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1997 KOOL/Toyota Atlantic Champion

KATHY BARNES
The State of SCCA Solo Competition



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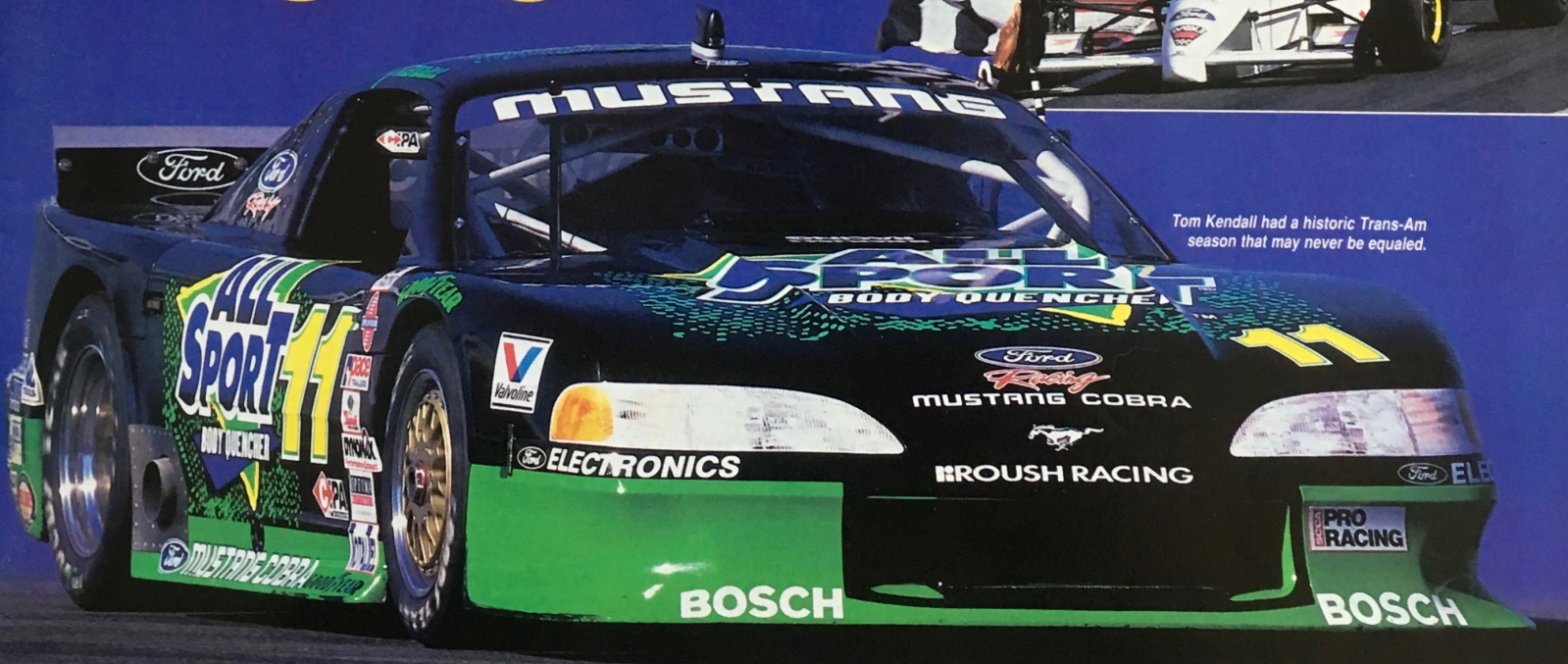
'97 SCCA Pro Racing Highlights!



Jeff Glenn (72) won the 1997 ACRL title, while Stephen Romak (57) was the top Rookie.



Zak Morioka claimed the U.S. FF2000 National Championship.



Tom Kendall had a historic Trans-Am season that may never be equaled.

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Dynamic Decade For American City Racing League by Roger Diez

Intermittent rain and availability of rain tires were the two big topics. In the end, qualifying and the race were run in dry conditions, and Glenn's Carbir dominated early, taking the pole and motoring away at the green flag. However, a broken CV joint sidelined the Beverly Hills juggernaut, and Lee took the checker, backing up his 1996 season-ending win in Reno. Teammate Gary Hewett added enough points to score the team win for Reno as well.

