

THE BLAT



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION, SCCA

OCTOBER 2004

Runoffs Report

Chris Brannon, Mountain Home, AR, **Curtis Wood**, Ozark, MO, and **Chuck Leighton**, Springfield, were OMR's representatives at the 2004 edition of *The Runoffs* - SCCA's National Road Racing Championship. Both Brannon and Leighton won invitations in two classes: Chris in Touring 1 and Touring 2, Chuck in E Production and G Production. Curtis also won an invite in G Production. The seven day event - one day of practice, three days of qualifying sessions, and three days of racing - was run at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course from Monday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 26.

More than thirty SCCA racers from around the nation lined up for the Touring 1 race on Friday, Sept. 24. Brannon's best lap of 1:37.170 in the third qualifying session put his '01 Corvette - sponsored by TRM Classics/Jeg's/Goodyear - 24th on the grid. The pole was won by John Heinricy in an '02 Corvette at 1:32.687, a new qualifying record for the class. Twenty-seven Corvettes, two Porsche GT3s, one Mustang SVT Cobra, and one Subaru WRX Sti started the contest over the 2.258 mi. road course near Lexington, Ohio.

Chris lost several spots right at the start of the race but was up to 21st place by lap 5. He held his position until the midpoint of the race then fell back to 23rd before recovering to 22nd at the checkered flag. His fast lap during the race was 1:37.544. Heinricy was the flag-to-flag winner.

Saturday morning found the *Mountain Home Flash* 24th (again) on the grid for the Touring 2 race in his '01 Firebird sponsored (again) by TRM Classics/Jeg's/Goodyear. (*TRM Classics* is Chris's muscle car sales business in Mtn. Home.) He had qualified at 1:42.755 while pole sitter Don Knowles (at the *Runoffs* for the first time in 25 years) had posted a 1:39.286 in the ex Loren Moore Cadillac CTS-V. Thirty-four drivers started the race.

Once again, Brannon dropped a couple of spots early in the contest but then made steady progress up the field and finished 21st. His best lap was 1:41.749 - a full second faster than he qualified! Mark Sandridge sprinted from 4th on the grid to win the contest with a Caddy CTS-V. Pole man Knowles finished 5th. Sandridge's fast lap was 1:40.535 so Chris was closer to the guys up

Continued On Page 3

Annual Picnic & Go Kart Runs

Date: Sunday, October 10

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: *Hwy 160 Grand Prix Go Kart Track*
Hwy 160 (Campbell St.) and Rt. AA
(Half Way Between Springfield and Nixa)

All Members and Friends of Ozark Mountain Region are cordially invited!

A pavilion has been booked for our use. Picnic will be catered by Buckingham's BBQ and paid for by the Region. Those attending must provide their own liquid refreshment; vending machine available. Region will purchase 100 go kart tickets and distribute them equitably among those attending who want to drive the karts. Additional go kart and miniature golf tickets available at personal expense.

Because *Snow Bluff* is no more, we've moved our annual picnic to the recreation area on Hwy 160 (Campbell St.) half way between Springfield and Nixa. It's easy enough to find some place for a picnic and easy enough to find go karts (hello, Branson.) But it's not so easy to find go karts with a semi-private picnic area close at hand. The Region's Officers hope the new site for the picnic will be more convenient for a majority of OMR's members. The go karts and catering are expected to cost more than the activities and food at past picnics, so come out and enjoy your Region's hospitality. We may not be able to afford it next year!

OMR/SCCA's Next Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY – OCTOBER 5 – 7:00 PM

Classic Sports Bar & Restaurant

**Clarion Hotel – 3333 S. Glenstone
SPRINGFIELD**

OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION
SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA
P.O. BOX 3802
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65808

www.omrscga.org

CONTACTS

Regional Executive

Rick Carr - (417) 777- 5188

E-mail – ricar116@hotmail.com

Assistant R.E.

