



STREET MACHINE

OLDS-SCHOOL

STREET ROD PLAYS THE LONG GAME

MICRO-TRUCKIN'!

MINTY MINIATURE SIT'S

HON'DA DECK



CHOP CHOP! -
MINI GETS
TWICE AS
SLICED



SPEEDFEST -
GOING ROUND
THE BEND WITH
V8 POWER

July's Street Machine leads with a '38 Olds coupe Pro Street rod that's been around for decades, and now plays a big-block tune. Then there's a mighty, minty Micro-Truck on juice (could this Honda be the start of a new trend?), and a chopped and sectioned Mini, Trickett-style. We revisit all the spring shows, events and races, including Hot Rods and Hills, the superb American Speedfest, the NSRA Nostalgia Nationals and the fantastic Doorslammers event, plus Andy Willsheer reports from the FIA Main Event. Throw in some workshop shenanigans, all the usual fun and lots more, and you have the July issue of Street Machine, out June 27th!

SANTA POD

Liam Jones 3.89/312.16 over
Anita Mäkelä 3.87/311.38 – WOW!

What a great way to start the season!

words & photos
mike collins

July Hot Gossip's lead page features tall tyres and NitroFire from start line to finish line with 21st century Europe's fastest side-by-side race at the Main Event before going back in time for some powerful untold tales and images In memory of Slam'n Sam who told Santa Pod fans one sunny Sunday in 1981, "Today you'll see the fastest side-by-side drag race that anyone's ever seen anywhere in the world," bringing a huge cheer from the vast crowd...

Slam'n with Sam

Dedicated to lost drag racing heroes...

Cone but never forgotten

2002/R
S.A. MILLER G.G. INDUSTRIES
Slam'n
PHAZER
mcpix

However, especially for today's readers and race fans, there's a cool back-story from Sam's early days, with petrol head tales of his first trip down a drag strip, with no licence in an English Ford...! And also of his street legal, 10second C Gasser before Sam hits the NitroTrail, eventually taking his first drive in a fuel coupe – the tale illustrated with a shot featuring one of the wildest funny cars you've never seen! Then we blast off to that magic Sunday at Santa Pod where fans witnessed the world's fastest race as promised - and even more mind-blowing we had the quickest drag race on the planet - at night!

Hot Gossip's got a hand-held, available light Xtreme crop from after that epic event – LARGE, as suggested by original Art Editor Sue Topping that captures a magic moment to illustrate a story you'll find hard to believe – but every word is true, and eXclusive to Hot Gossip in the all-new power packed July issue on sale June 27th

Thing is, how d'you follow side-by-side rocket cars! Well Hot Gossip takes it to the other eXtreme with a simple tale of country life down at the skinny end of Cornwall's Penwith peninsula. Three times my ol' pal Tony Boden had joined Street Machine in Cornwall, and at Land's End, long before the place became filled with mega tourist attractions, back when there was a hotel and enough space for Tony to finally unleash the full blown and injected NitroPower of his Hit Man fuel coupe with ground pounding dry hops on a paved surface (actually a public highway with police approval!), and it was AA awesome as you can see in the teaser at right, and a totally unique experience to this day! And we have the first ever publication of my recently discovered shot of the Hit Man wide-open at Land's End too... Race fans still remember Slam'n Sam and Tony with great affection; they were both my close pals and often come to mind, always with happy memories, a few that you'll find in July's Hot Gossip, and also a back page image of Simon Addinsell, a photographer from the old days who gifted me his stunning top-end shot of Slam'n Sam at speed in the "fastest side-by-side drag race that anyone's ever seen..."

At the Main Event with drag racing friends Andy Willsheer and Roger Gorringe we learned of Simon's passing last May from our long-time pal Björn Sundkvist. Fondly remembered by us all and many others, he lived on King's Road, Chelsea, moving on from drag racing to finding bliss with Buddha while searching for vintage Rolls Royce cars and the like in India. Although we'd not met for awhile, his laughter and smiles along with Sam's and Tony's are locked in my memory forever, and Hot Gossip's image of Simon driving into the sunset fit well in pages dedicated to friends and lost drag racing heroes, gone but never forgotten. And then my thoughts turned to other lost pals, Bootsie, and Tony Densham our first Nitro Warriors,



In 1966 Bootsie conquered NitroPower in the Herridge & Beadle Brothers Pulsation, was our first NitroChampion in 1968 with the first 9-second Jr Fuel pass outside the USA! In 1967 Tony drove the Densham, Billinton, Phelps Commuter to an FIA 8.91 record and won our first 9-second race in 1968, and in May '69 set a track record of 8.22 and PB 181.82mph. Our Main Event saw new PB's not in Hot Gossip, including Tethys' 4.03, 281.12 and Jndia Erbacher's 3.94, 302.92 seen below in Q2. Maja sat silent alongside, but ran a PB 4.11, 275.98, a pair of 4.0s, then DQ'd in the finals against Anita! Maja's 3.96 (her 2nd), was Tierp's P3 at 305.31 top Q speed, then in E1 she ran the fastest pass since Batman's 316.40 from 2014, her RFM car's 3.848 (low ET of the race!), at a thundering 315.34 - not bad for a rookie! Her high speed glory was short lived - Anita ran 3.85, 315.66 in E2, a new speed record (was 315.51), then defeated a resurgent Micke Kägered for her 3rd straight race win! Seems FIA racing's gone the NHRA route, new records need no back-up!

GirlPower's taking over as well!
But that's cool, they're a fabulous bunch of fun femmes. Oh sh*t, hope that's not sexist!

NitroThunder 3.94 at 302.92!

Santa Pod Raceway

John Bennett photos DragRod
mcpix