

THE BLAT



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION, SCCA

SEPTEMBER 2004

SUNDAY - AUGUST 29

August Scorchers SOLO II

PRICE CUTTER PARK – Ozark, MO
(Exit U.S. Hwy 65 At Rts. CC/J. Go East To
Stoplight At *Lambert's Restaurant* And Turn Right.
Veer Right Onto Outer Road At Antiques Mall.)

Entry Fee – \$20 – SCCA Members
\$30 – Non SCCA Entrants

9:00 To 10:30 AM – Registration & Tech
10:30 AM – Drivers Meeting
11:00 AM – Timed Runs Begin

Points Events #7
2004 OMR-SCCA SOLO II Championship

**SCCA Entrants Must Show Current
Membership Cards At Registration**

**ALL Entrants Must Show Valid
Driver's Licenses at Registration**

**Vehicles Must Pass Pre-Event
Safety Inspections**

Helmets Required; Loaners Available

OMR/SCCA SOLO II Manager
Erik Anderson – 417-866-2514
ludikris@mchsi.com

Register Online At
www.omrscca.org

Lots Of Trophies! Lots Of Fun!

Moore & Faxon Are I.T. Tour Champions

With two races left on the ten race schedule, **Loren Moore** and **Dick Faxon**, both of Springfield, have been named *Midwest Division I.T. Tour* champions in the Improved Touring E and Spec Miata classes. In the first eight *I.T. Tour* events, Loren raced his yellow *Club Intensity* Corvette to six Wins and two Second Place finishes and racked up a perfect score of 72 points. Dick raced his *Springfield Pool and Spa* Miata only five times, posting three wins and two Second Place finishes, and collected 54 points.

Through the first eight races, eleven drivers had earned points in ITE and more than fifty had competed in Spec Miata. As it turned out, Loren sewed up his championship with a win at Memphis Motorsports Park way back on Memorial Day weekend. Dick clinched his title with a victory at Gateway Int'l Raceway on Aug. 1. With two races to go, the runner up spot in Spec Miata is shared by MidSouth Region's David Harber and Des Moines Valley's Tom Kraft with 26 points. Since a maximum of 24 points is available in the *I.T. Series'* final two races, there's no way either driver can outpoint Dick, the only champion the class (recognized in 2001) has ever known.

Jack Schulz, Monett, MO, currently in Third Place in Improved Touring S, is the only other OMR road racer with a chance to win an *I.T. Tour* medal. Jack has raced his Porsche 911 in five events and has tallied 31 points. Class leader and four time winner Bill Denton, MidSouth Region, has racked up 57 markers with his Mazda RX7 and is out of Jack's reach, but St. Louis Region's

Continued On Page 3

OMR/SCCA's Next Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY – SEPT. 7 – 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

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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

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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 I.T. Tour From Page 1

Paul Lerman/BMW 325i at 42 points is catchable. Jack didn't help himself at Gateway Int'l on Aug. 1 when he finished Fourth after pitting early in the race to secure a flapping door!

Mid-Am Championship Report

By Rocky Enriken, Mid-Am Pointskeeper

Both the climate and the racing are heating up. Mid-Am rounds at Heartland Park (July 18) and Gateway (July 31) have almost tripled the size of the Driver of the Year list and had their impact on a number of classes in the championship chase. There are six races left which means, mathematically, a driver with zero points could still be a class champion, even in classes where the leader has 72 points. The Bonus Race pays 24 points to winners.