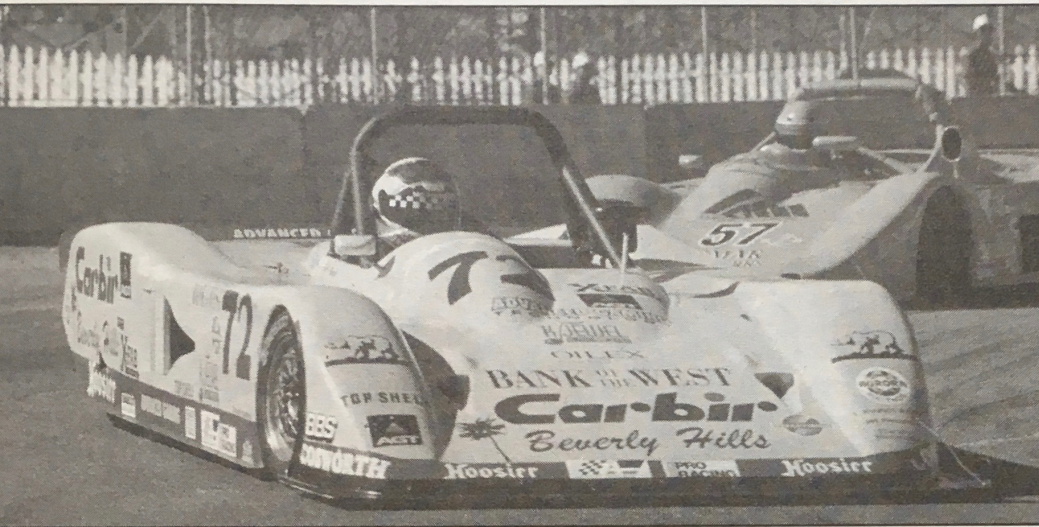
Next up was the season's only oval race at Mesa Marin in Bakersfield. Zarcades was dominant, setting the fastest qualifying lap of the weekend (including Winston West and Southwest Tour cars), and taking a flag-to-flag victory. Glenn took second with a great restart after a yellow flag, aided by chief engineer Eric Purcell talking him through traffic. Zarcades' teammate Chris Ronson followed Glenn through and his third place scored the Team trophy for Las Vegas. The ACRL put on a fantastic show for the circle track crowd.

Back to Portland for the Rose Cup, Glenn vindicated the Carbir chassis and himself by taking the pole and the win. Behind him, Lee took second and Zarcades stayed in the championship hunt with a strong third place. Rookie of the Year challenger Romak of Team Fresno took his third fourth-place finish, consistent but wanting to run farther up front. Beverly Hills won the team title on the basis of Glenn's victory and Mark Neuhaus' eighth place.

Sears Point was the halfway point of the season and saw Glenn take the pole easily. Zarcades despaired of keeping up, but Glenn joined the "Roberto Guerrero Club" by spinning on the pace lap and then made an ill-advised pass attempt on the first lap which finished the race for Lee and Romak. Glenn was black-flagged for a stop-and-go penalty and Zarcades inherited the lead. He made the most of this good fortune, taking the checker to become the first repeat winner of the season. Fresno's John Ostlund took his first podium finish with a second place, while Glenn recovered to finish third, garnering the unofficial title of "Dang'er Boy." Las Vegas again took the team win, courtesy of Zarcades' first and Ronson's seventh.

Glenn scored his fourth pole in five races at Laguna Seca, but bad luck struck again. A flat tire (the result of running over the pace car's lost radio antenna), cost him the lead when he pitted for fresh rubber. Romak took the point and held it to the checker in convincing fashion, chased home by Zarcades and Ostlund. Glenn finished a distant eighth. Romak and Ostlund secured the team victory for Fresno.

The series returned to the street circuit in Vancouver after a three-year hiatus, running in support of the CART PPG Cup series. Zarcades, who had won three



GEORGE DWINELL

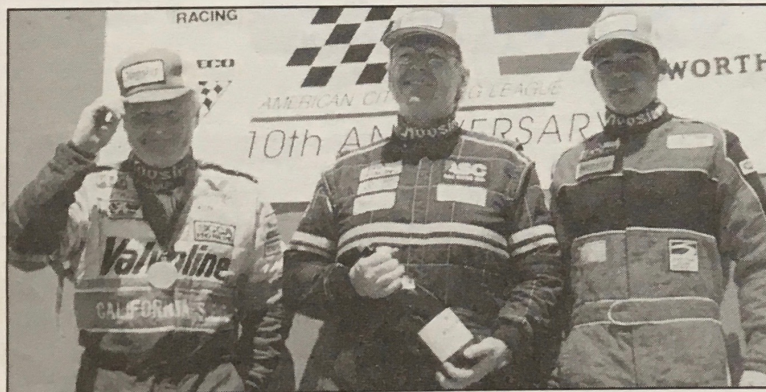
Jeff Glenn set six fastest-qualifier marks and scored three wins on the way to the American City Racing League SS2000 Drivers Championship.

