

Mincomp's Corner

Sept., 96



I took the Mincomp Mini racing over the fourth of July Holidays. The race was at Buttonwillow Raceway Park, was the first SCCA National at this new track that opened last December. Sadly I must report that the track's surface condition has become very bad, breaking up in most turns. I was at the track in early June, doing SCCA Driver Instructor duties, and at that time, the "ARC" was unusable. But I am pleased to report that repairs were done the Monday morning after Drivers School and in spite of the scorching heat over the National weekend, those repairs held up perfectly. The rest of the track is now being repaired in

the same manner.

This race weekend actually turned out quite well for me. Unlike the Memorial Day race at Willow Springs, the Mincomp Mini was not perfect right out of the trailer; I did have to do some adjusting to get it settled down. I also spent the entire weekend fighting with turn 17, which going clockwise, is a left hander leading onto the front straightway. I managed to spin here once every single session. I could, of course, put the blame for each spin on something or someone else, (It's never the drivers fault, is it?) But while leading the race I again spun at this turn, but this time I take full credit for my actions. I simply turned down too early, and got down into the torn up part of the track and lost traction. I rejoined the race in third place, and after a lap and a half retook first place, going on to win by quite a margin. Did I mention the heat? When I belted into the car, it was 112 degrees. There was quite a lot of attrition due to the heat, but the Mincomp Mini just kept on going, never skipping a beat. The next race is the SCCA Runoffs at Mid Ohio; I can't remember a year going as well as this leading into the Runoffs!

It was also a pleasure meeting so many of you at Mini West this past weekend! Because my racing schedule usually conflicts with Mini Meets, I don't get to attend them like I used to. My hat goes off to my associates in the MOA-LA who did a fine job of organizing and keeping the meet running smoothly!

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