

## ROOKIE PEGGY ROWAN TAKES HOME TWIN WINS IN HAWAIIAN ROAD RACE

### REGIONAL RACE 1

Scott Schulte made his Porsche sing to another victory at Hawaii Raceway Park last August in SCCA Regional road racing. Schulte, sponsored by German Auto Specialists, snared a quick lead over the Art's Electronics Datsun 240Z of Art Sonen to motor away from all competition. 2.7 seconds separated the two at the end of the first lap, with the gap widening every circuit thereafter. Eventually Sonen, struggling with a broken exhaust and a gearbox full of nothing, limped into a sixth place finish even though he'd completed only eleven laps. Both Schulte and Sonen compete in the Radial Sedan class. Later Schulte noted "I was plenty nervous. Sonen's made a lot of improvements to his car and Owen Farrier was supposed to be bringing out a BMW M3." He was relieved to see how well he qualified, adding "the Porsche is very reliable. In a year and a half I've done nothing to the motor but routine maintenance."

In the same race, rookie Peggy Rowan completed her competition driving school on Saturday and won on Sunday. Rowan and Joyce Hsieh challenged furiously for the Spec Racer crown in the opening laps. Hsieh used her trademark "dive bomb" to seize an early lead in Turn 1 but Rowan gave her measure for measure in the same spot on subsequent laps. By the eleventh tour the race's complexion changed to a contest between Rowan and Lee Jensen. Rowan made a dynamite pass in The Rubber Room but Jensen borrowed Hsieh's "dive bomb" to grab the point in Turn 1. On the last lap the pair traded the lead three times between the first turn and The Chicane but Rowan held the lead when it mattered, right at the start/finish line. Hsieh finished third in class ahead of Carl Debo. Former motorcross rider Rowan noted how wonderful the SCCA folks are, praising them as "very supportive and helpful." She thanked all the volunteers for their efforts in making the race possible.

### REGIONAL RACE 2

The second race mixed a variety of cars as well, but at the end it was the Spec Racer of Eric Inouye taking the checkered flag first. For most of the race Inouye ran second or third to Koichi Suzuki and Dave Goto. The three ran side by side and nose to tail for three fourths the distance, skillfully working lapped traffic while each tried to lead. On lap 15 Suzuki tried to tuck inside of Goto in The Off Camber. The resultant contact forced Suzuki to retire and slowed Goto enough to hand Inouye the win. Steve Hirasuna inherited third in class.

In a curious twist on the racing game, Larry Mason drove the pace car for his own race group. Mason, visiting from the mainland as an instructor for Saturday's school, rented a Ford Fiesta from M. G. Lewis. ITC is the slowest class for this race group. Mason paced the field, pulled into the pits, then awaited a green flag before pulling out in the back of the pack! The lone class entry, he won a checkered flag for his efforts.

Bill Hill led John Shrum to the ITA win. Hill deserves special mention--not only did he race his Mazda RX7, he also designed, built, and donated some of the equipment used by the club's Timing and Scoring team.

### REGIONAL RACE 3

The third race pitted three Formula Mirage cars against the lone Formula Ford (and class winner) of Steven Lee. Said Lee, "My suspension work really paid off; my times have improved tremendously."

Tom Bryant, the overall and Formula Mirage winner, held an early lead despite all three cars attempting to enter Turn 1 at once. Less than a second separated the three Mirages after four laps. With three laps to go, Tamura nabbed the point position from Bryant and Todd Hunter, but then looped his car in The Rubber Room. The resultant track blockage forced a red flag while the situation was cleared. When the dust finally settled the finishing order was Bryant (an instructor at the Hawaii International Racing School), Hunter, Tamura and Lee. Afterwards Bryant enjoyed his victory, declaring "I got to beat the guy who beat me in May." He praised Tamura as a "fast learner." Todd Hunter called the event "a tough race," admitting "I gave it to Tom by making a few mistakes." He complimented the school's Mirages saying "the handling is excellent; the car feels like it's part of you." Like all racers, he wishes the Mitsubishi motor had more power.

### "JUST FOR FUN" SPRINT RACE

An eight lap sprint race concluded Hawaii Region's day with a preponderance of Spec Racers taking the green from starter John Grossetto. Steven Lee pretty much lapped the field in his Formula Ford on his way to the class win. Peggy Rowan made it two for two after a spirited challenge from Joyce Hsieh, Lee Jensen, Eric Inouye, Carl Debo, Steve Hirasuna, and Koichi Suzuki. At the first corner Joyce Hsieh was tagged in the back by Lee Jensen, causing her rear bodywork to slither off the track. Undaunted, she continued to race, grabbing the lead on lap 6 in Turn 1 only to lose it in The Sweeper. Hsieh eventually finished sixth despite the aerodynamic loss of the back section.

The finishing order for Spec Racers reads as follows: Rowan, Inouye, Goto, Jensen, Hirasuna, Hsieh, Suzuki, and Debo. (Parenthetically, Tom Bryant actually ran away from the field in another Spec Racer for the real win. However, he withdrew from the event, thus moving all other contenders up a notch.)