

ROCKY'S ROAD

MIDWEST DIVISION BY ROCKY ENTRIEN

MIDIV WARMS UP THE NEW NATIONALS SITE

The first Divisional Solo championship – they hadn't even coined the term "Solo" yet – was held in the Midwest Division in 1968, on a site in Stillwater, Okla. Mostly it was a collection of drivers from Oklahoma and Kansas seeking to claim the title of Divisional Champion.

Forty-One years later – oh, what the event has become, with drivers from as far away as Philadelphia and Reno checking out the Lincoln Airpark, which two scant weeks later would become the new home of the Solo National Championships.

Lincoln also marked the final round in the Solo Performance Specialties/R&S Racing MiDiv Solo Series. And it represented a return to a former concept that this event was, at one and the same time, both a scored round in the series and a stand-alone Divisional championship event. Every winner can claim the title MiDiv champion.

That's how the series was originally comprised when it was begun in 1989, but over the years the "championship event" distinction seemed to fade. This year, with the event also serving as a dress rehearsal for the National Championships, it returned with the power of the National Office behind it.

SCCA's Vice President of Competition Programs Development **Howard Duncan** explained the difference – a Solo series event, he said, is essentially a glorified Regional in that some portions of the rulebook might be optional. A key element, he noted, was the absence of scales at the three earlier events in Blytheville, Ark.; Salina, Ks.; and Neosho, Mo. As a full-blown Divisional, the entire rulebook is mandatory. Scales were on hand at Lincoln, and all classes with rulebook weights were rolled across them each day.

Drivers got a first-hand look at the Lincoln site. Those who have seen the aerial photo on the SCCA Web site were still surprised at how massive this place is. Two side-by-side courses were set up (only one used each day) with a double 50-car grid for each, but in their entirety, they occupied only the east-west rectangle at the extreme south end of the airpark. The spacious paddock was just north of that. Wow!

The concrete is largely unblemished. It has virtually none of the breakup that was associated with Forbes Field or even the Salina sites used before Forbes. But it is a very different pavement. The weathering of this surface has left it more like a smoothed river bottom than a craggy mountainside.

Dan Wasdahl, down from the Land 'O Lakes Region in his BBR/Phantom, scorched the two courses in 91.526sec, more than 7sec quicker than the next-fastest car.

We'll announce two sets of results here, both the Divisional champions and the series champions and trophy winners only. And we'll add special kudos to some home-region winners, **John LaRondeau** in DS, **John Hunter** in STU, **Christy Carlson** in STUL, **John Becker** in SSM, **Sue Eckles** in SSML, **Mark Walker** in ESP and most especially **Don Knop** in FS – the only hometown Lincoln resident to win. The Divisional champions include a number of visitors from far beyond MiDiv.

MiDiv Divisional Championship

Event: SS: 1. **Randy Petschauer**; 2. **Steve Wynveen**; 3. **Frank Wietharn**; SSL: 1. **Ann Vogel**; AS: 1. **John Haluska**; 2. **Todd Cochran**; BS: 1. **Neal Tovsen**; 2. **Mike Bronson**; 3. **Ivan Austin**; BSL: 1. **Katie Lacey**; 2. **Debbie Kerswill**; CS: 1. **Dale Bahr**; 2. **Rodney Giebel**; CSL: 1. **Mary Bahr**; DS: 1. **John LaRondeau**; 2. **Matt Dahlman**; DSL: 1. **Nichole Dahlman**; ES: 1. **Paul Brown**; 2. **Brian Haynes**; ESL: 1. **Meredith Brown**; FS: 1. **Don Knop**; 2. **Kevin Youngers**; 3. **Kyle Langley**; FSL: 1. **Beth Whitworth**; GS: 1. **Greg Reno**; HS: 1. **Jerry Irvine**; 2. **Ron Williams**; 3. **Shawn Hill**; HSL: 1. **Janet Schmidt**.

ST: 1. **Patrick Washburn**; 2. **Jesse Caudill**; 3. **David Avard**; STL: 1. **Lori Gill**; STS: 1. **Tim Herron**; 2. **Jay McKoskey**; 3. **Chris Bienert**; STSL: 1. **Michelle Seelig**; STX: 1. **Chris Conant**; 2. **Jon Simmons**; 3. **Robert Pendergast**; 4. **Josh Herman**; STU: 1. **John Hunter**; 2. **Todd Wayman**; 3. **Brian Meyer**; 4. **Chris Mayfield**; STUL: 1. **Christy Carlson**; SM: 1. **Stan Bell**; SSM: 1. **John Becker**; 2. **Matt McCabe**; SSML: 1. **Sue Eckles**.