IMPROVED TOURING

Loren Moore (OzMt) skipped Heartland Park -- the first race he's missed all year -- then won ITE for the 11th time at Gateway to pad his lead in the Driver of the Year standings. Nebraska drivers **Buddy Cisar** and **John Waldbaum** are duking it out for 2nd, separated by just three points. ~~ **Bob Gill** (KC) got his fifth and sixth ITS wins to go to a perfect (until the Bonus Race) 72 points and move up to 3rd on the DotY list. ~~ **Nick Chinopulos** (MidS) also picked up No. 6 at St. Louis to take 5th place among the DotY. ~~ **Chris Albin** (SIII) broke his tie with **Patrick Findley** (MidS) in ITB, coming out ahead in a 1-2 finish at Gateway. The race put both drivers on the DotY, Albin in 6th and Findley in 10th. ~~ **Steve Bachenberg** (KC) won ITA at Heartland Park to widen his points margin and take 7th on the DotY list. ~~ **Scott Peterson** (KC) and **Mark Jeffery** (Ark) each claimed a runner-up finish in one of the two races and ended the month exactly where they began it -- Jeffery nine points ahead. **Lynn Lamb** (Okla), the HPT winner, moved into the chase 4 points behind Peterson.

PRODUCTION & GT

With three wins in the last three races, **Forrest Tindall** (OzMt) has leapt 12 points past **Steve Schmidt** (KC) into the EP lead. **Michael Eden** (OzMt) is still in the chase, 14 behind Schmidt. ~~ **Loren Moore** (OzMt) won in SP at Gateway to put a 24-point margin between himself and the second-place tie of **Pete Bell** (KC) and **Chris Stevens** (KC). ~~ **Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) took his sixth win at Gateway and now stands 4th in the Driver of the Year standings. He does not seem threatened for the GP title. ~~ **Ronald Davis** (Kan), standing 2nd on the DotY list with seven wins, would seem similarly secure in FP, but **Bob Eichelberger** (StL) scored his first win of the season at Gateway to move into a distant second place.

Mary Daly (StL) scored a fourth GT1 win at Gateway to pad her lead over Ken Raley (KC) ~~ In GT2, **Cliff Koehler** (KC) won at Heartland Park to tie **Ward Herst** (StL) and move within one win

of class leader **Dan Guterman** (NeOk). ~~ **Ken Probst** (SIII) missed a chance to extend his GT5-leading total when the Gateway race left him a DNF.

SPEC MIATA

Charles James (NeOk) vaulted into the Spec Miata lead with a Gateway victory over **Dick Faxon** (OzMt). James is now 2 points up on **Tom Kraft** (DMV) who has just a 3-point edge on Faxon. **Bill Pemberton** (Neb) is another 6 behind, and it's 4½ more to **David Harber** (MidS). The thing is, the top three all have six or more finishes and are up to throwing out their lower scores, while Pemberton and Harber both have raced just five times and can still score full points once more. Imagine just a second-place finish for each, and that's five drivers in the 50-point range.

Midwest Division Solo II Championship

Several OMR autocrossers competed in the fourth and final round of this year's *Solotime*-MIDIV Solo II Series at Forbes Field in Topeka, KS on Aug. 7/8. The two day "Midwest Division Solo II Championship" event drew nearly 200 entries.

Our highest placing autocrosser was associate member **Chris Conant**, Overland Park, KS, who finished Second in Street Modified with his red BMW M3 running on Kumho tires. Chris posted a best time of 94.090 sec. (Sat. - 50.077; Sun. - 44.013) but lost out to Brock Ivers of Tulsa who ran 93.136 (49.298 & 43.838) in a newer BMW M3.

Pat Mitchell, Osage Beach, MO, finished Third in Street Tire 2 (an experimental class similar to STS but created for certain two seat sports cars) with his dark blue Miata on Falken tires. Pat posted a best time of 97.651 sec. (51.747 & 45.904.) The class winner, Jon Johle of Oklahoma City in a Miata on Kumhos, put up a 95.359 with a 51.035 sec. run on Saturday and a 44.324 sec. go on Sunday.

Both SM and ST2 drew six entries. The event's largest classes were C Stock (11 competitors) and E Street Prepared (12 entrants.)

And guess who were running in ESP.....**Mark Foley**, Springfield, **Tim "Opie" Viets**, Girard, KS, and **Keith Jones**, Pleasant Hope, MO, all in Camaros - Mark and Opie sharing the Kansan's black '84 and Keith running his maroon '69, all on Kuhmos.

