

STREET MACHINE



ROD STAR! US PRO-BUILT SPEEDSTAR COMES TO BRITAIN

TINY BUT MIGHTY - 300 HORSES IN A MINI



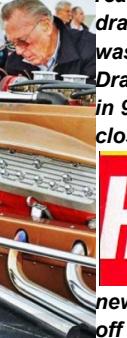
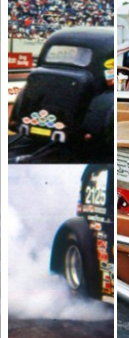
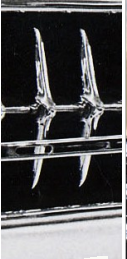
Spring is springing, and never more so than in the new April issue! We're starting with a gorgeous, high-tech, pro-built dream street rod, a mean and roofless '33 Ford Speedstar with small-block power. If that doesn't get your sap rising, maybe you'd prefer a nice, classic Mini? Cute, though this one has more than 300hp at the front wheels thanks to a screaming Honda turbo motor. Looking to bring the Mini-Truck scene back into bloom is this golden Ford Ranger, a full-on body-dropped, hydraulic-suspended show truck... that's also a daily-driver! And we take a look at a VW-powered trike, built in the Seventies, that's still owned and driven by the builder! We catch up with some of the early-season shows and cruises, talk with the UK's latest Top Fuel pilot, and bust our knuckles down at the workshop to get our cars ready for the show season. All this, and much more in the April issue of **STREET MACHINE** In the shops on Thursday March the 28th



A quick tap on my TimeTravel app finds April's Hot Gossip back in 1953, the year America's first sports car was launched, and one of the most desirable Cadillacs ever, the limited edition Eldorado Special Sport convertible - we had the first gen Ford Pop! No doubt produced in great quantity - with at least one gaining international fame. However, our main reason for visiting '53 is to show readers Art Chrisman's #25

dragster Hot Rod magazine said was "the West's Most Fabulous Dragster" after it ran 140mph in 9-seconds! Then, following a close encounter with our

words & photos
mike collins



newly crowned Queen, we zap off to 1959...



FULL RANGER MOVEMENT - MINI-TRUCKIN' COMES HOME



TRI-KING - STILL CRUISIN' AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



A year that produced the most outrageous and well known Cadillac ever, the 'vette went fuel injected, I'm now driving 'cross Oceans for her Majesty, setting World records - and trying to get a driving licence for the road!

But now it's track time; after a brief back-story on the birth of Top Fuel and its resulting Nitro ban we visit Famoso Raceway for the Smokers' first US Fuel & Gas Championship (surviving to this day as the March Meet), that offered cash to lure Floridian Swamp Rat Don Garlits west to back up his claimed big numbers! NitroFired Strombergs from the East or blown an' injected NitroPower from the West Coast - you do the math! Art Chrisman was again featured on Hot Rod's cover of with his swoopy new Chrisman & Cannon car and he too was at that legendary race. We've also got the world's first streamliner, a methanol burning beauty from 1956 and its 21st century counterpart, a two time NHRA Hot Rod Heritage Championship winning Nostalgia Top Fuel dragster to close off our generally NitroFueled nostalgia. Then it's back to the future...



...kicking off with a pair of in y' face Nostalgia Fuel Coupes from a few years back before some shots from altitude at March Meet 2019 and then catching up with a pair of the hottest babes on the planet. Leah Pritchett who's the only racer to really take advantage of the NHRA's new look "driver intro" clips on TV and, to me, a new babe on the block who must've heard the rock an' roll classic "Walk, don't run," when she was a kid 'cos that's what she does, and as with Leah, she's got more than a little style! Top billing on the back page goes to Nitro Kitty, Hot Gossip's latest fan, with a pair of action shots including a true stunner in every sense of the word taken by Wayne Lederer (the day before the March Meet began!), and my AA/Fuel Zippo runnin' California style before we time shift back to the 20th century, leaving the NitroAction way behind as a Street Machine decal gets down and dirtier than you'd ever imagine! But before you go check out Hot Gossip in Street Machine, here are a couple of images that were left off the pages due to a computer malfunction! Yeah, I know we're not supposed to blame our tools, but mine woke up and said: (Not Responding) - and its response when it did was "no items match your search!" My deadline was looming, so that's not blaming the tool! Either way, my lil' green pal agreed we should put 'em



mcSnip courtesy NHRA All Access

Search Hi Michael!



here, with the shot at left showing the virtually empty stands at the 2018 CHRR when Mendy won her NHRA Hot Rod Heritage Championship after the mess made at the 2016 25th edition! Although fans stayed away, those that came since have had the same strong fields of fuel coupes and dragsters, the racing as hot as ever! Next cock up's all mine - a few months back I wrote of meeting Mendy at the CHRR in 2010, oops! It was the first year I wrote about her with this cool shot from the late James Drew of Mendy at that years March Meet...



