

# MID-AM REPORT

In September we take a month off. For some reason SCCA seems to think the world should stop rotating while they do a couple of kinda special events. Come October we'll wind up the rubber band on the Mid-Am Championship for one last frantic 2002 flight.

There will be four races in October -- a doubleheader at the Mid-America Motorplex, one at Hallett, and then the Bonus Race at Gateway. That means a potential 60 points (including the Bonus) in one month alone, and that means just about every championship is still open to just about everyone entered. Or in some classes, even to someone who signs in at the MAM weekend, which will be the last chance this year.

Of course, to get the Bonus -- double points -- at the season finale a driver must have four prior points finishes. So anyone looking for that has to have at least one finish as of right now. On the other hand, it takes four races at a minimum of two tracks to qualify for the championship. That is still do-able, even though a driver who comes to the Bonus Race with only three prior finishes would just get regular points. The Bonus Race could meet the qualification for a driver's fourth race or for his second track, if needed.

Dusting off the crystal ball, what would drivers need to do in October to become a Mid-Am champion?

## PRODUCTION

**SP ~ Harlan Moore** (KC) made the first appearance by an SP car in the series at the KVRG Labor Day weekend. He'd need both MAM races and Hallett to score the Bonus, but just the MAM weekend plus Gateway could be enough to win the champion's clock.

**EP ~** A dandy class with eight points covering the top three. **Ronald Davis** (Kan) and **Forrest Tindall** (OzMt) could each boost their points to 81 with a Bonus Race win, and could make it 84 if they won one more beforehand. **Dale Smith** (Kan) could score 75 with a Bonus win, but if either Davis or Tindall were second he, too, would have 75 and would win the tiebreaker. One more win for Smith at MAM or Hallett would be helpful.

**FP ~ Mickey Schreiner** (NeOk) has 48, **Bob Eichelberger** (StL) has 36, and **Larry Graham** (KC) has 24. If Schreiner wins at Hallett he could go 84 at the Bonus. Taking the MAM pair would do the same for Eichelberger. Graham about needs all three races, but the MAM pair would put him in the hunt.

**GP ~ Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) has been ruling and is at max points already. **Rocky Entriken** (Sal) needs to win both ends of the MAM weekend just to have a shot at the Bonus Race.

**HP ~ Andrew Wright** (StL) leads Tim **McGinley** (StL) 36-24. Wright needs one more race, McGinley needs two, to qualify for the Bonus, which would make that race quite a shootout between these two.

## GRAND TOURING

**GT1 ~ Michael Starnes** (KC) would need to do both MAM races and Hallett to have a chance to catch **Mary Daly** (StL) at the Bonus.

**GT2 ~ Don Christman** needs two more finishes to qualify, but though he started the year in GT2 lately he's been racing his Mazda as GT3 and he's not scoring points in that class.

**GT3 ~** If **David Bower** (Okla) does Hallett he'll have his fourth race to qualify for the Bonus. **Charles Guenther** (KC) could make it even harder on Bower if Guenther does the MAM double. And if they both make MAM, then the Bonus is a real shootout.

## SPORTS RACING

**S2000 ~ Ed Smith** (StL) needs a couple more finishes to carry the challenge to points leader **Al Essig** (KC). Essig could put the class away by running at MAM.

**SRF** ~ **Bill Allman** (Kan) has max points -- 72 -- based on his early-season wins, but **Ron Lentz** (KC) has been chipping away at the lead and stands at 69. As the Bonus Race math goes, that puts them dead even for the shootout. **O.L. Kinney** (KC) needs to put a couple more wins into his points total to get up there with Allman and Lentz.

#### FORMULA

**FA** ~ **Phil Gumpert** (StL) just needs two more finishes.

**FC** ~ **Shane Bennoch** (OzMt) seems to have the class put away, but **Chuck Gillis** (NeOk), **Jay Musgrave** (StL) and even **Greg Scharnberg** (DMV) could put themselves in championship contention with wins at MAM and Hallett, especially if Bennoch is lower than 2nd at the Bonus.

**FM** ~ **Bob Hancock** (NeOk) needs three more finishes, wherever he can get them.

**FF** ~ **Tim Koch** (KC) has five wins and so is primed to take whatever he gets at the Bonus. A trip to the MAM doubleheader could put **Gary Payne** (StL) or **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS) right up there with Koch.

**CF** ~ **Tom Coppage** (StL) has max points, which is twice the total of **Frank Chambers** (NeOk) and **Hans Iwand** (Neb), but while Iwand's score is from three wins, Chambers' is from four seconds. If Iwand won the MAM pair, he'd be virtually tied with Coppage going to the Bonus, while Chambers would need to win all three of the lead-in races for the same status.

**FV** ~ **Nick Grapsas** (StL) could win it with a trip to Pacific Junction, Iowa (MAM) and then doing the Bonus for regular points.

#### STREET TIRES

**AS** ~ **Ted Johnson** (Neb) has 72 while **Sam Henry** (OzMt) has "only" 57, but the way the math plays out Henry is close enough that whichever wins the Bonus wins the championship. Nothing either would do at the other three races would change that. **David Guinn** (Wich) needs wins in all three lead-in races to have a chance.

**T1** ~ All **Loren Moore** (OzMt) has to do is not go to the Runoffs. But he's out there scoring wins hoping Chris Albin might stumble just once, and then Driver of the Year is possible.

**SSC** ~ **Jan Gerber** has won it. But he'll probably do MAM anyway because it's close.

**SM** ~ This class duplicates the AS situation -- **Dick Faxon** (OzMt) has max points while **Don Wiseman** (MidS) is at 57. But Wiseman is not dominating Faxon this year as he has in past seasons, so the Bonus could be good for these two. **Bill Pemberton** (Neb), a late starter, is down in 6th with 33 but MAM is his home track and a pair of wins there would tie him with Wiseman and make the Bonus a three-way.

#### IMPROVED TOURING

**ITS** ~ **Bob Gill** (KC) picked up his sixth win at Heartland Park. His closest pursuer, **Marty Wagner** (NeOk) has three. If Wagner gets a fourth at Hallett, that would be just enough to take the championship if he beat Gill at the Bonus.

**ITA** ~ **Chuck Davis** (KC) leads but with only three wins from six races while **Timothy Finley** (StL) is two points behind with four wins from five races. Also lurking is **David Volante** (DMV) also with three wins from four races. Finley's total is such that all he needs is to win the Bonus. If Volante and Davis managed to go 1-2 in each of the two MAM races, each winning one, the Bonus would be an even-up three-way showdown.

**ITB** ~ It is possible, just remotely possible, for **Chris Albin** (Sill) to have a hiccup. He'd done it twice this year so far and **Bob Briggen** (StL) was there to seize the win both times. But Briggen needs to trade some 7s in on 9s or 12s even to have a chance at the Bonus.

**ITC** ~ **Jarold Boettcher** (KC) leads with 61 to 48 for **Ray Barker** (Wich), but both have six races in. The stronger challenges could come from **Matt Armfield**, (Wich) who has just four races with two wins, and **Mark Buffon** (KC) with just three finishes, all wins. If Buffon could win the two at MAM and Armfield the one at Hallett, they would come to the Bonus set up for a three-way winner-take-all with Boettcher.

**ITE ~ Jeff Demetri** (Neb) has been stout all season, winning six. If **John Waldbaum** (Neb) could win the pair at MAM, he'd have enough score to make the Bonus a shootout with Demetri.

*–Rocky Entriken*