



TOTALLY LEGIT

HOW ONE MAN GOT HIS STREET ROD POP INTO THE IVA LEAGUE



FLYING VISIT
ALL-STEEL N/A ESCORT MAKES RUNNING 10s LOOK MALT-EASY

NIGHTY MOUSE - POCKET-SIZE FIAT IS FUN ON A SHOESTRING

FIRE AT WILL - THE HOTTEST ACTION FROM THE SUMMER DRAGS

But the magic didn't end on the race track; the following morning I had a chance meeting with Don Garlits driving his original 1939 hot rod Ford he'd told me of back in 1976 - on his way to work!



And then finding a shot of it now totally restored, gleaming on display at Don's Museum - wow!



Following a brief chat with Don and his beloved wife Pat, who sadly passed away in 2014, we've a couple quotes from our memorable 1976 meeting, including Don's take on his race with Clive Skilton (above), before heading back to 2019 and a brief chat with some 21st century fuel coupe legends including Ron Capps about his winning an awesome lead swapping race (illustrated with images by ol' Nitro Nostrils), that had an incredible margin of victory of one millisecond! Ron was actually at Famoso to fulfil the dream of racing a fuel altered! Then it's time out with Roland Leong, discovering we have something unique in common - and you'll never guess what it is! This time at Famoso, Roland was busy doing

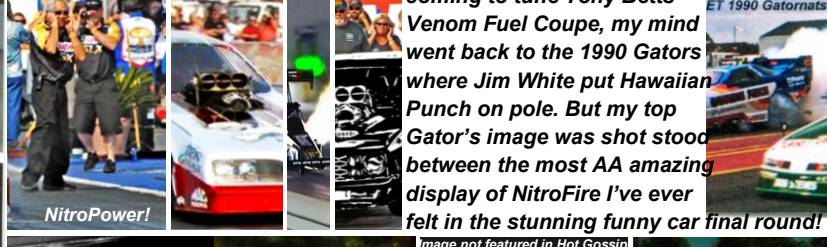
PR work, but when we met him next he was doing what he does best, trying to make fuel coupes go fast, in this case Tony Betts' Venom at Dragstalgia, where we'd the largest field of fuel funny cars since the 20th century! Sadly they all had problems but, as ever, gave us their best shots each time they hit the track! Happily Roland took the time to sign some unique images for Street Machine, this one filled with a mini-strip of Bob Taylor's awesome fuel coupe Caveman Art 'neath the NitroFire, book ended with what we'd shared!

The new September issue of Street Machine opens with a traditional street rod Ford Pop, Rover V8, Viva front, Jag rear... and a clean sheet from the DVLA. Yes, this blue beauty's passed IVA. Then there's Rosello Cassar, who brought his gleaming, all steel Mk1 Escort all the way from Malta to Santa Pod to run some Pinto-powered, naturally-aspirated tens, and a young guy with a Fiat 126 proving that size (and budget) isn't everything. There are reports from loads of summer shows, plus coverage of Dragstalgia and the Mopar Euronationals, even a very soggy Bug Jam. It's all in the September issue of Street Machine, on sale Thursday August 29th.

Saigon Ray Bans not featured in Hot Gossip September's Hot Gossip begins with sunshine filled memories of Vietnam seen through Bausch & Lomb green lenses w-a-y back in time leading to 21st century Ray Ban reflections in Los Angeles Freeway traffic, and then night falls, our journey interrupted by the flashing lights of a California Highway Patrol Interceptor! How lucky can y'get! Find out in this month's



After writing about the legendary Hawaiian fuel coupes back in the 20th century, my first meeting with Roland Leong at the March Meet found him still enjoying NitroPower, tuning a nostalgia funny car in the NHRA's Hot Rod Heritage Series. We've some wide-open full bodied action and my favourite NitroBabe Leah doing it in her AAFC, her 2019 Top Fuel ride - and her smile. Learning that Roland was coming to tune Tony Betts' Venom Fuel Coupe, my mind went back to the 1990 Gators where Jim White put Hawaiian Punch on pole. But my top Gator's image was shot stood between the most AA amazing display of NitroFire I've ever felt in the stunning funny car final round!



The most magic memory from that Gatornationals was being a small part of Rune Fjeld Motorsports historic visit, seen with tuning legend Tim Richards during a late night thrash.



All this action and much more in the all-new



In case you've forgotten, what happens with fuel coupes is they burn out, back up - then they thunder, sometimes side-by-side!

Walking out under an oh-so-cool cool lunar eclipse on July 16th saw Hot Gossip's back page suddenly change course with the realisation that on this day in 1969 my namesake Michael Collins blasted off for outer space along with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, thoughts switching from NitroPower to my first kinda slo-mo DC3 flight to the Orient and this year's latest anniversary of man's first journey to the moon in Apollo 11, flying faster, higher, further and in less time than it took my twin-engine Dakota to reach Singapore, wow!

The Saturn V rocket that took our heroes into space was huge, 363ft tall, weighing about the same as 400 elephants, so not very quick off the line and a good excuse to show couple shots of Slam'n Sam to back up a bevy of his totally mind blowing mini speed marks, like 0 to 60mph in 0.28seconds - and 109mph in 32feet!

photo by Lanh

words & photos mike collins

Shwedagon

Famoso NitroThunder

Images not featured in Hot Gossip!

NitroPower!

image not featured in Hot Gossip

Images below courtesy nhra.com



MoV 0.0001!

Image not featured in Hot Gossip

mcSnips courtesy BBC TV





Seeing blown and injected slingshots launching side-by-side is a great way to start any day at the races!

