

CVAR Michael Stephens Classic

Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Oklahoma

April 4-6, 2008



#67 Sam Lecomte, Chevy Camaro; #46 Jody O'Donnell, Chevy Corvette.

-story and photos by Erik B. Karlsson

Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing made this season's first trek to Hallett Motor Racing Circuit in Hallett, Oklahoma for the Michael Stephens Classic, an event named in honor of the Stephens family patriarch who played a large part in the rebirth of the Hallett circuit and who passed away early last summer. While Friday and Saturday of the event remained rather chilly, Sunday proved to be a splendid day for racing that included,



#64 Chalmer McWilliams, Lotus Super Seven.

for many, the first season's breaking-out of sunscreen as the sun warmed both the spectators and the track.

Group 1 (A Sedan, A Production, B Production, and FIA classes) kicked off the points races with their typical ground-pounding start. Sam LeComte, in his deep blue #67 Chevy Camaro led every lap to take the overall win. Second and third remained a battle between the FIA entrants of Seth Higgins' #31 Porsche 911 RSR and Vernon Shade's #810 Porsche 911, which resulted in Higgins capturing second overall and the FIA class win to Shade's third place finish for second in FIA.

Group 2 (E Production, F Production, and C sedan) followed promptly and Tim Johnson in his

#7 MGB held off John Hamilton's #80 MGB Roadster for the EP class and overall win. Herb Hilton followed with a class win and third overall for his F Production #25 MG Midget.

The Formula Vees of **Group 3** were grouped with the Spec FP cars, and as usual, both groups provided terrific racing. Up front, the top three Vees of Mike Callahan (#68 Zink Z-5), Bruce "Zapato Caliente" Revenaugh (#119 Zink C4), and Jim Yule (#77 Kaimann) distanced themselves from the rest of the field and swapped positions amongst themselves for the 13 lap race.

Revenaugh led as the one-lap signal was shown from the start stand, but when the cars passed beneath the start stand, the overall order was Callahan first, Revenaugh second and Yule third.



#10 Edward Copley, Lola T340; #26 Dave Salls, Lotus 51; #82 David Jacobs, Brabham BT21A.

The closeness of the race could be seen in that the top three cars posted fast laps within 2 tenths of a second of each other! Of note, Mike Vecellio (#3 MG Midget) won in-class for the Spec FP cars after a tight race with Eddie Dick's #54 MG Midget.

Tom Young piloted his very quick VB #16 Triumph TR3A to the overall win in **Group 4** (VA, VB, VC, CM, DSR, FFJr, FJr) while Fred Crowley (#76 Austin Healey 3000) and Tom Ellis (#15 Cooper T56) swapped second place 6 times before Crowley was able to take the VA class win in second followed by Ellis for his own FJr class win in third. Of note in

this class, finishing fourth overall for a class win in CM, was Forrest Tindall in his #17 Lola Mk I. That's right – Lola car's very first chassis.

Group 6 (FA, FB, FF1, FF2, BSR) promised to be a shootout at the sharp end of the pack between polesitter Peter Hoekenga (#1 Lola T540) and second on-grid Edward Copley (#10 Lola T340). The two drivers didn't disappoint as there were 7 official lead changes between the two FF2 drivers with James Stiehr (#31 Winkelmann WDF-1) jumping both the front row cars from third on the grid and leading lap one! After 14 laps, however, Copley was just able to take first overall to Hoekenga's second, followed by the closing Stiehr in third – which was good for an FF1 class win.

Group 7 (CP, DP, BS) closed out the weekend as Chalmer McWilliams took his #64 Lotus Super Seven (in proper British Racing Green) to a flag to flag overall and DP-class victory over Clifford Koehler's second place and CP-class winning #56 Datsun 240Z. Third place appeared well-in hand for Steven Cole's #04 Fiat 124 Coupe after Scott Brady's #16 Fiat 124 Coupe succumbed to mechanical gremlins on lap 6, but with 3 laps to go, Cole spun at turn 3, which allowed novice driver Ken Caldwell (#53 Porsche 911E) to slip by and grab 3rd place overall and 2nd place in CP class – a nice start to a new driving career!



#7 Tom Johnson, MGB; #99 Donald Dickey, MGB; #80 John Hamilton, MGB.

