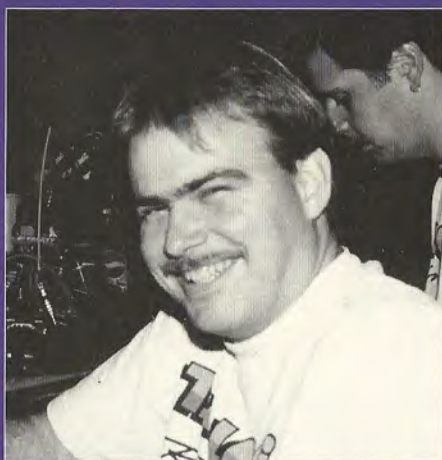


Some people really know how to celebrate their birthday. Mike Reedy does it by inviting the top 30 off road racers in the World to participate in this annual event. Not only have they come to race every year, for the last 7 years, but there are a lot more racers every year asking, how can I get invited to the Reedy Invitational? It's not easy. You have to be a World Champion, or a National Champion or be very well qualified to be invited. These 30 drivers will probably be in the A, B & C Mains at the upcoming World Championships in England this summer. These are the best of the best!



Jammin' Jay Halsey and his dad Jim have been quite busy lately. They run the Ranch Pit Shop, and they've made some major changes there, including moving and enlarging the off road track. It looks like a big improvement.



Two of the fastest drivers in England and Europe, Craig Drescher, on the left, and Jamie Booth.

This year the race was held at Hobby Haven Raceway in Livermore, California, and was sponsored by Sanyo batteries and RC Car Action magazine. Livermore is about 35 miles east of San Francisco. Tom Welding, the track's owner, has held many major events, such as Reedy, Losi and Twister races, as well as a ROAR Nationals. Tom did a super job of running those races, as well as this one. The track is large, the pit area is quite big, and the area is clean. A hobby shop and snack bar are a welcome in house feature.

Besides the Reedy Invitational Class, there is also an Open 2wd Class, and an Open 4wd Class, limited to 150 entries. The format in the 2 and 4wd Open Classes follows convention in that they have 4 rounds of qualifying, then A, B, C Mains etc. In the Invitational Class, there is no qualifying. Instead, each driver will run in 6



Nobody celebrates his birthday quite like Mike Reedy. Mike has a birthday party and people come from all around the world to help him celebrate it and, well, to race a little, too!

rounds of 2wd on Saturday, and 6 rounds of 4wd on Sunday. There are 4 heats in each round, and each round the drivers are rotated so that they'll be racing against a different group of drivers, and their starting grid locations are also rearranged each round. Everything was done to give everyone an equal chance.

The Livermore track presented a strong challenge to the driver's skills. The super traction and long straight tempted the drivers to use more horsepower than actually would be good for the infield. There was a tough, sharp, tight 180 degree turn at the end of the fast straight. A

The 7th Annual International Reedy Race of Champions

California, U.S.A.

Cliff and Masami spent a lot of time discussing tires. When it comes to tire knowledge, Masami is in a class by himself. The whole week he was here, he spent hours trimming spikes, not just for himself, but for a group of racers. That only took half the time. The other half he was adapting 2.2" tires to 2.125 wheels, or cutting tires in two halves, and then either narrowing or widening the cross section, again, not just for himself. He told me he only got 2 hours sleep every night, so it's not all fun and games. These guys have earned every win they get.

