

## MID-AM REPORT

**N**ext race up is the big one -- the Bonus Race -- with almost two months of hiatus to sit and think about it this year. Double points await everyone who has qualified this year. Those who have qualified are shown with an octothorpe (#) or dagger (†) by their names on the points list.

Yes the race is open to everyone. Those who have not met the four-finishes criteria will just get regular points.

There's also the chase for Driver of Year, with a new driver's suit from SafeRacer awaiting the top 10. Thirteen are on the list right now with totals of 60 points or more, but six of those do not yet have the four outright wins (first on the track in a class of at least two starters) necessary to qualify. Here's how things shape up:

### PRODUCTION

**SP** ~ **Loren Moore** (OzMt) looks to be going after two championships again this year, **Pete Bell** (KC) needs a couple more finishes to qualify. **EP** ~ Two drivers from the same Region (OzMt) and living in the same town (Springfield, Mo.) have managed to race seven times without ever meeting each other. **Court Whitlock** now has the edge over **Forrest Tindall** as his fourth win made him the only driver eligible for the Bonus points. **FP** ~ **Ron Davis** (Kan), 3rd on the DotY list, has the class virtually won and any top-3 finish at the Bonus assures it. The only way **Bob Eichelberger** (StL) could win would be to win the last four races and beat Davis at least twice on the way. Eichelberger is more in a fight to hold off **Phillip Leonard** (KC) for second. **GP** ~ **Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) tops the class with 69 to stand 7th in DotY but still needs one more outright victory to stay on the list. **Robert Maupins** (KC), who beat Leighton in July at HPT, could cause trouble with a strong finish. **HP** ~ **Tim McGinley** (StL) needs two more finishes in the last four races.

### GRAND TOURING

**GT1** ~ **Mary Daly** (StL) owns the class again and is 6th on the DotY chart, but also needs one more outright win to qualify for it. Chances are her 72 points are enough to keep her in the top-10, but there's no guarantee of that. **GT2** ~ **Dave Jones** (StL) only signed into the series a couple of weeks ago so needs to finish three of the last four races to take the class. **GT3** ~ **Bill Briggen**, (SIII) driving the same VW in three different classes, wins this one with one more finish. **GTL** ~ Neither **Kenneth Probst** (SIII) nor **Britt Brown** (KC) has enough finishes to earn awards yet, but either or both have time to do so in the last few races.

### SPORTSRACING

**S2000** ~ **John Nelson** (KC) and **Ed Smith** (StL) are only 9 points apart. The Bonus Race could be a major factor in this one. **SRF** ~ **Rob Sherwood** (StL) has twice the points of anyone else. He's also 9th on the DotY list but SRF is a tough class and only one of Sherwood's victories was an outright win. **Jeff Stehney** (KC) is 2nd at 36 points but from only three finishes and not eligible for the Bonus. That makes **Dan Axtell** (KC) at 35, **Jim Fiss** (StL) at 34, and even **Marc Wilson** (KC) at 31 the bigger threats.

### FORMULA

**FA** ~ **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) took a big edge with an MAM victory, 18 points up on **Wilard Kling** (KC). **CC** ~ **Tim Williams** (Neb) has the only points from the HPT doubleheader last April. He needs a couple more finishes. **FM** ~ **Lee Walther** (Okla) has stepped out 15 points ahead of **Gary Phillips** (KC). **FF** ~ **Joe Spain** (Okla) leads the class but needs one more finish. **CF** ~ The same two players as last year: **Michael Dierkes** (StL) and **James Krispin** (StL). But while Krispin owned Dierkes last year this time the tables have been turned with Dierkes winning three of their four meetings. **FV** ~ **Patrick Hughey** (KC) leads with 60 points, enough for 12th on the DotY but with no outright wins. Never mind that, he's busy enough trying to hold off **Matt Guzowski** (StL) who is only 6 points behind.

### STREET TIRES

**AS** ~ **Jeff Kopp** (KC) is the only driver qualified for the Bonus. **T3** ~ **Steven Burkett** (StL) stands 4th in the DotY with nine wins. **SSC** ~ **Dave Gird** (Wich) got his fourth win at MAM. **SM** ~ **Charlie James** (OzMt) leads **Jim Drago** (MidS) by just half a point and the two of them are 10th and 11th on the DotY. **Tom Kraft** (DMV) and **Rick Harris** (Wich) are close enough to be trouble. 42 drivers this year!

### IMPROVED TOURING

**ITS** ~ Six points covers four drivers, **Chuck Davis** (KC) and **Bob Gill** (KC) tied, **Jack Schulz** (OzMt) two points behind, and **Mark Andrews** (StL) another four back. **ITA** ~ **Steve Bachenberg** (KC) is 5th in DotY with double the score of **Guy Watney** (KC). **ITB** ~ **Chris Albin** (SIII) stands 2nd in DotY after nine victories, with double the points of **Patrick Findley** (MidS) and **Bernie Mermis** (Wich). **ITC** ~ **Jarold Boettcher** (KC) holds a solid lead over **Ray Barker** (Wich). **ITE** ~ **Loren Moore** (OzMt) has won 12 times in 12 starts, if he makes it 13 at the Bonus Race DotY should be his. Behind him, **Jed Welder** (KC), **John Waldbaum** (Neb), **Scott Davie** (Ark), and **Ron Pawley** (NeOk) are separated only by four points. **IT7** ~ **Nadeem Bari** (StL) is 8th on the DotY and **Lynn Lamb** (Okla) is 13th. Bari's advantage is his five wins to two for Lamb. **Connie Lamb** (Okla) is just 4 points behind her husband. --*Rocky Entriken*