Phil Fanning – (417) 638-5575

E-mail – fanning@mo-net.com

Secretary

Sam Henry – (417) 862-0605

E-mail – shenry@springfielddyno.com

Treasurer & Race Driver Licensing

Jeff Moore – (417) 889-7125 wk

E-mail – jwmoore@autoarch.com

Director

Chris Simons – (417) 581-0619

E-mail – autoxchris@hotmail.com

Rally Manager

Erik Anderson – (417) 866-2514

E-mail - ludikris@mchsi.com

Director

Derek Gresham – (417) 766-3737

E-mail - kingturboguy@hotmail.com

SOLO II Manager

Jonathan Fessenden - (417) 848-0728

E-mail - jonathan@fessenden.com

Race Car Scrutineer

Shelley Rice – (417) 753-7325

E-mail – bnr68@aol.com

Editor & Membership Manager

Ted Wells – (417) 881-1079

E-mail – twelco@msn.com

SCCA National Office

1-800-770-2055

www.scca.com

The BLAT

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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.

Editor

Ted Wells – (417) 881-1079

932 E. University, Springfield, MO 65807

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*.

MIDWEST DIVISION OFFICIALS

Area 6 Director – **Charlie Clark – (913) 432-9630**

Executive Steward – **Jack Kish - (515) 288-2708**

Driver Licensing – **Lisa Noble - (785) 539-9135**

National Points – **Kelley Huxtable – (316) 729-9316**

Mid-Am Points – **Rocky Entriiken – (785) 827-5143**

Solo II Steward – **Dick Berger - (913) 721-1428**

Solo II Safety Steward – **Rob Pickrell – (785) 827-0300**

Road Rally Steward – **Bruce Bettinger – (316) 788-3942**

www.midiv.org

MORE Runoffs From Page 1

front than he had been in the T1 race.

Forty-six drivers - thirty of them in Mazda products of one sort or another - started the E Production race late Saturday afternoon. Bringing up the rear (and driving the only American car in the contest) was Chuck Leighton in his classic Yenka Stinger prepared by Chuck's *TopCraft* body shop and Jeff Moore's *Automotive Archeologists*. Chuck had qualified at 1:48.326 while pole sitter Pratt Cole posted a 1:34.080 in a Miata. Not much suspense in this one. Cole led flag-to-flag, but Tony Rivera/Mazda RX7 raced from 5th on the grid to Second Place and John Schmitt/Honda Prelude drove from 8th to Third Place. Leighton ended up 35th two laps down after encountering ignition problems, but, at least, he took the checkered flag.

When it came time for the G Production race on Sunday afternoon, Chuck was happy just to be starting, let alone finishing. He took two GP cars to Mid-Ohio - his Tahiti blue, limited prep MGB and the black, very trick Triumph Spitfire which Loren Moore bought via eBay in mid August. The Spitfire lasted two laps in Monday's practice session before a shattered lifter sidelined it, so the MGB was put into play. Chuck was far off the pace in qualifying, posting a 1:54.264 compared to the 1:39.9 lap record eventually set by Kent Prather's MGA. Engine problems disrupted both his qualifying sessions so crew chief Jeff Moore decided to rebuild the motor, scrounging for parts around the paddock. With assistant crew chief John Gresham becoming more worried by the minute, all the new parts eventually were located (the crank was shipped from *O'Reilly's* machine shop in Springfield) and the rebuild was completed in time for the race. Chuck and the *TopCraft* MG started 32nd (but not last) and soon were moving up through the field thanks to lap times eight seconds faster than their qualifying time. When the checkered flag dropped Chuck had reached 16th place just one lap down on race winner Mark Dennis in a Datsun 510.

Sitting 21st on the starting grid for the G Production showdown, having qualified at 1:46.141, was Curtis Wood in his red Alfa Romeo Giulietta sponsored by - you guessed it - *TopCraft* and *Automotive Archeologists*. Curtis was remarkably consistent in his three qualifying sessions, posting fast laps of 1:46.213, 1:46.416 and the already quoted 1:46.141. But the best was yet to come. When the green was waved, Curtis started cranking out laps two to three seconds faster, and, by lap 7, he had moved up to 10th place! Then he found himself in a game of here-we-go-loop-de-loop, probably embarrassing his son, Shelby (they were enjoying a father-son vacation,) and fell back to 25th! He spent the rest of the race working back up to 15th. For shame, Curtis!