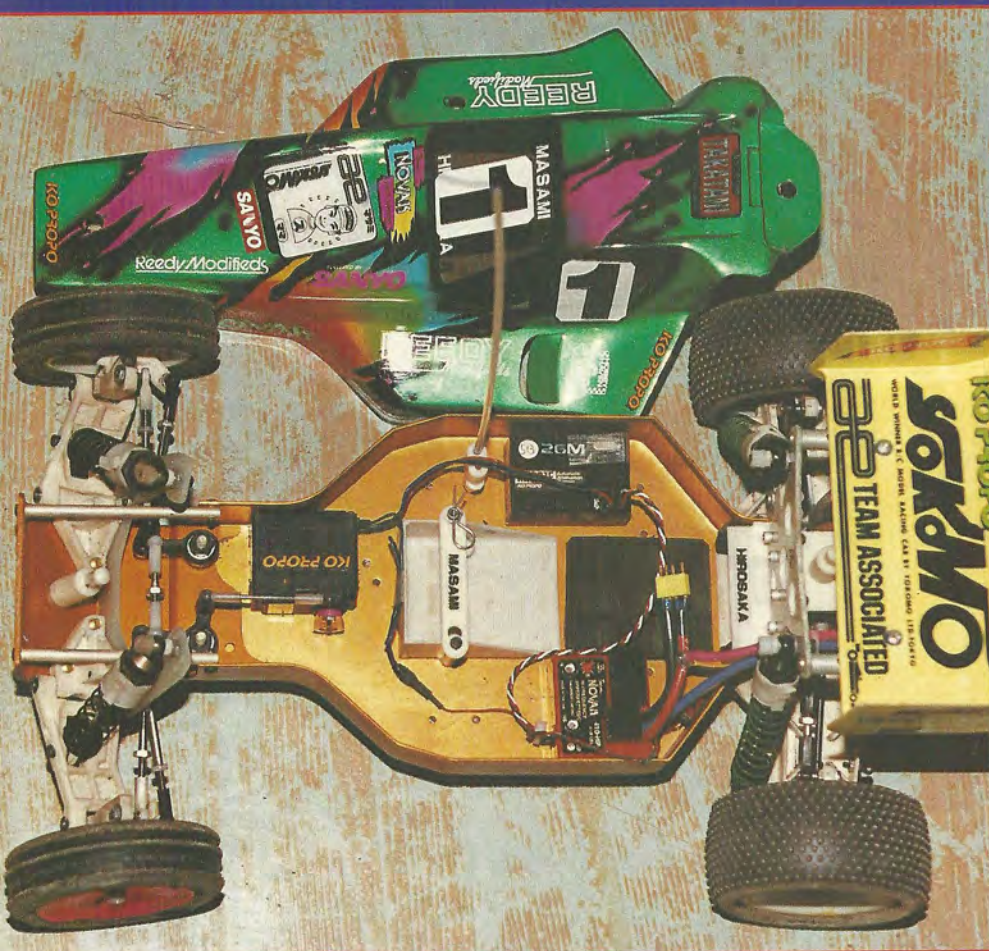


triple jump that about 25% of the drivers cleared in one jump, a double jump and then the impossible double tabletop jumps. If there's a challenge presented, there are going to be people accepting that challenge. Although everyone knew it was impossible to clear the double tabletops, some of the attempts made for some spectacular crashes, which really kept the spectators amused! But, for each of the drivers there was the ever present thought, if I could be the first one to clear them, then I'd be king of the hill, kept everyone trying it during practice, knowing full well they'd never attempt it in a race. But, that's half the fun of practice!

2 Wheel Drive

Saturday was for the 2wd part of the Invitational Class. 4 drivers in each round would win a heat, and 5 time IFMAR World Champion, Masami Hirotsaka, started off winning his first heat, with Brent Wallace, Rick Hohwart and Daren Westman also winning. In round 2, J.D. Beckwith, Matt Ledger, Mark Pavidis, and Satoshi Kayano, from Japan, won their heats.

Round 3 saw J.D. Beckwith win his 2nd heat,



In all of R/C car racing, this is the man to beat. 5 times IFMAR World Champion, Masami Hirotsuka, won the Reedy Invitational Championships yet again, and is presented with his trophy by the lovely Shirley Lambert. Can you believe that Masami was so tired, he was actually asleep in the pits, and had to be woken to receive his trophy!



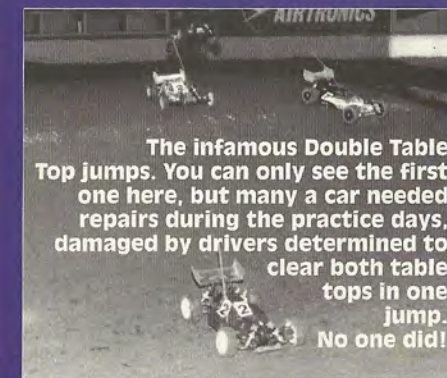
Masami's Associated 2wd RC10 featured a Reedy motor, Reedy/Sanyo batteries, KO Propo radio, Novak ESC and a moulded plastic wing that everyone was using.



