

Vick and Bridges zoom their way to Akron

The breeze wasn't the only thing blowing through Superior Saturday morning, along Mary Drive. Racers from the Central Arizona Soap Box Derby club vied for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be named Soap Box Derby Champions and compete in the International All-American Soap Box Derby Championships in Akron, Ohio. Twenty-two boys and girls, ages 8-17 showed off their driving skills as they raced down the new Mary Drive Course, located in front of Superior Junior-Senior High School.

Competition was stiff, but in the end, Superior's Andrew Vick and Scottsdale's Michael Bridges took top honors in Saturday's race. Vick, age 8, is the son of Jason and Maria Vick. The younger Vick competed in the Stock category, the lower weight-class in derby-ese. Unlike Superior's previous races, where multiple races were held, drivers were required to

perform at their optimum. Vick, who had success in the previous events, did just that, as he went undefeated through the stock bracket.

Other placings in the Stock category include:

- 2nd Place – Curtis Long, Superior
- 3rd Place – Adam Guzman, Apache Junction
- 4th Place – Mario Padilla, Superior
- 5th Place – Peter Guzman, Apache Junction
- 6th Place – Kathleen Lucas, Superior
- 7th Place – Lauren Burgheimer, Mesa
- 8th Place – Susanna Villalobos, Superior

Other competitors: Caleb Andrews and Karly Andersen from Mesa, Krista Osborne from Gilbert, and Superior's Damion Vidal.

Nine-year-old Bridges, son of Shane and Layla Bridges, took top billing in the Superstock Division, the middleweight class. Superstock

drivers are slightly older, and display more ability than their stock compatriots. Just like Vick, Bridges was required to take command early, only getting one attempt to go through the championship runs. He too, went undefeated on the new course.

Superstock winners:

- 2nd Place – Karla Osborne, Mesa
- 3rd Place – Nathan Villalobos, Superior
- 4th Place – Joshua Vick, Superior
- 5th Place – Karie Burgheimer, Mesa
- 6th Place – Krystle Anderson, Mesa
- 7th Place – Keaton delMundo, Prescott
- 8th Place – Vincent Velasquez, Superior

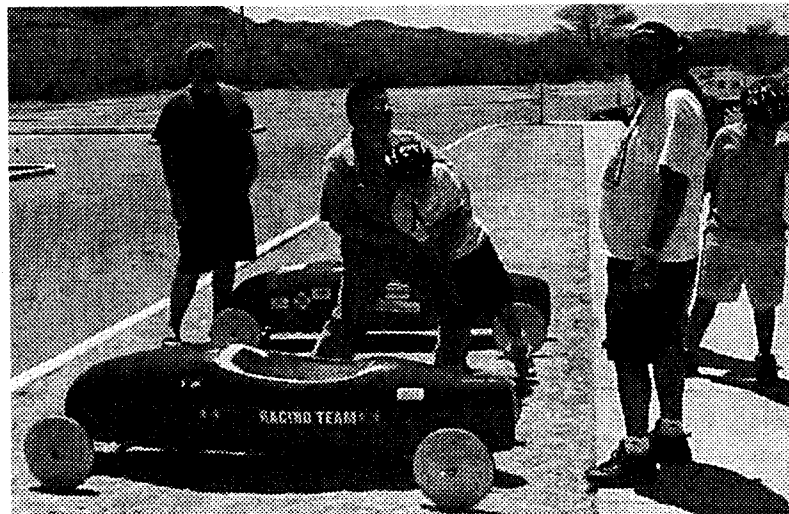
Other competitors: Samantha Weitz and Kayla Andersen of Mesa.

After a hard day of racing, the competitors received goodie bags with plenty of swag for the children, including Frisbees and stress pigs, donated by A. G. Edwards Accounting, key chains and sports bottles courtesy of Tameron Ice, pencils from Wells Fargo Bank, tool kits from CAAG's Maxine Leather, bugs, rocks, petrified wood and peacock copper samples from Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Doritos from Rita Wentzel, and socket sets from the Club. All racers were presented with t-shirts, medallions and trophies. Ray's Printing of Apache Junction worked with the club in making the

beautiful red, white, and blue trophies for winners.

The children and their parents attended an awards ceremony at Superior Community Swimming Pool, while enjoying swimming, courtesy of the Town of Superior. As a special treat, each competitor received an Official Derby Drivers License from All-American Soap Box Derby Regional Director Jim Clemente.

The Central Arizona Soap Box Derby is open to children ages 8-17, throughout Gila, Pinal and Maricopa counties. The new race season will begin in August. Anyone interested in becoming involved may call Jack Kube, Local director at (520) 689-0100.



Horsin' around . . .

Mayor Michael Hing horsies around with a derby contestant Saturday. Town manager Roy Chavez was also on hand to help with announcing and music.



Helpin' out . . .

Project Challenge assisted with this weekend's derby. They also spent time cleaning up the pool area in preparation for a summer of fun for Superior's kids.



A patriotic moment . . .

Several derby contestants pose with regional director Jim Clemente.



Showin' off . . .

Contestants in this weekend's soapbox derby race stopped swimming long enough to show off their medals and trophies.

Letter to the Editor

Superior on display: I am very proud

Editor, Superior Sun:

Superior was on display again on Saturday as the Central Arizona Soap Box Derby held its local championship race on Mary Street near the high school. It made me very proud to say I live here when Jim

Clemente, the Regional Director of the All-American Soap Box Derby, showed up to monitor our event. He was quite impressed by how everyone jumped in to help set up the track, load cars, invite groups to sell food and drinks, and how nice

everyone was towards him. He said he felt, "right at home."

Project Challenge was there working at the public pool and some of them came over to help load cars at the finish line. When they had to leave,

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local citizens including Tommy Macias, Oscar Montano, Mayor Michael Hing, and many others took over. Superior Town Manager Roy Chavez set up a public address system and helped with the day's music including the National Anthem. Larry Villalobos, his wife, DeeAnn, and Oscar Montano drove the transport trailers all day. Mila Lira and Terry Guzman helped Carlos Martinez cook and serve breakfast burros to everyone.

I'd like to thank the Town of Superior and the Superior Unified School District for allowing us to have this event and a special thanks to Charles Lucas, public works employee, who did extra cleanup of the area on his own time. Also, thanks to Wal-Mart, Superior Rotary Club, OMYA Arizona, Inc., Rita Wentzel, Ampy Gomez, CAAG, Superior Chamber of Commerce, Tameron Ice, DelMar Diving, Michael Steward and Joan Phillips for their support and contributions, and Louie Navarro and his lifeguards for letting us use the pool for our awards ceremony where Mary Guzman, my mom and my sister served hamburgers and hot dogs to our racers and their families. All the volunteers were greatly appreciated,

but Manny and Terry Guzman must be recognized for going above and beyond. They actually postponed their wedding anniversary plans to be there and help out all day. Happy 28th Anniversary to both of you, we love you guys.

Once again, I am awed by the warmth and friendliness of the people in Superior. All our youth were good sports and gave it their all. In my opinion, they're all champions.

Thank you all,
/s/ Yvonne Kube