essig** won his third S2000 championship with four wins. Taking second-place awards were **Willard King** in FC; **O.L. Kinney** in SRF, who entered at Memphis with a chance to catch Lentz but never reached the green flag; **Monica Rollins** in ITS with a four-win season; and **Tim Koch** in Formula Ford. **Cliff Koehler** took third place in E Production.

KANSAS REGION not only had **Patrick Donnelly's** double championship, but also a 1-2 finish in E Production. **Ronald Davis** ran his total up to 84 points for his second championship, while **Dale Smith** settled for runner-up honors in the class. In SRF, **Ken Tripkos** took the third-place award.

ST. LOUIS REGION also has three champions. **Ward Herst** in GT2 was the one who went to Memphis in second place and came home the champion when the class leader did not come to meet the challenge. Four-win seasons and 48-point scores were enough to win clocks for **Bob Eichelberger** in FP and **Tim McGinley** in HP. **Timothy Finley** in ITA and **Mary Daly** in GT1 both suffered some bad racing luck at Memphis. Finley was DNS and slipped to second place. Daly was DNF and missed her bid to overtake the class leader. **Gary Payne** took third in FF, one point out of second.

NEOKLA REGION's **Dan Guterman** had a conflict that kept him from Memphis and figured GT1 would slip from his grasp, but his challenger's misfortunes at Memphis left him in first place by three points. **Neil Cox** scored top points five times to win Formula Vee.

WICHITA REGION also won twice, both drivers enjoying enough of a lead neither needed to make the Memphis trip. Newcomer **Paul Sherman** won the SSC title winning five times on the season. Longtime American Sedan racer **David Guinn** finally ascended the top step of the virtual podium after three wins in seven starts.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS REGION has a familiar story to tell with a 1-2 placing in ITB. **Chris Albin** is champion for the 11th straight year and his 20 victories make him Driver of the Year for the sixth consecutive time and the eighth overall. **Bill Briggen** was third at the Bonus Race but that finish was enough to move him to second in points.

DES MOINES VALLEY's **Duane Rost** won nine times to claim the G Production title. **Tom Kraft** is the runner-up in Spec Miata.

ARKANSAS REGION claimed a championship in ITA. **Mark Jeffery** was six points behind going to Memphis, but scored a victory there to take the title.

Continued On Page 5

MORE Mid-Am Racing Report From Page 4

OKLAHOMA REGION has the series' youngest champion, 17-year-old **Slade Miller** who captured the Formula Ford title. The youngster began his campaign in August at Hallett with just seven races left in the season. He ran every remaining race - winning all but one (a DNF) - and scooted past ten other drivers to claim his championship. Third-place awards will be going to **Lynn Lamb** in ITA and **Russ Neely** in ITB.

NEBRASKA REGION has the runner-up in ITE with six-time winner **Jeff Demetri**, and will receive third-place awards in three classes. **John Waldbaum** won twice in ITE, **Bill Pemberton** scored three wins in Spec Miata, and **Emery Emond** also won three in GT1

MID-SOUTH REGION's drivers did not make much of their home track advantage at the Bonus Race. The strongest seasons were those of ITC Fiat 124 drivers **Nick Chinopulos** and **Larry Orr** who chased each other all over the Division, racing at four of the five tracks and ending up one point apart - after they finished 2-3 at the Bonus Race - to be 2-3 in the championship.

MISSISSIPPI REGION's **Skip Brunson** racked up three victories through the first part of the year which was enough to keep third place by just two points in ITS.

Pieces & Bits As Space Permits

After a bit of strong-arming by various Board members, four volunteers have agreed to accept appointment to the Region's 2004 Board of Directors. They will replace Dick Faxon, Mike Eden, Forrest Tindall, and Ted Wells who retired effective the end of the year.

OMR's new Directors are Erik Anderson, Rick Carr, Chris Simons, and Derek Gresham. They will join the three "carry-over" members from the 2003 Board - Phil Fanning, Sam Henry, and Jeff Moore - in conducting the Region's business next year.

Apparently, only two contestants were able to correctly answer one of Phil Fanning's Trivia Challenges during 2003. Joe Bass knew that Teddy Yip's Theodore Formula One car shared its name with the Region's Editor, and John Taliaferro knew (or guessed) that Forrest Tindall had been to the Runoffs five times as a competitor - twice at Riverside Raceway, CA, twice at Road Atlanta, and once at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

To decide our Region's 2003 Trivia Challenge champion, a three round, bare knuckles boxing match is scheduled for OMR's February monthly meeting. The bout is planned only to crown a trivia champion; no wagering allowed!

On the subject of meetings....there will be NO General Membership Meeting on the first Tuesday in January. The only entries

on the Region's calendar in January are the Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15 and the Awards Banquet/Annual Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 17.

The first General Membership Meeting in 2004 is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 3.

The 2004 Midwest Division Schedule appears on Page 9 of this issue. The first divisional events of the new year will be the Trespassers Wil and 100 Acre Wood Club Rallies on Friday/ Saturday, Feb. 20/21. These performance rallies are organized by St. Louis Region and will be run out of Salem, MO. Like last year, SCCA has designated 100 Acre Wood as its Club Rally National Championship event.

Volunteers to serve as Control Workers and Course Marshalls ARE NEEDED. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Curt Faigle at mso4qd@charter.net or visit the event website at www.100aw.org

It's probably come to your attention - see pages 5 & 10 - that OMR's annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17. Each year at the Banquet, the Region presents four "traveling" trophies or awards - the Autocrosser of the Year trophy, the Last of the Great Ones plaque, the J.D. Rice Memorial award, and the Skroo-Up of the Year trophy.

The current holders of those four awards need to return them to the Region so that the names of this year's honorees can be inscribed on them. Dropping them off at Jeff Moore's race shop probably is the most convenient way to return these trophies. The Awards Banquet will be here before you know it. Current holders of the "traveling" trophies are asked to hand them in a.s.a.p.

Court Whitlock says "old race cars never die" (and he should know!) Court reports that his godson, Rob Gibson, down in Texas has won a vintage racing championship with the old Lynx F Vee which was once raced by Hugh Sutton and, later, Court, himself. Hugh got his start in the old single seater before selling it to Court who used it once or twice as a back up car.

Gibson now races the Lynx with Corinthian Vintage Auto Racers (CVAR) who mostly run at Texas World Speedway near College Station, but who also visit Hallett Motor Racing Circuit in the spring and fall.

And speaking of Hugh Sutton.....he's building up a Spec Miata for the 2004 (he hopes) racing season. Hugh sold all of his Formula Vee equipment last summer and considered several cars and classes before deciding on the Miata. He likes the idea of running a car eligible for both amateur (close to home) and semi-pro (return on investment) competition.

SATURDAY - JANUARY 17, 2004

Ozark Mountain Region - Sports Car Club of America

ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

Riverside Inn - Ozark, MO

5:00 PM - SOCIAL HOUR (With Cash Bar) 6:30 PM - BUFFET DINNER
Awards Presentation Will Begin Immediately After Dinner

Cost Per Person - \$20.00

Autocrosser of the Year - SOLO II Class Championships - Service Awards
Membership Pins - MidAm Racing Trophies - Rookie of the Year
Race Driver of the Year - Mechanic of the Year - Skroo Up of the Year
IT Tour Trophies - National Racing Awards

Mark Your Calendars Now & Plan To Attend!

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