

# The Dixie Region National Championships

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Many moons ago, someone with SCCA wrote up a Divisional Event that Dixie Region hosted in Moultrie. He wrote that "tiny Dixie Region" had done a great job staging the event. Several of the members took that expression, twisted it a bit and thereafter referred to ourselves as "Dixie Region, Tiny but Fierce!"

Looking at the results from the recent Solo National Championships in Lincoln, this writer thinks that war cry still rings true. Our region might be said to have staged a trophy raid on the good folks at Lincoln, all things considered. Dixie Region –and "Friends"- walked across the stage and collected a lot of SCCA hardware this year. It was kind of exciting...

The biggest, baddest class in Solo is C Prepared. Big V8 engines in muscle cars with flared fenders, fat tires and LOUD. If you're into cars at all, you gotta love CP. This year, Robert Lewis and his "Sledgehammer" Mustang went after CP and came thiiiiisss close (hold your hand up with thumb and forefinger almost touching) to winning the whole thing. He was leading after day 1, and then duked it out with Mike Maier on day 2, only to see Mike take 1<sup>st</sup> overall by 0.242 second. Robert had to settle for 2<sup>nd</sup>, which ain't exactly shabby. And then there's next year. It was a duel to the end, well done Robert!

Also in CP, co-driving the Sledgehammer with Robert was Atlanta Region's Tommy Pulliam who brought home the 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy in CP. Another great performance by the car and by Tommy, to put two of "our drivers" on the podium.

In the ladies side of CP, the Lewis women took the fight to eventual winner Brianne Maier and made her work for it. On day 1, Tracy Lewis was second to Maier by about half a second. On day 2, Alyssa Lewis put on a show of driving in the wet and passed by "Mom" to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy in CP-L. Tracy was 3<sup>rd</sup>, again putting two Dixie Region drivers on the podium.

Rob Ippolito took his supercharged Mustang, "J-Lo" to Lincoln to take part in a new class for SCCA, "Classic American Muscle" or CAM. Rob's car is in the sub-class CAM C, which had 22 entries this year. (Not bad for a "new" class!) Rob, at his first ever National Championship event took home a 5<sup>th</sup> place trophy, less than one second out of first. It was a very impressive "rookie" performance. Congratulations, Rob (and J-Lo)!

Meanwhile, over in E Prepared, Marko Horn piloted the Mean Green Machine Honda CRX to a very respectable 12<sup>th</sup> place finish in class, but the bigger story was Marko's car, driven by Ohio Valley Region member Dave O'Maley came home 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in this hotly contested class, only a little over a second out of 1<sup>st</sup>. So a very good showing by Marko and a run for the top by Marko's car in Dave's hands.

Some other friends of Dixie Region, Jessie Waymire and Jeff Mellow from Wiregrass Region ran Jessie's Honda S2000 in F Prepared. The car, affectionately known as the "POS-2000" is a home-built racer that Jessie did almost entirely by himself. It has been fun watching his and the car's

progression through the ranks. Jessie and Jeff had a really good showing at Nationals this year, placing 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, barely a second out of the trophies but both in the top ten.

Another racing family that made their presence known at Nationals is the Minehart family, mostly out of Florida. Technically, they're not part of Dixie Region but we see them so often I'm going to go ahead and claim them. Driving a Stalker AXR built by Scott's company Brunton Auto, a very sophisticated evolution of the Lotus 7 concept, they took 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in E Modified as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> in E Mod Ladies. Jason, from Austin Tx (Lone Star Region SCCA), took 2<sup>nd</sup> in class to Jeff Kiesel's dominant Sprite while brother Scott and dad Glen were the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> place finishers. Krista, the boys' mother, was 3<sup>rd</sup> in E Mod Ladies class.

Another "adopted" Dixie Region racing family, Jeff and Roberta Wetzel ran their Corvette in A Street and A Street Ladies. Jeff came in 24<sup>th</sup> while Roberta ran to 4<sup>th</sup> in the Ladies class. Good showing by both of them!

A couple of "remote" members of Dixie Region, as in folks that have moved away from this area but still show Dixie as region of record made a showing at Nationals. Joe Austin took 18<sup>th</sup> in STF and Ryan Davies came home 27<sup>th</sup> in STR.

So, all-in-all, a very good showing by Dixie Region members and "adoptees." Yeah, we're Dixie Region, Tiny but Fierce!