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May issue out now!

ORANGE DEUCE

FRESHLY SQUEEZED

MUSCLE DELUXE, WHERE RARE MEETS ROAR



SUPERSTAR TREKKER - 181 BOLDLY GOES EVERYWHERE



MID-MOTOR THAMES V8 CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF

"Holy smokes Batman - a Live-Action-Cover!" Yep, that's a '32 three-window coupe packin' a "big-inch small-block Ford," and it's huntin' a single digit ET - let's hope it doesn't squish the Chevelle 'cos that's not only r-e-d, it's a "rare base-model 300 Deluxe" with 350 power, rebuilt for street racing, and a nitrous bottle in the trunk - for show! Inside the May issue you'll also find a Thames 400E van with a mid-mounted 600hp Ford V8 that pops wheelies for fun! And an ex-Dutch military VW 181 that the current owner is touring Europe in as you read this! There's an Aussie special on muscle cars, an interview with all-round racer David Hobbs and ol' Nitro Nostril's tells us of his latest foray to Famoso for the legendary March Meet where nostalgia rules the world and the ground shakes to the NitroThunder of Fuel Coupes, AAFD slingshots and other exotic beasts! There's also coverage of the Pod's Easter meet and Wheels Day (both without any mud!), along with, as our Dave likes to say, "all the usual guff too!" Which brings us to May's all-new Hot Gossip; it does have mud like you've never seen as its final image, but kicks off with some NitroFire at the 2017 FIA Finals before MC dives deep into his Asphalt Archives, taking us back to the Pod's Racin' Roots, when our 21st century start area, VIP suites and stands was the pits! Mostly it's door slammers, but when NitroThunder does raise its head, it's side-by-side action with NitroFire. Oh, and Andy shares a couple of shots he took at the Gator's - there's Antony Noble who made the winning bid for DialAFlyt's VIP package to that event and then took along his best pal Will Sherratt, whose dad Wild Bill (cue a Cannonball AAFD shot or two!), was also there as was his grandson Adam! Richie Crampton won for Connie K - and with VIP Hospitality passes to Kalitta Motorsports you know Antony & Will had a blast! There's a different type of NitroFired nostalgia in this month's Eurodragster's Hot Gossip PDF featuring some of the legends that made it over to the 2017 BDRHoF's Gala and took part in the amazing Bench Racing session (sponsored by Geoff Stilwell's Beech Underwriting Agencies), like Roland Leong whose Mike Snively driven "Hawaiian" AAFD won the March Meet in 1967 and then, to mark 50years of thunder, he won the 2017 NHRA Heritage Series NTF title with WW2 Racing! However, your PDF features some of his later Hawaiian Fuel Coupes, and there's Gentleman Joe Schubeck with the utterly incredible 4-wheel drive, twin-engined, blown an' injected NitroBurning Hurst Hairy Olds - with Linda Vaughn! Connie Kalitta's own page is visually stunning - and an 8-car field of autographed images in a Legends Signature Edition, and much more. Sadly, since it was first published, Dale Emery, who wowed fans as a Fuel Altered and Funny Car driver and later tuned Raymond Beadle to three NHRA Winston Funny Car world championships, died on March 16 aged 78. Santa Pod fans from those halcyon Fuel Coupe days and, with YouTube, even our younger readers may've seen Dale working on the car with Waterbed Fred or staging the Blue Max before it thundered down track, often to glory. Having met him a few times, my memory is of a laid back, soft spoken dude with the warmest smile you can imagine and a laugh that I had the good fortune to capture during the Bench Racing session, shown here atop a shot of Raymond Beadle on a dry hop in NHRA title winning Plymouth Arrow as Dale points to where he wants the front tyre so the slicks can be on their "sweet spot," and again, but not so high, with the earlier Mustang. Now he's back with his ol' boss at the great racetrack in the sky, God speed...

Andy Kirk photo



In 2012 NHRA's National Dragster Editor Phil Burgess put together Dale Emery's amazing tale with cool retro images. It's a great read, so click and enjoy the life of a legend titled [A life of Pure Hell, wild rides, and big wins](#).



STREET MACHINE
NitroAlert!
May issue out now!



Dale and Waterbed Fred stay cool as their Blue Max is hole shot by the Snowman!

A power-filled panorama as Ed "Ace" McCulloch and KC "Hollywood" Spurlock turn 'em loose in the finals of the [NHRA's 1990 Gatornationals](#) - if you're a real Nitro-nostalgic, the link's to ESPN's full highlights show from that outstanding race, just pour a beverage, click the link and have fun!