Masami's '93 4wd Yokomo car also used Reedy motors, Reedy/Sanyo batteries, KO Propo radio and Novak ESC.

but he was trailing Masami overall. Brian Kinwald took his first win, as did Kevin Moore from England, and Cliff Lett. Brian Kinwald won his 2nd race in round 4, along with Craig Drescher, Jack Johnson and Bryan Peterson.

Masami's lead was growing, and he'd be tough to catch. In Masami's heat, he was starting from



the back row. Normally there are 3 rows, however, his father put him all by himself, in what would be a fourth row position. When the horn sounded, he waited for the other cars to take off, then he followed the bunch to the first corner, where 4 of them got entangled, and drove around them. In the next corner, he drove around 2 more cars that had got tied up, and he was now in 2nd place. After a few more corners, he took over the lead and started pulling away. At the 2 minute mark, he was long gone, with 1/2 a lap lead over 2nd place. The announcer quit talking about Masami, and instead was concentrating on the close racing going on for 2nd place. I was still watching Masami, who was on the right hand side of the track now. All of a sudden it looked like Masami lost power and was pulling his car off the track.

He had come up to the double table top area, and instead of making the left hand corner, he was going straight to the driver's stand wall, like he was pulling his car off the track. But what he was actually doing was lining his car up so he could get a longer running start at the table tops.

Imagine this scene. The place is packed, as there was a prior write up in the paper, plus it was on TV. Wall to wall people. They've been watching the cars running for hours. All of a sudden they see the leader of this race, take a flying run at the first table top, with the car flying 10 feet high in the air, and landing with a loud THUD on the takeoff side of the 2nd table top. Think of it as taking your car straight up 20 feet and then dropping it, it made that kind of sound.

Somehow, the car survived the impact, and Masami still had a big lead. But, the crowd was yelling, clapping, and screaming for him to do it again!! I'm mentally telling Masami, don't even think about doing it again! You're fortunate the car is still running. If something happens, you could take yourself right out of a chance to win the Championship.

Just then he starts pulling wide in the same corner again, to get a longer running start. The crowd is yelling louder. Now I'm yelling - NO, MASAMI, NO!! But, I doubt he could hear me, not that it would have made any difference anyway. Because he had told me the day before, during practice, how happy he was that he was able to jump the first table top jump, and land flat right on top of the 2nd table top.

He was at speed now, lined up perfectly to make the jump. The car headed toward the low ceiling, cleared the canyon below, and landed perfectly on the top flat area of the 2nd table top. The crowd was screaming louder, asking him to

REEDY INVITATIONAL 2WD RESULTS

PLACE	COUNTRY	POINTS	CAR	MOTOR
1	MASAMI HIROSAKA JAPAN	9	RC10	REEDY
2	J.D. BECKWITH USA	11	RC10	REEDY
3	CLIFF LETT USA	11	RC10	REEDY
4	MATT LEDGER USA	11	RC10	REEDY
5	MATT FRANCIS USA	11	RC10	REEDY
6	SCOTTANFINSON USA	11	RC10	REEDY
7	KEVIN MOORE GB	13	SCHU	LRP
8	MARK PAVIDIS USA	14	RC10	REEDY
9	SATOSHI MAEZUMI JAPAN	14	RC10	REEDY
10	CRAIG DRESCHER GB	15	RC10	REEDY

In the middle of the straight is a slight rise, at this point the faster cars will pull a wheelie and hold it all the way to the end of the straight. The corner at the end of the straight was a tough one at the start of each race!



do it again.

But, that was all that he wanted to do. Something that no one else would do. He won the heat easily, and after the race I went to him and told him "That was not a good thing to do!" He just smiled and said, "I know."

There are some who just have to climb higher mountains than anyone else. It's what makes them special. Back to the real world. That win gave Masami enough points to at least assure himself of a tie for the win in 2wd. Every driver was allowed one throwout score. The final round would determine the outcome. Masami got hammered in the final round, using it as his throwout. Matt Ledger, Matt Francis, Craig Drescher and Scott Anfinson all won heats, resulting in a 5 way tie for 2nd place.

