

# Mincomp's Corner

March, 96



Last month I left you after having spent some successful testing days in the Mincomp Mini. At that point I was very pleased with the chassis setup I had achieved. So the next stop was the first race of the year, a double National at Phoenix International Raceway January 13-15. Since I had absolutely no competition, I decided to continue my testing.

To sum it up, the handling is back where I want it. I have been able to get a handle on its inconsistent grip and total lack of rear end grip. The last two times I have driven the car it has actually been fun to drive

rather than terrifying. As far as the races, in the #1 I qualified with a better time than I have ever run before, so that was a good indication that the car was beginning to work. At the drop of the green flag, I nailed the throttle and the car shot towards the outside wall! Right there it broke a right hand C.V. joint! So I ran 24 of the leaders 30 laps with one wheel drive, another testimonial for Tran-X diffs! I got my first points for the season, time to get ready for tomorrow's race. Before qualifying, I made a couple of small chassis changes, and qualified faster again than I had the day before. Now this really pleased me. As I said before, we can see the chassis working better and better, which gives me the confidence to drive harder. I admit I have been lacking that lately. Just before the race I was doing some nervous tinkering and I noticed that the carbs were not getting full throttle, not by a little but by quite a lot! So with this I raise my eyebrow and say HMMM! And fix it.

At the start of race #2 I was flying! It's amazing what a little additional throttle plate angle can do for engine response. Timing and scoring says I set a new track record by more than a second, which means I went that I went 1.26 seconds faster than I qualified. I'm not sure I believe their time; my in car timer doesn't read it. Rich Warnock the crew chief from hell didn't catch the time, but upon quizzing, T&S officials they indicated they didn't see a problem with their tape on my car.

Next stop, the grand opening regional race at Buttonwillow Raceway Park.

*Bill Gilmore*