

SCCA Solo Nationals 2007
Dr. Bob Woods

This year there were 16 entrants in FSAE, but only 14 drivers were present. Most of the usual suspects were present including UTA (2 cars), KU, SDSMT (3 cars), and UMR. UMR had engine problems and were absent from the photos below.



Eric Leichtle, being the fastest student driver in FSAE won the “Dr. Bob Woods Cup”



UTA held the top four places with KU placing fifth in the trophies. On the back row are Eric Leichtle (1st) and Alejandro Moreno (2nd). On the front row are Dr. Bob Woods (3rd), Ken Hassler (4th), and Eric Ohlde (5th).



The following words were written by David Avard and was published in Sports Car (Dec 07).

If you want to win at Nationals driving an FSAE car, it really helps if the car was made by the students at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). In the 5 years since FSAE was spun off from A-Modified, UTA has won all 5 times, and taken 16 of 25 trophies. Three-time defending champ Erick Kohler couldn't make it this year due to family commitments, so unless 2002 champ Kenneth Hassler won, a new champion would be crowned.

FSAE started on the West Course in the 3rd group, after the sun had had a chance to dry out the morning's rain and those cars that ran in the morning had cleared some of the course. Eight cars representing four schools were entered, with 16 drivers, although one of the University of Kansas cars didn't make it, as the students blew up their engine testing it on the dyno Sunday night (those two drivers switched to other classes).

For the fastest FSAE cars, wings seemed to be required, but the wings for the KU car didn't get finished in time for the Solo Nationals. However, FSAE is first and foremost an engineering exercise and students are encouraged to find innovative solutions, so the Jayhawk drivers came up with a unique aero device made of a sheet of 3/4" thick aluminum honeycomb that looked more like a sun shade over the engine. Said team member Erich Ohlde said "it seemed like it made a difference (during testing) at 3:00am!"

First drivers seemed to find things a little loose, as 3 drivers logged DNF's. But when the second drivers hit the course, Solo Nationals rookie Eric Leichtle put in a run at 43.992 that no one, not even he, could match. His co-driver, Alejandro Moreno, got the closest on his 3rd run with a 44.145, with their faculty advisor, Dr. Bob Woods, the only other driver in the 44's, with an older UTA car. Ohlde spoiled the UTA sweep of the top four spots, but his time was over 2 seconds behind Woods. The 2003 winner Kenneth Hassler, sharing his ride with Woods, was in the last (5th) trophy spot.

For the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT), only their 2006 car seemed able to be on pace. The 2005 and 2007 cars of the Hardrockers were chasing various problems, both mechanical and electrical, and were never able to truly show their potential. The University of Missouri, Rolla team was dogged by gremlins and was only able to complete one run for each driver on Tuesday before throwing in the towel.

The East Course, with much higher turn speeds, seemed to be a place for the wings to really show an advantage. The 2007 UTA car seemed to work very well, as Leichtle and Moreno were the only drivers to break 40 seconds. Moreno got in at 39.825 on his first run while Leichtle laid down a 38.052 on his second. Good thing too, because he never got a third. His 80.044 total would be it.

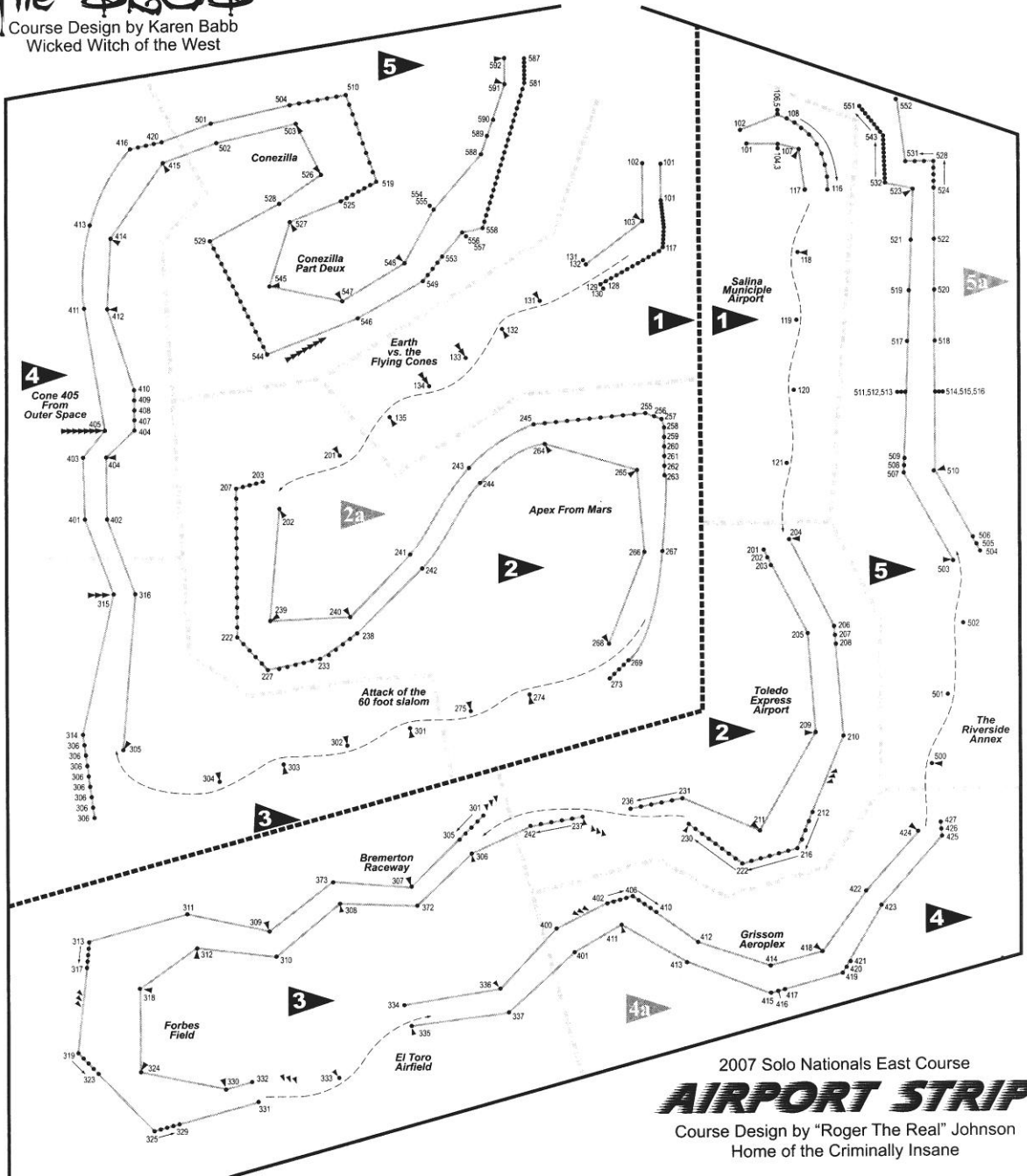
Moreno pulled out all the stops on his final run trying to catch his co-driver, and took out the front wing on his car by clipping a cone at high speed through the final slalom before the finish. Moreno said Leichtle told him that he didn't think that the final slalom could be taken flat, and he (Moreno) wanted to prove him wrong. Instead Moreno ended up 1.926 seconds behind.