The American City Racing League closed out its first decade with the 1997 racing season, and what a season it was. Statistically, five different drivers and five teams scored wins in the eight-race series. Two new chassis and two new teams debuted, as the Carbir chassis carried Team Beverly Hills driver Jeff Glenn to victory on three occasions and Craig Simmiss' Shrike took the S2000 victory for North Vancouver B.C. in its only ACRL outing in Vancouver. Glenn added six poles to his three checkered flags to take the Vasser Cup, symbol of the Driving

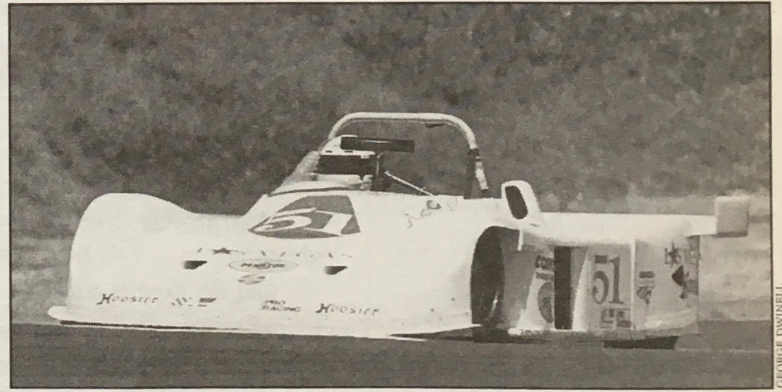
Championship, while Team Fresno took the team title and the Blackaller Cup.

Peter Zarcades of Las Vegas took his Swift to two victories and two poles, but lost the championship in the 11th hour with a crash in the final race, the Reno Hilton Challenge. Team Reno's Rick Lee won the first race of the season, while two first-time winners mounted the podium—Fresno's Steve Romak at Laguna Seca, and Vancouver BC's Jeff Clegg at his home race in Vancouver. It was the first professional race win for each driver.

The season started at Portland in early May.



Ian Wood, Frank Arnold and Spencer Trener shared the S2000 victory podium at Sears Point.



GEORGE DWINELL

Peter Zarcades was in contention for the title all season, the only driver other than Glenn to win a pole.

1997 American City Racing League Scoreboard

Circuit	Winner	Team Winner	Pole (time)	Fastest Race Lap (time)
Portland	Rick Lee, Reno	Reno	Jeff Glenn (1:08.372)	Jeff Glenn (1:08.872)
Mesa Marin	Peter Zarcades, Las Vegas	Las Vegas	Peter Zarcades (19.008)	not available
Portland	Jeff Glenn, Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	Jeff Glenn (1:16.955)	Steve Romak (1:16.729)
Sears Point	Peter Zarcades, Las Vegas	Las Vegas	Jeff Glenn (1:35.650)	Jeff Glenn (1:36.899)
Laguna Seca	Steve Romak, Fresno	Fresno	Jeff Glenn (1:29.229)	Jeff Glenn (1:29.018)
Vancouver	Jeff Clegg, Vancouver, B.C.	Vancouver, B.C.	Peter Zarcades (1:10.309)	Jeff Glenn (1:10.709)
Las Vegas	Jeff Glenn, Beverly Hills	Reno	Jeff Glenn (1:15.625)	Jeff Glenn (1:16.581)
Reno	Jeff Glenn, Beverly Hills	Fresno	Jeff Glenn (1:03.256)	Jeff Glenn (1:02.592)

1997 ACRL Driver Scoreboard (Top 10)

Driver	Points	Wins	Poles	Fastest Laps
1. Jeff Glenn, Beverly Hills	645	3	6	6
2. Peter Zarcades, Las Vegas	633	2	2	0
3. John Ostlund, Fresno	557	0	0	0
4. Rick Lee, Reno	556	1	0	0
5. Stephen Romak, Fresno	538	1	0	1
6. Dennis Pavlina, Wilsonville	491	0	0	0
7. Chris Ronson, Las Vegas	471	0	0	0
8. Leo Sismani, Las Vegas	470	0	0	0
9. Joe Gioski, Woodland	441	0	0	0
10. Bill Bachofner, Wilsonville	434	0	0	0

previous Vancouver outings, used his experience to capture the pole, while Glenn was mired in traffic. The race began in twilight, victim of the Indy Car schedule, and was shortened to 14 laps as darkness descended. Jeff Clegg, running in front of his home Vancouver crowd, made a brilliant "pass of the season" on the first restart and seized the lead from Zarcades. Romak also bulldozed his way past the Las Vegas driver on the last lap, leaving points leaders Zarcades and Glenn in third and fourth, respectively. Clegg's teammate Bob Thomson's eighth-place finish also secured the team win for the home team.

