

MID-AM REPORT

The Independence Day weekend brought the halfway mark of the Mid-Am season at Hallett – eight races done, eight to go. Three drivers are already past the 60-point floor to be listed in the Driver of the Year standings, while another seven are within one race win, or less, to join them.

Again, SafeRacer is the presenting sponsor of the Mid-Am Championship, awarding a new driver suit to the top 10 individuals in the final Driver of the Year standings. Be sure to check out www.saferacer.com for all your safety gear needs.

All three DotY candidates so far come from the Improved Touring classes. It is no surprise to see **Chris Albin** (SIII) atop the list again. He missed the opening round at Memphis but made all the others since then, seven outright wins and a best-possible score (before the Bonus Race) of 72 points in ITB. Next up is **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) with 66 points in ITE. Other than one stumble at MAM, his home track, he's run up five outright wins. **Jude Rudder** (OzMt) has two outright wins among his ITA-leading 61 points, both of them coming at the two Memphis races.

PRODUCTION

There really has not been a whole lot of activity in the Production classes. Only one driver has as many as three finishes. **SP** ~ **Chris Stevens** (KC) scored a win at Hallett in his Shelby Cobra and joins **Harlan Moore** (KC) in a 12-point tie. **EP** ~ **Court Whitlock** (OzMt) ran Hallett to become the only driver in the class with two finishes, so that makes him the class leader. Tied for second with one win each are **Chris Hammond** (StL), **David Jones** (StL), and **Forrest Tindall**. **FP** ~ **Bob Eichelberger** (StL) is that one driver with three finishes, all wins. Tied at 21 points each are **Marty Wagner** (NeOk) and **Randy Wagner** (NeOk), who finished 1-2 in both Hallett races, each winning once. **GP** ~ Both **Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) and **Chris Albin** (SIII) have passed the 36-point mark in National racing, taking them out of the Mid-Am and leaving **Rocky Entriaken** (Sal) with one lone finish as the only driver with points.

GRAND TOURING

GT1 ~ **Mary Daly** (StL) is up to three wins now. **GT2** ~ And **Greer Haynes** (MidS) has run his win string to four. **GTL** ~ **Ken Probst** (SIII) won the May races at Gateway and Memphis. Those three are the only GT drivers with more than one finish.

SPORTSRACING

S2000 ~ **Rob Sherwood** (StL) posted his third win at Hallett to reclaim the points lead over **John Nelson** (KC) by just five points. **SRF** ~ **O.L. Kinney** (KC) ran up a nice 42-point lead with three wins and gave Hallett a pass. **Jack Donnellan** (Okla) took advantage of that, won Hallett, and closed to within 10 points of Kinney.

FORMULA

Out of all the wingy classes, only one Mid-Am driver came to play at Hallett. That left matters as they were in the Atlantic/Continental classes: **FA** ~ **Willard King** (KC) over **Phil Gumpert** (StL), two wins to one. **F/SCCA** ~ **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) nine points up on **Jason Mabee** (KC). **FC** ~ **Shane Bennoch** (OzMt) with 36 points. **CC** ~ **Mike Bass** (MidS) with 48 points. **FM** ~ **Charles Gruner** (StL) was the only one to tow to Hallett and took a 3-point lead over **Gary Phillips** (KC).

FF ~ **Tim Koch** (KC) scored his second win of the season at Hallett and claimed a 3-point edge over **Don Nelson** (Neb). **CF** ~ The class has been surprisingly inactive, but **Jeff Norris** (Okla) finally drew first blood at Hallett. **FV** ~ **Matt Guzowski** (StL) has run up a commanding 57-point lead over **Patrick Hughey** (KC) and **Michael Lauer** (Wich), who have one win each. **F500** ~ **Kenneth Kirkland** (Ark) has run and won the last four races.

STREET TIRES

AS ~ **Scott Bettinger** (Wich) leads with two wins, but reportedly has abandoned the class to race Spec Miata. **SSC** ~ **Dave Gird** (Wich) got his fourth win at Hallett. **SM** ~ This class has everything from A to Z – Asselta to Zwolle. **Mike Asselta** (KC) has run six straight races with one win, one second and three thirds to lead the class at 47 points. Seven points behind is **Mark Zwolle** (MidS), whose five finishes match Asselta exactly except for one less third-place. A DNF at Hallett left **Stephen Johnson** (KC) third at 34, while his third straight second-place boosted **Sam Henry** (OzMt) to fourth at 31½.

IMPROVED TOURING

ITS ~ **Aaron Holstrom** (KC) came in second at Hallett while **Bill Denton** (MidS) was DNF, so that bumped Holstrom one point past Denton. Race winner **Dan Crossett** (Ark) leaped into third place. **ITA** ~ **Jude Rudder** (OzMt) at 61 points has almost double the total of runner-up **Pete Knese** (StL), who is only one point up on **Ed Mabry** (Ark) after the two of them finished 3-4 at Hallett. **Steve Eberman** (KC) is fourth another six points back. But watch out for **Steve Bachenberg** (KC). The top four all have 4-6 finishes but Bachenberg has only two -- both wins -- for fifth place in this 20-car class. **ITB** ~ **Chris Albin** (SIII) at 72, of course. And then **Patrick Findley** (MidS) three points up on **Bernie Mermis** (Wich), who in turn is three up on **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV). **ITE** ~ **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) is threatening to run away with it. He has a 30-point lead over runner-up **Ron Pawley** (NeOk) who has four second-place finishes in a Lexus. **IT7** ~ **James Stevens** (StL) has won four races and had 30 points in hand over **Scott Peterson** (KC), with two finishes.

--Rocky Entriaken