Jeff Moore reports it was a tiring week in Ohio but not as tiring as the weeks of race preparation in late August and mid September. He was thrilled that all of OMR's racers were able to take the checkered flags in their races. There were some decent results and some disappointing results but no DNFs!

Phil's Newest Trivia Challenge(s)

How many forward gears did the GT40 Mk II have?

How many laps in the Brickyard 400 NASCAR race?

Who won OMR's "Skroo Up of the Year" Trophy for 2003?

Here's the deal...answer one question and win a OMR ball cap; answer all three questions and win a better ball cap. Each month Phil offers a tech question, a motorsports query, and an OMR/SCCA related puzzler. No one accepted Phil's *Challenges* last month, but here are the answers: A-H Sprite bore & stroke is 62.9 mm X 76.2 mm; there were only four classified finishers in the '66 Monaco Grand Prix although two more cars were still circulating; in the past ten years, Snow Bluff was the most popular (and only) site for OMR's annual picnic.

Email your answers to this month's brain teasers to fanning@mo-net.com or phone Phil at 417-638-5575. Deadline for entries is 10:00 PM CDT, Monday, Oct. 4. The winner will be announced at OMR's General Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 5. In case of multiple correct answers, a drawing will determine the winner. The drawing - should one be necessary - will serve no other purpose than to determine the winner. No wagering allowed!

2004 I.T. Tour Wrap Up

The 2004 edition of Midwest Division's *I.T. Tour* road racing championship concluded at Heartland Park/Topeka on Labor Day weekend. As reported in last month's *BLAT*, OMR drivers **Dick Faxon** (Spec Miata) and **Loren Moore** (Improved Touring E) already had clinched class championships before that event, but the fate of **Jack Schulz** in Improved Touring S was still undecided.

I'm happy to report Jack and his Porsche 911 finished the season strongly with Second Place finishes at MidAmerica Motorplex on Aug. 22 and Heartland Park on Sept. 5. He ended the season with 47 points and Second Place in ITS. Congratulations, Jack!

Also racing in the MidAmerica round of the championship were **Charles Murdock** who finished Third in ITS with his Triumph TR8 and **Sam Henry** who ended up Ninth in Spec Miata. It was the only time Charlie and Sam competed in the *I.T. Tour* this year. Charlie's seven points tied him for 13th in ITS, and Sam's one point tied him for 42nd (!!!) in Spec Miata. Class champion Faxon was Fifth in Spec Miata at the Glenwood, IA track.

Calendar Note

The proposed 2005 Midwest Division Schedule appears on Page 4 of this issue. This schedule already has been revised a couple of times and is near its final form. Approval is expected at the MIDIV Convention at Tulsa in mid November.

Fessin' Up

By Jonathan Fessenden, Solo II Manager

On Sunday, August 29th the weather could not have been better for our *August Scorcher* autocross with highs in the upper 70s and winds from the north topping out at 10MPH just enough to keep you cool without blowing your hat off. The rain the day before left the track clean with only a little sweeping necessary to clean up some of the drainage paths on the track.

Course setup was done the evening before with the help of several of the regulars. There was no designer for the track *per se*, but rather random ideas of what seemed fun at the time were employed followed by detailed tweaking to keep it fast and smooth. The result was what seemed like one of the most liked tracks of the season; open turns and fast straights approaching SCCA limits which still exhibited a very technical nature leaving drivers little room for error.

The first heat was run off with little difficulty, the most notable thing being that the first cone hit came in the 4th of 6 runs!