James Drew photo courtesy BangShift.com

mcArt



words & photos
mike collins

1987 Nitro Overload
Santa Pod & Pomona

Exclusive Live Mix
eurodragster.com

STREET
MACHINE

eurodragster.com



Gary Page Panic vs Bill Sherratt Cannonball



Gary Page Panic vs Al Bates Hounddog



Tom McEwen makes his last
NHRA Pro pass at Pomona's
1987 Winston Finals

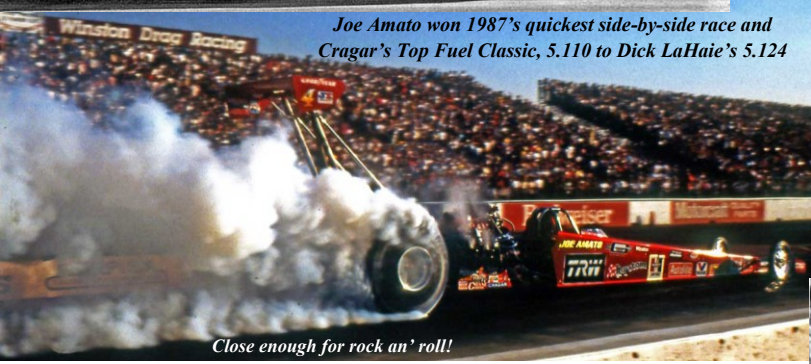
The other green light is Scott
Kalitta's. Like the Mongoose,
gone but never forgotten



Harlan Thompson's 6.05,
236.96 hole shot won over

Rune Fjeld's
6.03, 243mph in
our quickest
race of 1987

Sko Uno Drag Fest Mantorp Park



Joe Amato won 1987's quickest side-by-side race and
Cragar's Top Fuel Classic, 5.110 to Dick LaHaie's 5.124

Close enough for rock an' roll!



The Buick Batmobile was banned - after it won
Kenny Bernstein a 3rd straight Winston title!

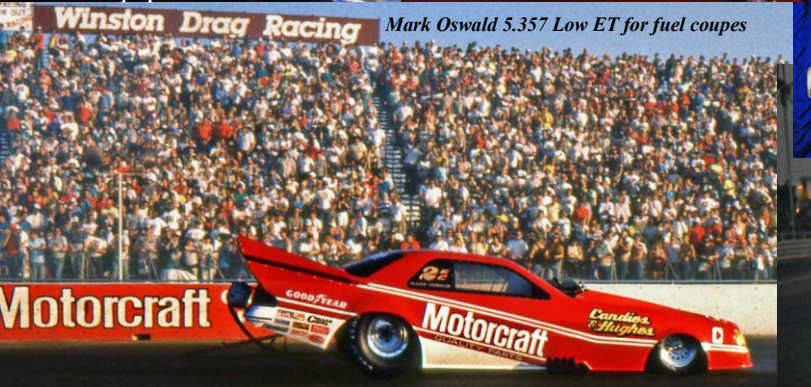


Used Mr In-N-Out Burger's state-of-the art
camera to shoot his car, then hand-sliced and
spliced two images together later in the 20th
century, long before Photoshop!



Eddie Hill Top Speed 283.91

Darrell Gwynn Low ET 5.098

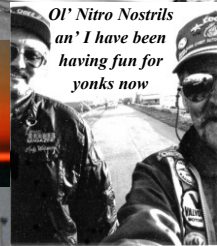


Mark Oswald 5.357 Low ET for fuel coupes

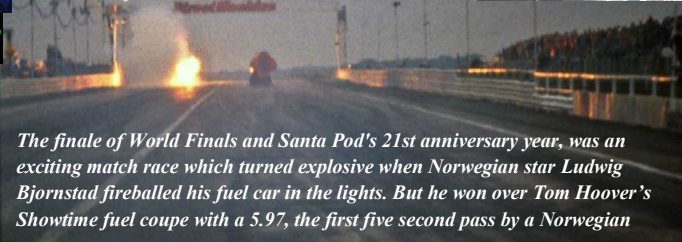


Harlan Thompson won his third Cannonball with a
6.05 low ET at 228 when Tom Hoover smoked 'em at
the hit, adding to his 100% win record with the Bud
car in 1987 over Showtime's 6.29 at 202mph

Huntingdon Beach, California



Ol' Nitro Nostrils
an' I have been
having fun for
yunks now



The finale of World Finals and Santa Pod's 21st anniversary year, was an
exciting match race which turned explosive when Norwegian star Ludwig
Bjornstad fireballed his fuel car in the lights. But he won over Tom Hoover's
Showtime fuel coupe with a 5.97, the first five second pass by a Norwegian

**THE
TOP
FUEL
HANDBOOK**

Stories, Stats and Stuff About
Drag Racing's Most Powerful Class
By Chris Martin

Chris Martin's great book of
NitroFacts is a super read and
still available!

Pour a beverage and click here to enjoy the 1987 NHRA
Pomona Winston Finals, it's a fabulous race, the film's 72
minutes long and you'll get to see what, in my humble
opinion, is definitely the best background in drag racing!
Being introduced to the 1000foot club by the late and ever
entertaining Chris Martin is a memory for the ages

