

MID-AM REPORT

There are just two opportunities left to get those last few points toward a Mid-Am Championship, and both provide a chance for a double whammy.

First comes the Bonus Race Sept. 17 at Mid-America Motorplex, paying double points to those drivers who have qualified by scoring four points finishes already this season (those with fewer than four finishes still get regular points). Then there is the Spooktacular double regional at Gateway Oct. 28-29, two separate races each paying regular points.

There also is one National race yet to run, at Heartland Park on the Labor Day weekend, and results from that might still render a few drivers ineligible for the Mid-Am. Aside from that, here's how the classes shape up:

DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Chris Albin (Sill) leads again with 10 wins. Behind him is **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) with eight wins and **Dave Gird** (Wich) with six, each with 72 points. Probably whichever of those wins the Bonus Race (to raise their score to 84) with the highest win total will become DotY. **Randy Wagner** (NeOk) and **Jason Mabee** (KC), each with four wins, all outright, are darkhorse possibilities who could also score 84.

An outright win is being first on the track in a class of at least two cars. Six other drivers on the DotY list could still meet the minimum cutoff of four outright wins if they get them in some or all of the remaining races, and could still win one of the new driver suits offered by presenting sponsor **SafeRacer** to the top 10 in the Driver of the Year rankings.

THE CLASSES

SP ~ **Harlan Moore** (KC) and/or **Chris Stevens** (KC) need all three races just to qualify.

EP ~ **Court Whitlock** (OzMt) has a strong lead but is not mathematically clear yet. Any Bonus Race finish would assure it. **Forrest Tindall** (OzMt) needs all three races just to make a contest of it.

FP ~ **Bob Eichelberger** (StL) leads **Randy Wagner** (NeOk) by just three points. The only reason for that difference is that in mano-a-mano duels with his brother, **Marty Wagner** won one of the five matches. He's only 12 behind Eichelberger, who has yet to race the Wagners.

GP ~ **Rocky Entriken** (Sal) did the July blitz of races at Hallett, HPT and MAM and now has an uncatchable 48 points.

GT1 ~ **Mary Daly** (StL) needs one more finish to qualify and two would lock it in.

GT2 ~ With five wins, **Greer Haynes** (MidS) has the championship, but still needs three outright wins to stay on the DotY list.

GTL ~ After a DNF at Gateway, **Kenneth Probst** (Sill) still needs two finishes.

S2000 ~ **John Nelson** (KC) would lock it up with any Bonus Race finish no matter what **Ed Smith** (StL) does.

SRF ~ The score is 66-52 for **Jack Donnellan** (Okla) over **O.L. Kinney** (KC), but Kinney has outrun Donnellan in each of their four meetings. If he won a 1-2 finish at the Bonus Race the score would be 76-75 in favor of Kinney. Behind them KC drivers **Robin Kirkland**, **Dan Axtell** and **Jim Coté Sr.** are all covered by just a 2-point spread.

FA ~ **Willard King** (KC) and **Phil Gumpert** (StL) are tied at

24 each, and each needs two finishes just to qualify, Gumpert must run MAM.

F/SCCA ~ **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) and **Jason Mabee** (KC) are tied at 48, but Mabee has the edge because he's won four to Chandler's one.

FC ~ **Shane Bennoch** (OzMt) needs one more finish.

CC ~ **Mike Bass** (MidS) has five wins but **Greg Scharnberg** (DMV) has made a late-season charge. Of the two only Bass can score extra points at the Bonus Race.

FM ~ **Gary Phillips** (KC) is just nine points up on **Charles Gruner** (StL) but only Phillips has qualified for the Bonus.

FF ~ **Tim Koch** (KC) leads 48-45 over **Don Nelson** (Neb), who missed his home race at MAM then won at Hallett and Gateway so now both are Bonus-eligible going back to MAM in September.

CF ~ **Jeff Norris** (Okla) has a 9-point edge on **Jim Krispin** (StL) and neither is Bonus-eligible but both need one more finish to qualify for the series.

FV ~ **Matt Guzowski** (StL) has an uncatchable 69 points.

F500 ~ **Kenneth Kirkland** (Ark) also is unbeatable after five victories.

AS ~ **Scott Bettinger** (Wich) needs one more finish to qualify. If he does, no one can catch him.

SSC ~ **Dave Gird** (Wich) has the championship locked up and an outside shot at DotY with wins both the Bonus Race and the two Spooktacular races.

SM ~ Hoo boy! **Stephen Johnson** (KC) leads by 7 over **Mike Asselta** (KC), who won at Gateway. Another 5 points back is a tie between **Sam Henry** (OzMt) and **Peter Lehr** (DMV), with **Mark Zwolle** (MidS) just two more back. The top 7 drivers are Bonus-eligible and mathematically **Roger Johnson** (MidS) in 6th could take over the lead with a Bonus Race win. Four of the top 6 drivers are throwing out lower scores now -- only Lehr and R.Johnson would get to keep all the points they win at MAM in September.

ITS ~ **Aaron Holstrom** (KC) is the only Bonus-eligible driver so a win at MAM would lock it up. **Dan Crossett** (Ark) and **Bill Denton** (MidS), with three wins each, need at least two races and maybe all three to steal it away.

ITA ~ **Jude Rudder** (OzMt) leads by 7 but it is anything but a comfortable lead. He'll throw out a 7-point score with his next finish while **Steve Bachenberg** (KC), **Ed Mabry** (Ark) and **Travis Nordwald** (KC) get to keep everything they win and any of them could take the lead at the Bonus Race.

ITB ~ **Chris Albin** (Sill) is in his customary position atop the points and the DotY list with 10 wins, but concentrating now on his G Production effort for the Runoffs. Will he run the Bonus? If not, **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV) has an outside shot.

ITC ~ **Curt Weilandich** (StL), the 185th and last driver to sign in to the Mid-Am, got his first finish at Gateway. If he runs all of the final three races, he's the champion.

ITE ~ **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) has been ripping 'em up all year. To assure the crown, and a shot at DotY, he wants that Bonus Race victory at his home track.

IT7 ~ **James Stevens** (StL) has a 21-point lead over **Lynn Lamb** (Okla), but Lamb has not qualified for the Bonus while **Scott Peterson** (KC), two points behind, has.

--Rocky Entriken