Much excitement occurred in the second heat, however, when Dave Acuff's #58 BSP Corvette (on a very fast run) crossed the line on fire! The sudden spike in excitement got several people moving in a hurry, but, fortunately, the fire put itself out before extinguishers were brought to bear against the flames. Dave did not take his final two runs for safety concerns

FTD went to Robert Marsh in his Formula Vee with a 37.728, followed closely by David Small in the same car just 0.411 sec. back. FTD PAX was once again a close fight between Dick Faxon and Sam Henry (both in Dick's Miata) with Sam winning by 0.481 seconds with a indexed time of 31.796.

STS, with seven entries, was the largest class. Bob Heisler took

the win at 42.246 sec. with second place Chris Gilbert rubbing Bob's bumper just .038 sec. behind! DSP was the second largest class with six entries and featured another close finish. Second place Nick Swanson and third place Chris Simons were separated by less than two-tenths of a second at the end of the day.

On September 11th - this time a Saturday - OMR hosted its *2004 Remember September* autocross. Running on Saturday apparently resulted in attendance being slightly down with only 44 autocrossers showing up to race. The lower numbers meant more runs and everyone was still home in time to relax before supper.

I'll bet Bud Weeks will "remember" the event for a long time. He took home the FTD-R trophy for the first time in many, many moons!

Our next autocross will be on Sunday October 24th Currently we are in need of volunteers to help set up the course the night before and to help get the equipment set up early Sunday morning. We have a course designer, but we are looking for three to five helpers who can come out Saturday night to assist with course setup. Sunday morning the same number will be needed to section out parking areas, chalk the course and handle tech and registration.

We've had a fine group of people who have been very reliable this year, going above and beyond what's expected of them. If we can get just a few more volunteers to help Saturday night and Sunday morning, our events will go much smoother and everyone can share a more relaxed work load and thus more fun!

If you are interested in helping out on October 24th, or perhaps designing a future course, or just want to come out and see the amazing amount of work your fellow autocrossers complete before Registration ever opens, you can visit the Oz Mtn Region's forums at www.omrscca.org or Email the event chair, Jonathan Fessenden, at Jonathan@Fessenden.com. If you do not have access to a computer, you can phone me at 417-848-0728.

2005 Midiv Planning Schedule

JAN27-30 National Convention

Events & Meetings In The Weeks Ahead

OCTOBER 2/3 - Racing School/Regional Race/Performance Car Control Clinic - MidAmerica Motorplex - Glenwood, IA (515-274-9674)

OCTOBER 5 - TUESDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Monthly Meeting - *Classic Sports Bar & Restaurant* - Clarion Hotel -
3333 S. Glenstone - Springfield

OCTOBER 10 - SUNDAY - OMR/SCCA *Fall Picnic* - Hwy 160 Grand Prix Kart Track (*Details On Page 1*)

OCTOBER 14 - THURSDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Board Of Directors Meeting - *Schultz & Dooley's Too* -
3512 S. National - Springfield

OCTOBER 16/17 - Racing School & *MidAm Bonus* Regional Race - Memphis Motorsports Park - Millington, TN (901-756-6707)

OCTOBER 23 - SATURDAY - OMR/SCCA *Halloween Rally & Bonfire Party* (*Details In Next Month's BLAT*)

OCTOBER 24 - SUNDAY - OMR/SCCA *Fall Classic Solo II* - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO (*Details In Next Month's BLAT*)

OCTOBER 30/31 - Double Regional Races - *MIDIV vs CENDIV Challenge* - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL (314-997-6768)

NOVEMBER 2 - TUESDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Monthly Meeting - *Classic Sports Bar & Restaurant* - Clarion Hotel -
3333 S. Glenstone - Springfield

NOVEMBER 7 - SUNDAY - OMR/SCCA *Last Chance Solo II* - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO (*Details In Next Month's BLAT*)

NOVEMBER 11 - THURSDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Board Of Directors Meeting - *Schultz & Dooley's Too* -
3512 S. National - Springfield

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OMR/SCCA
P.O. Box 3802
Springfield, MO 65808

FIRST CLASS

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