RESULTS

GROUP 1

PL CL DRIVER CAR

- 1 AS S. Lecomte Chev Camaro 1:25.343
- 1 FIA S. Higgins Porsche 911 1:26.764
- 2 FIA V. Shade Porsche 911
- 2 AS A. Shores Ford Boss 302
- 3 FIA D. Gough Chev. Corvette
- 1 BP G. Reynolds Mustang GT350 1:27.891

- 3 AS J. Neathery Ford Mustang
- 2 BP S. Seitz Ford Mustang
- 4 AS G. Hassell Ford Mustang
- 5 AS J. Atwell Ford Mustang
- 3 BP T. Filer Chev. Corvette

GROUP 2

PL CL DRIVER CAR

- 1 EP T. Johnson MGB 1:32.487
- 2 EP J. Hamilton MGB
- 1 FP H. Hilton MG Midget 1:36.548
- 2 FP W. Gardner Austin Healey Sprite
- 3 FP R. Noblett Austin Healey Sprite
- 1 CS D. Patton Morris Mini 1:36.548
- 2 CS R. Soucy Austin Mini Cooper S
- 4 FP W. Hill MG Midget
- 3 EP G. Curl MGB
- 5 FP D. Williams Austin Healey Sprite
- 4 EP N. Korey MGB
- 6 FP B. Mace MGA
- 7 FP R. Fisher Austin Healey Sprite
- 8 FP A. Hofeling MG Midget
- 9 FP J. McClanahan MG Midget
- 10 FP J. Hovey Triumph Spitfire

- 11 FP G. Fuqua Austin Healey Sprite
- 5 EP K. Morris MGB
- 12 FP P.D. Sohn MG Midget
- 3 CS S. Partin Alfa Romeo GT Junior

GROUP 3

PL CL DRIVER CAR

- 1 FV M. Callahan Zink Z-5 1:35.564
- 2 FV B. Revenaugh Zink C4
- 3 FV J. Yule Kaimann
- 4 FV R. Bailey Lynx B
- 5 FV J. Gaudette Zink C4
- 6 FV D. Harrison Zink C4
- 7 FV A. Summerville Zink C4
- 1 SFP M. Vecellio MG Midget 1:45.549
- 2 SFP E. Dick Austin Healey Sprite
- 8 FV G. Heuer Beach 5B
- 9 FV D. Rolison Zink Z-5
- 3 SFP G. Maurer MG Midget

GROUP 4

PL CL DRIVER CAR

- 1 VA T. Young Triumph TR3A 1:35.764
- 2 VA F. Crowley Austin Healey 3000
- 1 FJR T. Ellis Cooper T56 1:38.002
- 1 CM F. Tindall Lola Mk I 1:36.594
- 1 VB J. Page Alfa Romeo Spikder Veloce 1:36.567
- 2 VB M. Orlie Porsche Roadster
- 1 HP T. Baumgardner MGA 1:49.913
- 3 VB L. Marchant MGA
- 1 DSR J. Furlow, Sr. Dolphin America 1:49.780
- 2 CM J.C. Lopez Lotus Westfield Xi
- 1 VC R. Yates MG N Special 1:57.326



#121 Jeffrey Pitt, Alfa Romeo Giulia Sprint Veloce.



Tom Young in the #16 Triumph TR3A and Father Larry, discuss race strategy with grid worker Lisette Strandh.

GROUP 6

PL CL DRIVER CAR

- 1 FF2 E. Copley Lola T340 1:23.531
- 2 FF2 P. Hoekenga Lola T540
- 1 FF1 J. Stiehr Winkelmann WDF-1 1:24.646
- 2 FF1 P. Junco Lotus 51B
- 3 FF1 S. Laferty Merlyn Mk 20
- 4 FF1 R. Sholar Winkelmann WDF-1

GROUP 7

PL CL DRIVER CAR

- 1 DP C. McWilliams Lotus Super Seven 1:31.828
- 1 CP C. Koehler Datsun 240Z 1:33.047
- 2 CP K. Caldwell Porsche 911E
- 1 BS S. Cole Fiat 124 Coupe 1:37.480
- 2 DP B. Rinke Triumph TR-4
- 2 BS S. Brady Fiat 124 Coupe

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