4 Wheel Drive

On Saturday night there was a free buffet and barbecue dinner for everyone, plus some live entertainment to celebrate Mike's birthday.

Sunday was for the 4wd Invitational class. The 2wd and 4wd points would be added together to determine the overall winner. Masami started off where he left off in 2wd, by winning the first 2 heats, and winning another heat, plus a 2nd and 3rd place. Consistently fast. However, there was someone who was consistently faster. Brian Kinwald also had 3 wins, a 2nd and a 3rd, plus a better throwout, beating Masami.

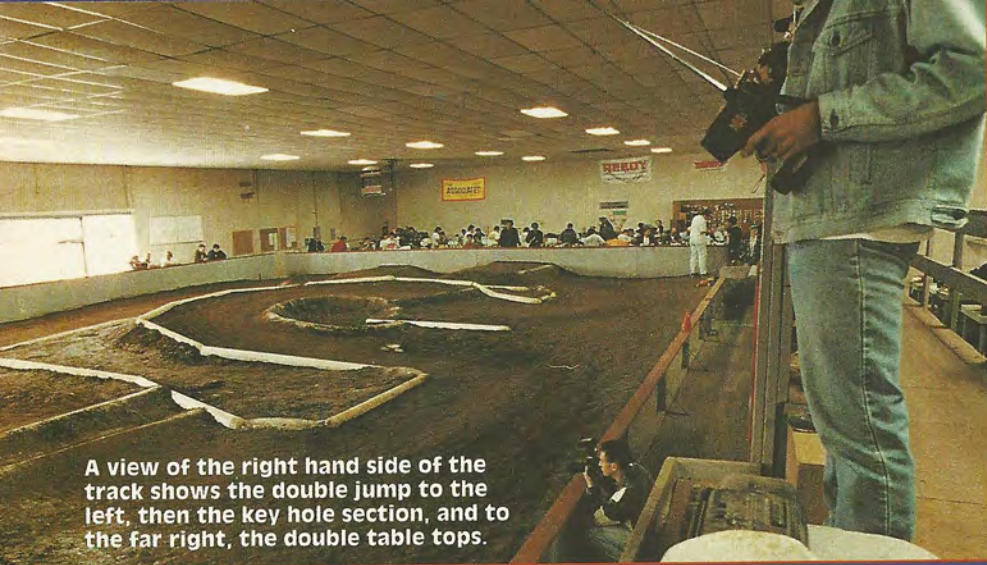
However, those weren't good enough. A perfect score is 5. Brent Wallace got an unbelievable 6! Brent took 4 wins plus a 2nd. Almost perfect. We've all heard of drivers giving up before a race even starts, because they have a back row start, well, Brent had 2 second row starts, and 2 third row starts, besides his 2 front row starts. If he had simply given up, because he had all these champions in front of him, he wouldn't have accomplished anything. But, he climbed the highest mountain of the day, not giving up at the start, going consistently fast, while still being cautious while passing cars. Great job Brent!



A team effort means helping each other, and that's what Masami's father, Masaki Hirotsuka, and Cliff Lett do very well. Both of these men share so much technology that goes directly to the team and then into the kits, which benefits everyone.

REEDY INVITATIONAL 4WD RESULTS

PLACE	COUNTRY	POINTS	CAR	MOTOR
1	BRENT WALLACE USA	6	SCHUMACHER	REEDY
2	BRIAN KINWALD USA	8	YOKOMO	REEDY
3	MASAMI HIROSAKA JAPAN	8	YOKOMO	REEDY
4	J.D. BECKWITH USA	9	YOKOMO	REEDY
5	MATT LEDGER USA	10	KYOSHO	REEDY
6	MARK FRANCIS USA	11	YOKOMO	REEDY
7	SCOTT ROBERTS USA	12	YOKOMO	PEAK PER
8	KEVIN MOORE ENGLAND	13	SCHUMACHER	LRP
9	MARK PAVIDIS USA	14	YOKOMO	REEDY
10	RORY CULL ENGLAND	16	YOKOMO	REEDY



A view of the right hand side of the track shows the double jump to the left, then the key hole section, and to the far right, the double table tops.