BSP: 1. **Craig Wilcox**; 2. **Joe Silva**; 3. **Jim Harrison**; DSP: 1. **Tom Pora**; 2. **Patrick Lipsinic**; DSPL: 1. **Melanie Pora**; ESP: 1. **Mark Walker**; 2. **Justin Eckles**; 3. **Opie Viets**; ESPL: 1. **Aimee Wright**; FSP: 1. **Jim Rowland**.

XP: 1. **Randy Herrick**; 2. **John Slinkard**; 3. **Sean Ford**; CP: 1. **Chris Miller**; 2. **Tracy Sandberg**; 3. **John Williams**; GP: 1. **Jeff Dodds**; 2. **Dennis Smith**; GPL: 1. **Nancy Smith**.

AM: 1. **Dan Wasdahl**; BM: 1. **Greg Scharnberg**; CM: 1. **Wendell Karr-Ake**; CML: 1. **Beverly Carlile**; DM: 1. **Jeff Cashmore**; **Peter Raymond**; EM: 1. **Bob Tunnell**; 2. **Bobby Jasan**; 3. **Patty Tunnell**; FM: 1. **Vern Maxey**; FML: 1. **Donna Hill**;

F125: 1. **Eric Cirks**; FJA: 1. **Jordan Hill**; FJB: 1. **Riley Heaton**.

Rules of the four-event series provide that only MiDiv drivers can score points. Drivers score their best three of four events.

While 11 drivers had a perfect score of 45 from taking winner's points at three events, just two had 60 points from winning all four – **Jim Rowland** from Ozark Mountain Region in FSP and **Sabrina Lenz** from Des Moines Valley Region in CSL.

Other perfect scores were posted by **John LaRondeau** in DS, **Ann LaRondeau** in DSL, **Kent Edmondson** in ES, **Greg Reno** in GS, **Chris Miller** in CP, **Wendell Karr-Ake** in CM, **Beverly Carlile** in CML, **Bobby Jasan** in EM, and **Jordan Hill** in FJA. The series champions and award winners are:

SPS/R&S Midwest Division Solo Series SS: 1. **Frank Wietharn**; 2. **Jeffrey Vogel**; SSL: 1. **Ann Vogel**; AS: 1. **Bill Dayton**; 2. **Nathaniel Green**; BS: 1. **Christopher Alvarado**; CS: 1. **Robert Lenz**; CSL: 1. **Sabrina Lenz**; DS: 1. **John LaRondeau**; DSL: **Ann LaRondeau**; ES: 1. **Kent Edmondson**; FS: 1. **Kyle Langley**; 2. **Don Knop**; FSL: 1. **Jeanie Creech**; GS: 1. **Greg Reno**; HS: 1. **Jerry Irvine**; 2. **Shawn Hill**; ST: 1. **David Avard**; 2. **Julie Avard**; STS: 1. **Robert Seelig**; 2. **Tim Herron**; STSL: 1. **Karen Eickhoff**; STX: 1. **Nicholas Swanson**; 2. **Robert Pendergast**; 3. **Chris Conant**; STU: 1. **Brian Meyer**; 2. **Ryan Ameen**; 3. **Tyler Kvetko**; STUL: 1. **Christy Carlson**; SSM: 1. **Bob Buxbaum**; SM: 1. **Dan Smythe**; 2. **Stan Bell**; BSP: 1. **Jim Harrison**; 2. **Craig Wilcox**; ESP: 1. **Dave Whitworth**; 2. **Opie Viets**; FSP: 1. **Jim Rowland**; 2. **Rob Heisler**; CP: 1. **Chris Miller**; 2. **Albert Hermans**; FP: 12. **Jonathan Jackson**; GP: 1. **Rocky Entriken**; 2. **Jeff Dodds**; GPL: 1. **Nancy Smith**; CM: 1. **Wendell Karr-Ake**; CML: 1. **Beverly Carlile**; EM: 1. **Bobby Jasan**; FM: 1. **Vern Maxey**; FML: 1. **Donna Hill**; FJA: 1. **Jordan Hill**.

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