The class was won by Texas Region's Mark Madarash who posted 89.111 sec. (47.057 & 42.054) in an '88 Firebird TransAm on Hoo-siers. He just nipped (by .005 sec. !!!) Omaha's Mark Jorgensen who ran 89.116 (47.037 & 42.079) with a '98 Mustang Cobra on Kumhos.

Foley was Seventh with a two day total of 93.214 sec. (49.746 & 43.468,) while Viets finished Eighth after posting a 93.534 (49.362 & 44.172.) Jones put up a 101.059 total (54.016 & 47.043) to finish Twelfth in the class.

The Racing Adventures Of Hugh Sutton

After messing around with a Formula Vee for several years, Springfield businessman **Hugh Sutton** built up a Spec Miata last winter with an eye on one of SCCA's semi-pro racing series - the Mazdaspeed Miata Cup Championship presented by Hankook Tires. The series has Atlantic and Pacific divisions, and Hugh hoped to enter the Pacific opener at Phoenix, but early season gearbox problems pushed back his schedule so the Atlantic opener on Apr. 24/25 at Road Atlanta was the first event he was able to enter.

Thirty-four drivers and their identically (well, sort of) prepared MX5s showed up at the high speed Georgia circuit for two races during the weekend which also included a "drifting" competition (but not for the Miatas.....you young guys know what I'm talking about.) Hugh qualified 28th for his first race with a speed of 81.578 mph while pole sitter Niki Coello ran 84.700 mph. Hugh's fast lap during the 16 lap race was 82.208 mph (so things were going in the right direction) and he finished 22nd - 4 points but no money. For Sunday's contest, the #71 *Republic, inc.* Miata qualified 13th at 83.658 mph and finished the 20 lap race in 16th with our guy not able to improve on his qualifying speed this time.

Canada's Victoria Day weekend - May 21-23 - found Hugh and "chief wrench" **Derek Gresham** at the very high speed Mosport race course in Ontario. Once again, two Miata Cup races were on the card, and twenty-five drivers were entered. In the run up to Race #1, Hugh qualified 15th at 85.046 mph (you wouldn't think a Miata could run that fast, would you?) while the pole man - N. Coello again - lapped at 87.480 mph. The Coello brothers use 1800 cc motors while Hugh (and most of the runners) use 1600 cc mills. Be that as it may, 18 thousand cc wouldn't have helped him in the race where mechanical problems kept him from taking the green flag. Race #2 found our guy 15th on the grid again, having qualified at 85.281 mph this time, and at the end of the 16 lap contest he had improved to 14th.

Hugh skipped the Miata Cup races at Lime Rock Park, Conn. on Memorial Day weekend, but entered the Atlantic division's "Finale" at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course at the end of June. Only one race this time - the Miata mad men were sharing the track with the *American Le Mans Series* and SCCA's *Speed World Challenge*. In a field of thirty drivers, Hugh qualified 11th at 76.553 mph and at the end of the 20 lap contest drove under the checkered flag 12th....good enough for a \$100 cut out of the \$4500 prize fund.

With its eastern tour in the record books - with 68 points won, Hugh ended up 14th out of 48 drivers - the #71 Miata was shipped west for the Pacific division's doubleheader at Portland Int'l Raceway on July 23-25. Surprisingly, only seventeen drivers were on hand to share the track again with SCCA's *Speed World Challenge*. Hugh qualified 13th for Race #1 but finished

the 20 lapper in 10th place (best result of the season) and pocketed another \$100. Race #2 in "the rose city" saw our boy 9th on the grid (another "best") but only 14th at the finish due to mechanical problems with just two laps to go. Still...14th was good enough for yet another 100 clams.

Phil's Trivia Challenge(s)

Assistant R.E. Phil Fanning has resurfaced and, making up for lost time, I think, offers the following mind benders:

What is the bore to stroke ratio of the motor in a "bugeye" Sprite?

What was the fewest number of finishers in a Grand Prix of Monaco?