For the penultimate race of the season, the ACRL visited a new venue, Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The drivers loved the high-speed oval section, and there was much changing of gear ratios after the first practice to optimize top-end speeds. Glenn's Carbir proved to be fastest in qualifying yet again, but only with a last-lap banzai charge to squeak by Romak's fast time. Zarcades challenged early in the race, but fell back to wage a race-long battle with Lee for third place. Romak's charge to second after an early spin was nullified by a mechanical DQ, moving the drivers behind him up one position. Lee's



DOUG BERGER

Frank Arnold returned to take the S2000 Drivers Title.

third and Leo Sismani's sixth scored the team win for Reno.

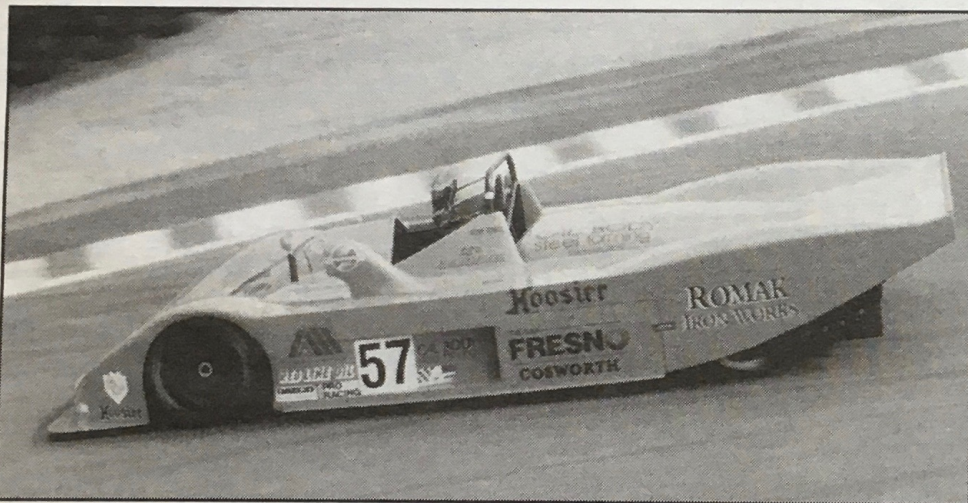
We must say a word about the Sports 2000 "B" class, the SOHC Ford-powered cars. Frank Arnold of Team Fresno returned to the series after a long hiatus and proved he has lost none of his speed. Arnold took five wins, a second, a third, and a fourth, an even more dominant class record than that of Glenn in the Cosworth category. John Bachofner of Team Wilsonville had a tremendous season to finish second in class, scoring wins in the first and last races of the season. Team San Diego's Ian Wood finished third

in class, with a pair of seconds and four third-place finishes.

The gala ACRL Awards Banquet held at the Reno Hilton was a rousing success. Jeff Glenn jubilantly waved the coveted Vasser Cup in the air as he was presented as the 1997 Drivers Champion. Team Fresno members Romak, Ostlund and Arnold were on hand to celebrate their victory. Romak also won the Rising Star award and Rookie of the Year in the Super Sports 2000 category, while Arnold won the Sports 2000 Drivers Championship and Ostlund took Most Improved Driver. Rookie of the Year in Sports 2000 was Jay

Messenger and the Sportsman of the Year award recipient was Margie Smith-Haas. The Hard Luck award went to Bob Young, while Doug Esterbrook of Team Wilsonville was voted Mechanic of the Year, and respondents judged Team Beverly Hills to have the Best Car and Team Presentation. An appreciative Dick Templeton, ACRL chief steward, accepted a special 10-Year Service award.

As the American City Racing League enters its second decade of competition, there are exciting possibilities in the works as plans for the 1998 season are developed. ■



Stephen Romak won for Fresno at Laguna Seca, helping to secure the Rookie of the Year and Team titles.

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