You can almost feel the ground shake as they thunder by, the Ace blasting off to glory in one of my all time favourites, a hand-held, available-light image making some awesome, totally different NitroFire! Ace thought it was cool too - hope you enjoy this eXclusive mix for Eurodragster fans...



As usual my late night chat with ol' Nitro Nostrils was fun; Mendy Fry came up, who I first saw getting this hole shot in the Forever Young Nostalgia Top Fuel car, but when we met at the 2015 CHRR she was in a ground-pounding Nostalgia Fuel Coupe. And so was our own Tony Betts, celebrating his birthday in style in the Hartman family's stunning Running Wild '69 Camaro. While wishing Tony luck I saw he was alongside two-time NHRA funny car champ Cruz Pedregon for his first Q race! Cruz smoked 'em at the hit and clicked it off. Tony also had problems, but hit the loud pedal again, hiking the front end and moving out in style, lifting early for an 8.80 at 152mph and the win light over Cruz who was later DQ'd!



Tony's Q2 burnout was pure thunder, his back-up babe looked famoso and he ran an 8.19. Things really came together on his final Q pass they'd sorted his "fit in the seat" problems and the throttle blades went wide open to score a 6.11 at 245.85!



...good for 24th on a 5.98 bump in a 33car field it was too little, too late, but Tony loved his birthday treat! Still his best numbers, they hope to improve with the Venom AAFC this season. As Andy said "He's a good ol' boy," so let's hope they have a fun Main Event.



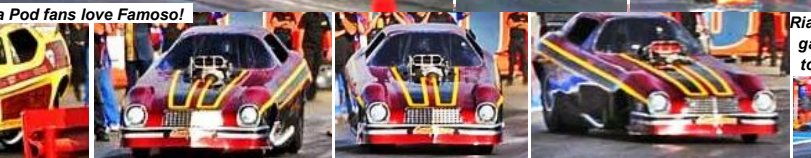
Steve Neimantas, 12th in a 32 car field, DQ'd with a fluid leak! But his team from oop north had fun in the sun at Famoso, as did the Flyin' Flyer's crew on Colin Miller's "Livin' the Dream" tour. Yours truly too, having a ball with my daughter Sarah, seen with ol' pal Harlan Thompson and his mentor Jerry "The King" Ruth. Click the link to enjoy the full-size tale of our NitroFever and all of CHRR's [fuel coupe thunder](#)



On June 28, 2015 Mendy Fry ran her best ever 5.72 at 252 mph (and for an Arias Hemi-Chevy powered Fuel Coupe!), in "Smokey's Darkside" Challenger during "Good Vibrations Saturday Night Nitro" at Auto Club Famoso Raceway - and got her first AAFC win! Then she came back for the CHRR...



After her ground-pounding burnout, the cars left wide open and side-by-side, the Hot4Teacher Mustang outrunning my lens! Then Mendy was bit by the Razor's Edge and k'boom! Darkside's power plant let loose violently and her race was done (mcSnips from Les Mayhew's CompPlus TV video), slowing her to a 7.25 (behind the Mustang's 6.07, 228), to end 33rd - but she won NTF at the March Meet in 2017!



Santa Pod fans love Famoso!

Rian Konno put the '73 Mustang on the bump at 5.98, but the Code Red Camaro gave Steve Nichols, the fans and photographer a truly wild ride. Click the link to enjoy [153seconds of non-stop, in y'face NitroThunder](#) by Les Mayhew and see the photographers run from Code Red - Cole Coonce in the foreground, the dude in the cowboy hat, Andy on his ladder, et moi! Talking of Andy Willsheer, Ol' Nitro Nostrils and the delightful Mendy Fry, her smile radiant despite the above fireball, "A real sweetheart," he said, and that is so true!

The Havoc AAFA team raced in the USA and won at Famoso to give these fans a magic 2017 memory!



To me this is a truly memorable shot because, with all due respect to our racing heroes, the chances of it ever being replicated are pretty slim...



We also believe this is Famoso Raceway's most densely populated winner's circle! And this bunch of Havoc fans, the happiest on the planet. Even more so were my ol' mates Nick Davies and Rob Loaring, the first Brits to win an NHRA trophy since I got to win the USAF Ramstein's NHRA Top Eliminator final in 1967 (see [Glory days](#)), but they raced and beat the best!