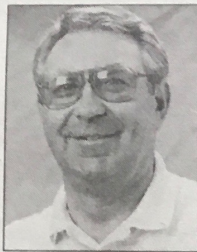


# Season Shaping Up



## Team Rules

American City Racing League  
by Roger Diez

NTB Trans-Am, Winston West FedEx Championship weekends are presently being planned, and negotiations are also being held regarding events with the Southwest Tour and NASCAR Craftsman Truck series. As many as five events may be televised.

To stay abreast of modern racing technology, the ACRL Board of Directors has authorized the homologation of a long-planned-for spec rear wing on the S2000 cars. This center-mount rear wing is designed to provide improved grip while avoiding excessive stress on suspension components. A new, low-cost aluminum billet brake caliper has also been approved. It is a larger four-piston caliper with increased pad area which will yield more stopping power with less weight.

There will be three new marques competing in ACRL in 1998, all hoping to emulate the Carbir, which debuted last year and took Jeff Glenn to the Drivers Championship. The two American-built chassis are the Clarinval S-2000 by Aeolus and the Doran JE-1 1998. The design of Alain Clarinval (ex-manager of Nissan's GTP project), emphasizes clever air management and uses an LD-200 gear box driving through special lightweight CV joints. Momo/Ferrari engineer Kevin Doran's creation has Penske three-way shocks, a state-of-the-art Pi-II dash and a Staffis gearbox. A Doran won the SCCA National Championship Runoffs\* in 1995.

From England comes the new Mallock, as well as a much revised Van Diemen. The Mallock Mk33 is a unique tube-frame chassis derived from a successful Vauxhall SuperSport-2000 design. The 1998 Van Diemen features a rigid honeycomb chassis with an LD-200 gearbox and improved aerodynamics. (For more details on these new chassis see this issue's Race Car Buyers Guide.)

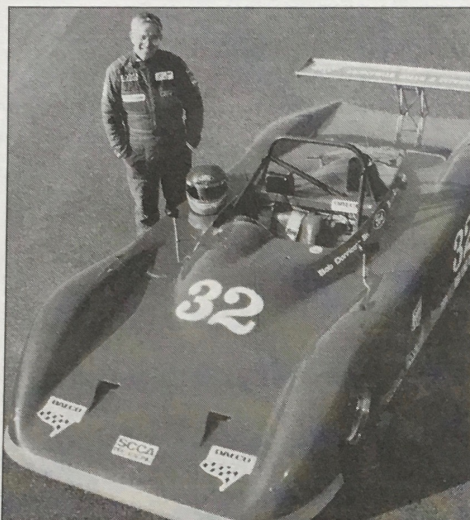
Some new city teams are anticipated in 1998, as well as some driver changes among the existing teams. As in other professional sports, there are "free agents" and "franchise moves." While some ACRL teams may shift their city allegiance in the coming year, at press time returning cities include Fresno, San Diego, Long Beach, Reno, Las Vegas, Portland, Wilsonville, Woodland and the two Vancouver (Washington and British Columbia).

We'll be able to confirm some new cities—as well as all the team rosters—next month, but the early favorites for the 1998 Drivers Championship are Steve Romak (Team Fresno), Peter Zarcades (Team Las Vegas), John Ostlund (Team Fresno) and Dennis Pavlina (possibly on a new team). Dark horses who could surprise: Joe Giroski (Team

Woodland), Leo Sismani (Team Reno), Chris Ronson (Team Las Vegas), Bob Young (Team San Diego) and if he decides to upgrade to Cosworth power, Frank Arnold (Team Fresno).

Contenders for Rookie of the Year honors include Scott Shelley (Team Reno), who has driven in Formula Vee in SCCA National competition for the past five years, qualifying for the Valvoline Runoffs four times; Rick Eickoff (no team announced) 1991 WKA Manufacturers Cup Champion; John Lombardo, S2000 SCCA driver with five National wins who placed second in SPDiv's Regional points; and John Brewer (Team Portland?), a paraplegic driver who has perfected hand-controls enabling him to race S2000 cars competitively in SCCA Regional and National events.

The ACRL has long been a steppingstone for young drivers on the way up and 1998 will be no exception, as a couple of teenage drivers compete in the series. Spencer



The ACRL is introducing a new, spec wing for the Super Sports 2000 cars for 1998, as first tested on Bob Dorricott Sr.'s Swift DB-5 in 1993.

Trener, now 18, made several appearances last season with Team Las Vegas, scoring second- and third-place class finishes at Sears Point and Laguna Seca, respectively. He was leading the Las Vegas round until sidelined with overheating problems. Nineteen-year-old Charlie Hewett, the current NPDV FVee champion, will join the series, racing for Team Reno. He is the son of 1997 Team Reno driver Gary Hewett.

At the Jan. 31 ACRL winter meeting in San Diego, the 1998 schedule and rules changes were finalized, and some exciting new items revealed. We'll cover the details next month. ■

John Ostlund could be a contender for the ACRL Super Sports 2000 title in 1998.



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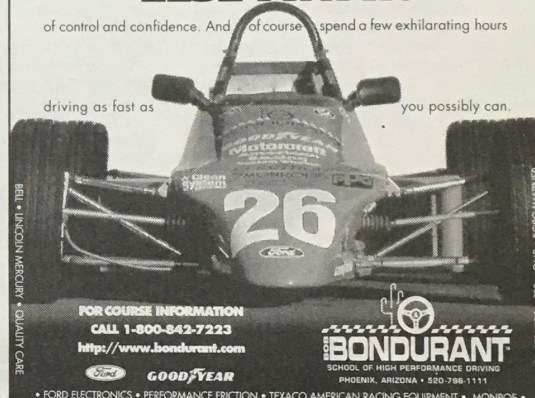
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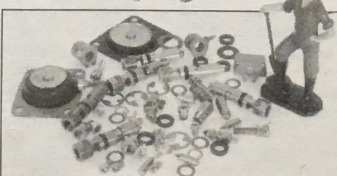
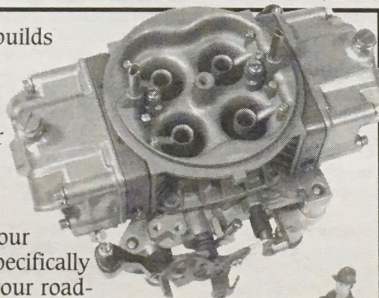
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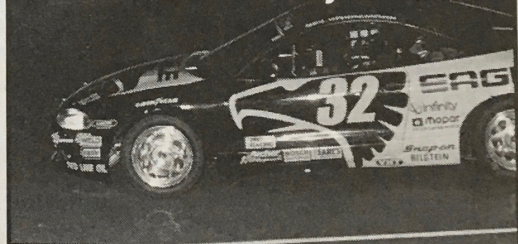
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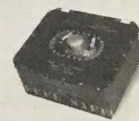
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