

Chicago Region's June Sprints • Solo II Tour Success

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September 2001

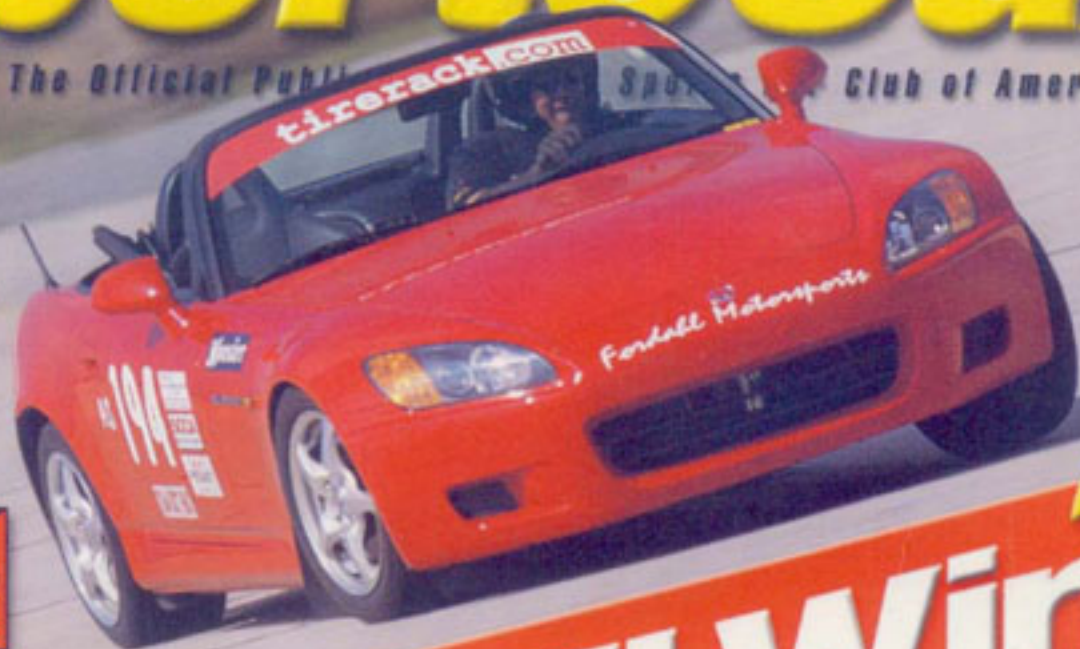
# SportsCar

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1200 to  
Attack  
Topeka  
Pylons



# Who Will Win?



\*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 46140  
292884 201660302 013  
TED LYONS 23  
4409 N FORTVILLE PIKE  
GREENFIELD IN 46140 8635

600 to  
Battle  
for Gold



September 17-23



by Kirsten Dell

# Circle the Wagons, I'm Heading West

When my brothers and I were little, our family would pile into a used powder-blue 1963 Chrysler station wagon (with the slick push-button transmission on the dashboard), which my dad had picked up for \$300, to begin our annual summer trips west. The first couple hundred miles were consumed by patient adults trying to get the three of us children to quit spitting with each other and adopt a sort of "car behavior" for the next 10 days.

By the time we finally reached the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D., we were well settled into vacation mode and ready to see everything the grown-ups wanted us to see. We spent hours listening to Grandma, a grade school teacher, telling us stories of the Old West, and we were especially excited at the prospect of traveling through the Badlands of North Dakota—just the name sounds "bad." Each of us envisioned our own little Wild West scenario, from cowboys and Indians to the school marm's romance with the town sheriff (OK, that little fantasy was mine).

## BADLANDS AIN'T SO BAD

So, when I decided it was time to go out in active search of the stories of CENDiv, the little girl in me was secretly tickled to discover the Badlands Region on the far western outback of the Division. I'd never met anybody from the Region at the Convention or Roundtable; I

couldn't recall ever seeing anybody from Badlands show up at any of the Nationals we've attended; and, basically didn't know a thing about the Region or the area it covers. I decided that was as good a place as any to start. I was thrilled to hear the exceptionally friendly voice of Mike Vix, the Regional Executive, on the other end of the phone line.

With a population of around 600,000 in the entire state, and the closest road racing track being Brainerd (about 350 miles away—not exactly a quick weekend trip), or Road America (about 830 miles away), it was no surprise to learn that the Badlands Region is basically a Solo Region.

With a membership base of only 22 members (which is probably why Mike has served as the RE off and on since 1987), they still manage to run eight to 12 autocrosses a year. The group draws on outside people (mainly Corvette Club members), as well as their core membership, for their events. They are very fortunate to have a parking lot at an airport in Bismarck, which the Highway Patrol generously allows them to use for free.

"Our needs are minimal," Mike says. "There's no opportunity to attract a huge membership here. There is, however, a hard-

*Indianapolis Region's Mike Hurst and Ted Lyons drove One Lap of America in a Ford Thunderbird, finishing second in class.*

core group of people here who are committed to the grassroots end of the deal."

For a few minutes, I felt sort of sorry for the members of Badlands, isolated from the rest of the Division out there in North Dakota, having such a small Region and not many people to "talk" to. Then I started to think about how many runs you could fit into a day of autocrossing if you only had 30 or so people at your Solos. I'd need to go out to buy new tires after every event! That's not a half-bad prospect! Plus, evil politics never raises its ugly head. "Anybody who shows up at a Board meeting is on the Board," Mike says.

## CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?

I am now firmly convinced that I am living in a bubble here in the Midwest. We always make jokes about being members of the "Secret Car Club of America," but it looks like there are other venues who keep secrets at least as well as we do! In reviewing Indy Region's Web site, I learned that one of its members, Mike Hurst, was competing in One Lap of America (back in May). In this age of instant information, and with the few goofy rally friends we do have, you would think we'd have heard something about One Lap. (We didn't.) So, it was off to the Internet to search for a One Lap Web site. Eureka!

Congratulations to Hurst and his co-driver, Ted Lyons, who placed second in the Mid-Priced Sedan category, with 1055 class points and 5600 overall points.

## STORMY WEATHER'S A GREAT SONG

Those of you who think we Ohioans live in a rainforest may not be the least bit surprised to learn that Western Ohio Region had to cancel its Solo Points Event 3 due to flooding at the Kil-Kare Speedway (the bowl was flooded). Personally, I think they intentionally flooded it to provide a practice swimming pool for future Dayton area Olympians.

This is my third column, and I'm starting to recognize names. I'm going to be hunting down CENDiv members at the tracks, calling people in the middle of the night (just kidding) and asking your friends for gossip. To protect yourselves, you might want to contact me first! ●



DAN F. REVELL

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