In the last ten years, which was the most popular site for OMR's summer picnic?

Are these brain teasers somehow related? Who knows. Must you correctly answer all three questions to be eligible for a prize? Who knows. Why weren't you invited to the picnic? Who knows. Like your teachers told you before the S.A.T., just do your best!

Email your answers to Phil at fanning@mo-net.com or phone him at 417-638-5575. Deadline for entries is 10:00 PM CDT, Monday, Sept. 6. The winner will be announced at OMR's General Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7. 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!

Runoffs Forecast

SCCA's 41st annual national road racing championship - the *Runoffs Presented by Kohler* - is scheduled Sept. 20-26 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course near Lexington, OH. Keeping both ears open at *The Automotive Archeologists* race shop southeast of Springfield, your hard-working Editor has heard the following.

The Mountain Home (AR) flash, **Chris Brannon**, will definitely enter one (the Firebird) but, probably, two (add his Corvette) cars at Mid-Ohio. With two national points events yet to be contested, Chris and St. Louis Region's Dennis AuBuchon are tied for the class lead in Touring 2. Reportedly, their tie - as it exists now - is unbreakable and the two drivers have a "gentlemen's agreement" to share MIDIV's national crown in T2. Chris will use the final two national races of the season - Aug. 22 at MidAmerica Motorplex and Sept. 5 at Heartland Park - to qualify his Touring 1 Vette for SCCA's "fall classic."

Curtis Wood, Ozark, MO, will be going to Ohio with his G Production
Continued On Page 5

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 11***Remember September SOLO II***

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Lots Of Trophies! Lots Of Fun!

MORE Runoffs Forecast From Page 4

Alfa Romeo Giulietta.....in fact, Curtis has just returned from the famous "Buckeye State" race course, having entered a Central Division National Race there on Aug. 14/15. He wanted to learn the circuit and test a newly rebuilt gearbox. (Curtis has had some gearbox problems this year.....)

Chuck Leighton, Springfield, is another driver who may enter two cars at the *Runoffs*. Chuck definitely will take his E Production Yenko Stinger prepped by *TopCraft* and *Automotive Archeologists* proprietor **Jeff Moore**. He also may enter a G Production Triumph Spitfire recently acquired by **Loren Moore**. With two Nationals remaining, Chuck is trying to qualify his limited prep MGB and then plans to substitute the Spitfire at the *Runoffs*.

Loren Moore, Springfield, reportedly won't be entering the Mid-Ohio extravaganza this year. Loren has no faith in his Touring 2 "Leon the Neon" SRT/4 (severe wheel hop under braking,) and he's given up on the Cadillac a Philadelphia shop was prepping for him. The Caddy's completion was always imminent but never actually occurred.

Another of last year's entrants, **Forrest Tindall**, Springfield, also won't return. Forrest leads E Production with his Mazda RX7 in the *Mid-Am Championship* (see page 3) and would have to give up his Mid-Am clock to race at the *Runoffs*. A smart move considering all the mechanical problems the old-timer had at Mid-Ohio in 2003! Your Ed. can't remember who talked him into going last year.....

2004 OMR-SCCA Solo II Schedule

March 14	July 25
April 11 (Easter)	August 29
May 9	September 11 (Saturday)
June 13	October 24
June 19 (Saturday)	November 7

2004 SCCA Midwest Division Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 4/5 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS
 11/12 - SCCA *ProSolo* Finale - Forbes Field - Topeka, KS
 14-17 - *Tire Rack*/SCCA Solo II National Championship - Forbes Field - Topeka, KS
 20-26 - SCCA "Runoffs" Presented By Kohler - National Road Racing Championship - Mid Ohio Sports Car Course

OCTOBER

- 2/3 - Racing School/Regional Race/Performance Car Control Clinic - MidAmerica Motorplex
 9/10 - SCCA Pro Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS
 16/17 - Racing School/*MidAm Bonus* Regional Race - Memphis Motorsports Park - Millington, TN
 30/31 - Double Regional Races - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL

NOVEMBER

- 6/7 - MIDIV Annual Convention - Tulsa, OK

Summer Sizzler Wrap Up

It was more *fizzler* than *sizzler*. There was more drizzle than sizzle! Cloudy skies, chilly winds, temperatures in the 60s, and all day dampness were endured by the 58 autocrossers who turned out for OMR's July event at Price Cutter Park. Two of the old timers on hand - your hard working Editor and Forrest Tindall - couldn't recall a chillier July afternoon in the Ozarks. Mark Foley claimed he saw snow flakes!