The 40.648 of Woods gave him a secure third place (for the fifth consecutive year). Hassler got a 40.095 that put him up to fourth when the wingless Ohlde was unable to match that pace settling for a 41.370 on his last run for the final trophy spot. Honorable mention goes to Wesley Snaza of SDSMT whose 41.336 was slightly faster than Ohlde's, but not enough to move him up a spot.

Leichtle also received the Dr. Bob Woods Cup given to the highest-placed student competitor in FSAE at the Solo Nationals.

The West and East Courses 2007

2007 Solo Nationals West Course
The BLOB
 Course Design by Karen Babb
 Wicked Witch of the West



2007 Solo Nationals East Course
AIRPORT STRIP
 Course Design by "Roger The Real" Johnson
 Home of the Criminally Insane

Timing and Scoring Results 2007

			run 1	run 2	run 3	total
107	Eric Leichtle	2007 UTA FSAE	<u>43.992</u> 39.502	DNF <u>38.052</u>	44.517 DNS	82.044
7	Alejandro Moreno	2007 UTA FSAE	46.793 <u>39.825</u>	45.028 39.049+1c	<u>44.145</u> 38.987+1c	83.970 -1.926
5	Dr. Bob Woods	2005 UTA FSAE	DNF 42.582	45.644 <u>40.648</u>	<u>44.970</u> 39.9 +DNF	85.618 -1.648
105	Kenneth Hassler	2005 UTA FSAE	<u>47.430</u> 41.818	52.443 <u>40.095</u>	DNF 39.969+1c	87.525 -1.907
104	Erich Ohlde	2007 KU FSAE	48.607 42.121	<u>47.350</u> 42.762	49.309+1c <u>41.370</u>	88.720 -1.195
161	Wesley Snaza	2006 SDSMT FSAE	49.091 43.067	50.445 51.103	<u>46.817+1c</u> <u>41.336</u>	90.153 -1.433
4	Timothy Gornik	2007 KU FSAE	DNF 43.639+1c	49.633 <u>41.632</u>	<u>48.735</u> 41.817+1c	90.367 -0.214
61	Nolan John Pray	2006 SDSMT FSAE	51.280 46.134	<u>48.330</u> 42.490	54.708+1c <u>42.428</u>	90.758 -0.391
39	Chad Kirby	2005 SDSMT FSAE	<u>52.057</u> 46.034	63.474 <u>45.904</u>	70.615+1c DNS	97.961 -7.203
139	Wayne Baker	2005 SDSMT FSAE	<u>55.627</u> <u>45.913</u>	DNF DNF	60.963 DNF	101.540 -3.579
126	Clayton Pojorlie	2007 SDSMT FSAE	55.868 <u>52.200</u>	<u>49.777</u> DNS	75.159 DNS	101.977 -0.437
26	James Lunders	2007 SDSMT FSAE	DNF <u>69.660</u>	66.866 DNF	<u>56.377</u> DNS	126.037 -24.060
144	Neil Schreiber	2007 UMR FSAE	<u>66.892</u> DNS	DNS DNS	DNS DNS	No Time
44	Adam Duane Hardin	2007 UMR FSAE	DNS DNS	73.366 DNS	DNS DNS	No Time

As a reference, George Bowland in Amod posted a total time of 79.108.