J.D. Beckwith finished a close 2nd to Masami. J.D. seems to be checking the time on Shirley's watch. What's that, you say? Shirley doesn't have a watch?! Hmmm!!!

Remember the name of Matt Ledger. Matt actually tied with J.D. on points, with the position determined by the throwouts.



One of the top racers from Florida, Jason Ruona, was third in the 2wd Open Class.



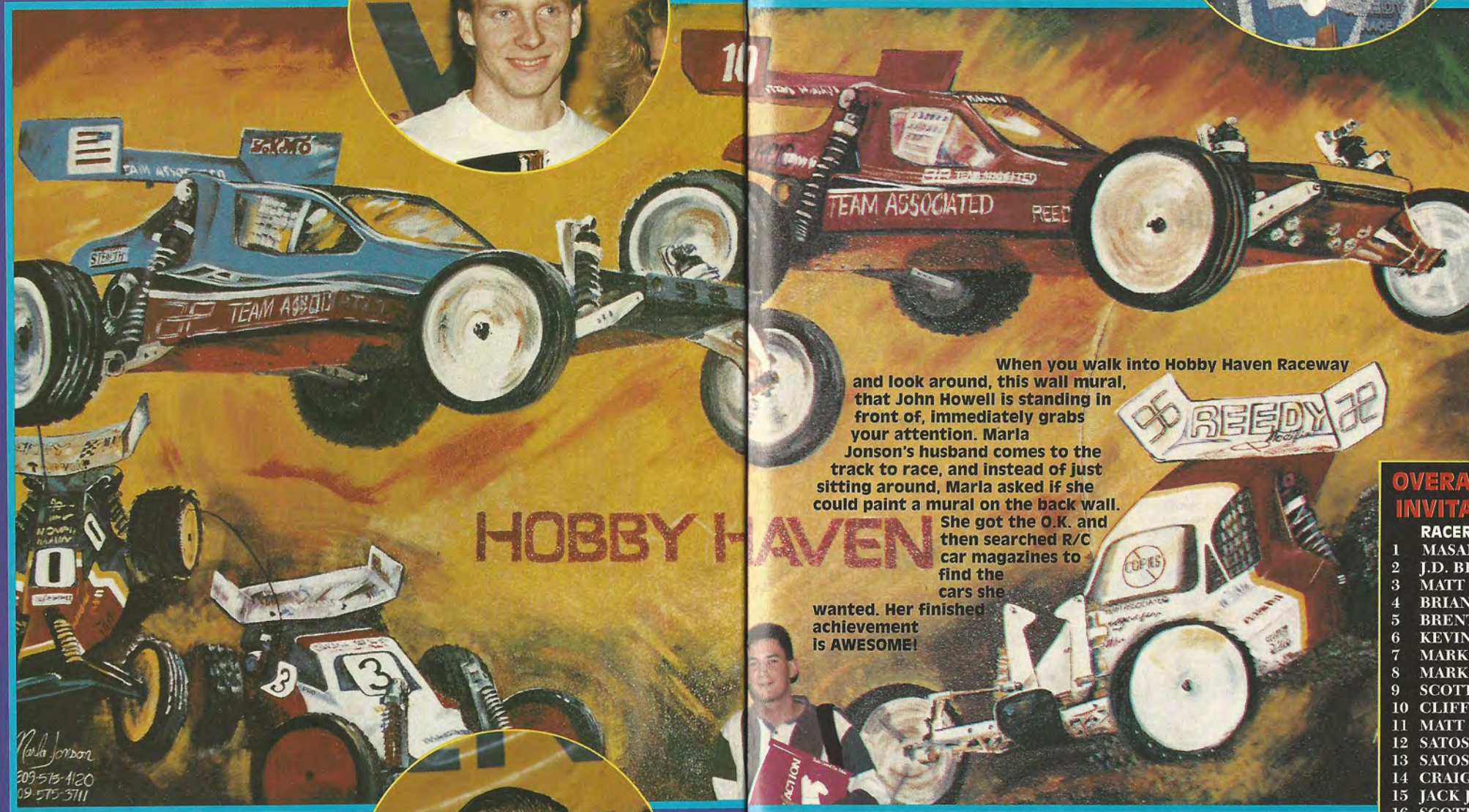
Aaron Biner finished less than one second behind Scott, to take 2nd place in the 4wd Open Class.