David Quinonez and his helpers were on site at the crack of dawn (which just sort of slowly appeared more than it cracked) to set up a course which small cars seemed to like. FTD was set in a Miata by Sam Henry, and only two big car drivers - Mark Foley and Opie Viets - were among the seven autocrossers who posted times under 54 sec.

Closest finish of the day came in DSP where Chris Simons' Chevy Cavalier bettered Skyler Spartan's Honda Civic by just .024 sec.

The closest class top to bottom was CSP where Pat Mitchell/Miata beat Chun-Yi Wu/Toyota MR2 by .696 sec. who beat Lyndell Pickett/Mazda RX7 by .202 sec. Pat has moved his MX5 into CSP because he runs the experimental ST2 class at SCCA national and divisional events.

With ten entries, STS was the biggest class.....no surprise there.....while SM2 and DSP (if you include Ron Rinke's FSP BMW) both had six competitors. SM drew only two drivers - David Quinonez and John McGrath; the class usually enjoys

eight to ten entrants. And speaking of STS, Bob Heisler/Neon beat Jim Rowland/Sentra SE-R by just .051 sec. for the second closest finish of the day.

Summer Sizzler was OMR's sixth autocross of the year, and, for the first time (I think) in 2004, the top six drivers on the PAX chart were all OMR members - Sam Henry, Lester Henry, Bob Heisler, Jim Rowland, Bud Weeks and Josef Welsh. At each of our events, the top six OMR drivers divvy up the lion's share of the points in our Region's "Autocrosser of the Year" competition. Often times, one has to look deeper into the list to determine the "top six" OMR entrants.

Here's another "top six".....drivers in the "Autocrosser of the Year" contest can count their "best six" finishes of the season. The leader at the moment is.....surprise, surprise.....Sam Henry with 80 points (four 1st, two 3rd.) Second place man is Bob Heisler with 63 points (one 1st, one 2nd, one 3rd, two 4th, one 5th.) Note that some of the usual contenders for the "Autocrosser of the Year" honor have not yet run six events.

Our *August Scorcher* Solo II is scheduled for Sunday, August 29 at Price Cutter Park (see pg. 1,) and our *Remember September* event follows two weeks later on Saturday, September 11 (see pg. 7.) Plan now to attend. Come out early and help get things rolling; there's always something to do. OMR's trusty soda pop and water gofer will not be at the Aug. 29th event (expected to be a *real scorcher*) although the water, soda pop, and coolers will be in the trailer. Someone needs to ice down the coolers early in the morning so cold drinks are available for the Drivers Meeting.

Events & Meetings In The Weeks Ahead

AUGUST 29 - SUNDAY - OMR/SCCA *August Scorcher* Solo II - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO (Details On Page 1)

SEPTEMBER 4/5 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS (819-795-8524)

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

SEPTEMBER 11 - SATURDAY - OMR/SCCA *Remember September* Solo II - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO (Details On Page 5)

SEPTEMBER 14-17 - *The Tire Rack*-SCCA SOLO II National Championship - Forbes Field - Topeka, KS (www.scca.com)

SEPTEMBER 16 - THURSDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Board Of Directors Meeting - *Schultz & Dooley's Too* - 3512 S. National - Springfield

SEPTEMBER 20/26 - SCCA *Runoffs* - National Road Racing Championship - Mid Ohio Sports Car Course (www.scca.com)

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 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)

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Springfield, MO 65808

FIRST CLASS

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