Brian Kinwald finished in a strong 2nd place in the 4wd Invitational Class, with a great record of 3 wins, a 2nd and a 3rd.



Brent Wallace keeps getting better and better every race, but he's not going to be able to get much better than he did here. He won 4 out of 5 races in the 4wd Invitational Class, and finished 2nd in the 5th race. He can't do a lot better than that!



When you walk into Hobby Haven Raceway and look around, this wall mural, that John Howell is standing in front of, immediately grabs your attention. Marla Jonson's husband comes to the track to race, and instead of just sitting around, Marla asked if she could paint a mural on the back wall. She got the O.K. and then searched R/C car magazines to find the cars she wanted. Her finished achievement is AWESOME!



Scott Hughes won the 2wd Open Class, in a very close, exciting race.



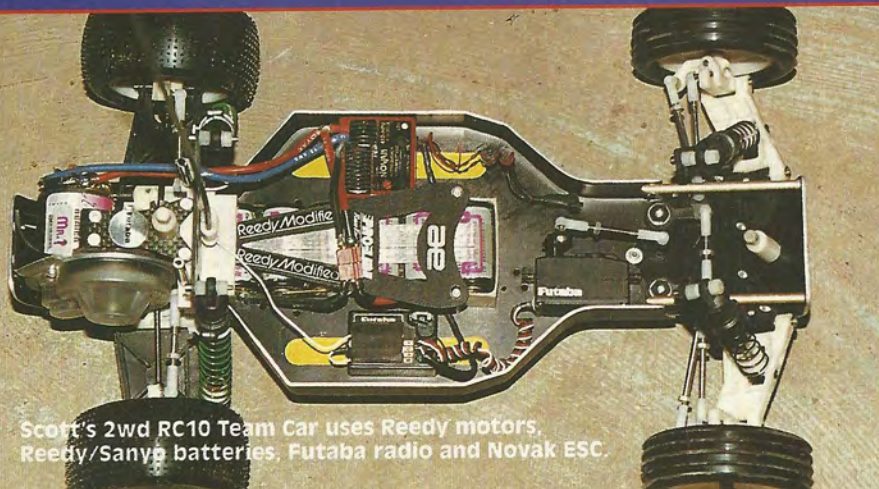
Jason Rudee was just two seconds behind Scott to take 2nd place in the 2wd Open Class.



Chris Walrod also finished less than one second behind Aaron, in one of the closest finishes of the race, to take third place.

OVERALL 2WD AND 4WD INVITATIONAL RESULTS

RACER	COUNTRY	POINTS
1 MASAMI HIROSAKA	JAPAN	17
2 J.D. BECKWITH	USA	21
3 MATT LEDGER	USA	21
4 BRIAN KINWALD	USA	25
5 BRENT WALLACE	USA	25
6 KEVIN MOORE	ENGLAND	26
7 MARK FRANCIS	USA	28
8 MARK PAVIDIS	USA	28
9 SCOTT ROBERTS	USA	29
10 CLIFF LETT	USA	29
11 MATT FRANCIS	USA	30
12 SATOSHI MAEZUMI	JAPAN	33
13 SATOSHI KAYANO	JAPAN	35
14 CRAIG DRESCHER	ENGLAND	35
15 JACK JOHNSON	USA	36
16 SCOTT ANFINSON	USA	40
17 DEREK FURUTANI	USA	40
18 RICK HOHWART	USA	42
19 RORY CULL	ENGLAND	43
20 JAY HALSEY	USA	43
21 DAREN WESTMAN	USA	45
22 REECE BIRTLES	AUSTRALIA	48
23 BRYAN PETERSEN	USA	48
24 JAMIE BOOTH	ENGLAND	49
25 JURGEN LAUTENBACH	GERMANY	50
26 HIROSHI SUZUKI	JAPAN	50
27 KRIS MOORE	USA	51
28 JONATHAN MORGAN	USA	56
29 GIL LOSI Jr.	USA	56
30 MARK NEAL	ENGLAND	59



Scott's 2wd RC10 Team Car uses Reedy motors, Reedy/Sanyo batteries, Futaba radio and Novak ESC.