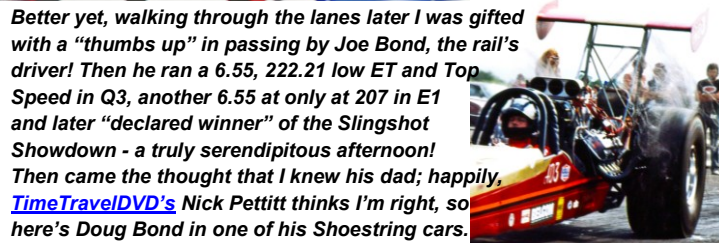
words & photos
mike collins



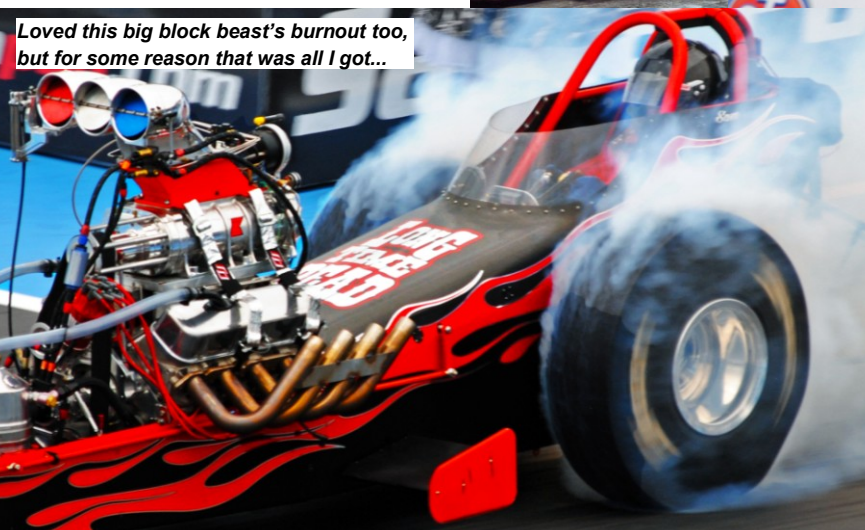
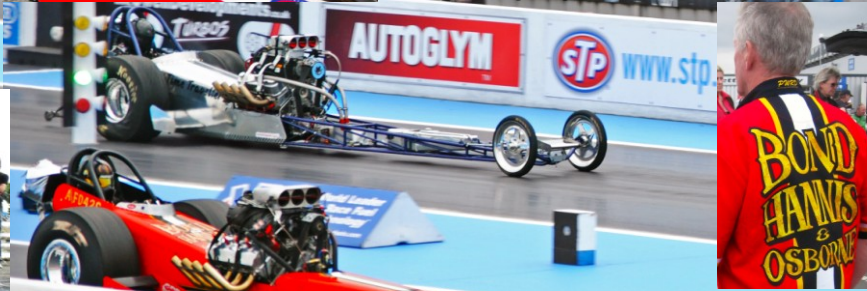
Tog suggested he'd seen "more crooked laser lines" than Joe Bond's tyre marks on this run...



After a rebuild, Time Traveller was on a check-out pass, so it soon became a one horse race, but cool to see these numbers after landing at Dragstalga, kinda close to the wall too!



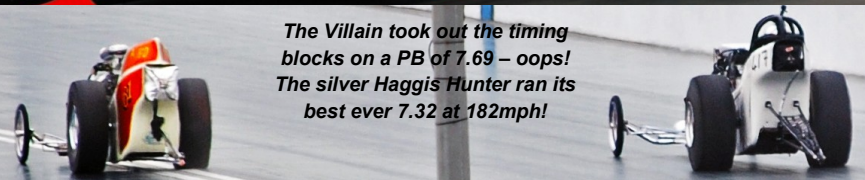
Better yet, walking through the lanes later I was gifted with a "thumbs up" in passing by Joe Bond, the rail's driver! Then he ran a 6.55, 222.21 low ET and Top Speed in Q3, another 6.55 at only at 207 in E1 and later "declared winner" of the Slingshot Showdown - a truly serendipitous afternoon! Then came the thought that I knew his dad; happily, [TimeTravelDVD's](#) Nick Pettitt thinks I'm right, so here's Doug Bond in one of his Shoestring cars.



Loved this big block beast's burnout too, but for some reason that was all I got...



Couldn't believe the short wheelbase on this cool full bodied beauty that, going by the dude behind, is puttin' down some power!



The Villain took out the timing blocks on a PB of 7.69 - oops! The silver Haggis Hunter ran its best ever 7.32 at 182mph!



Still lookin' cool down track as it hiked the front end again...

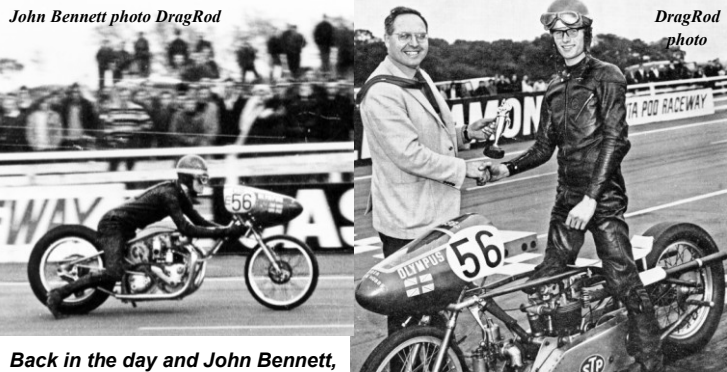


Called the Villain, it also had a great profile, with wrinkled slicks and floating front wheels making for a classic launch...



Missed the legendary Olympus putting my ol' pal John Hobbs on the deck, but was locked and loaded as he took the green at 16.13.42 Nikon time, shooting this lift-off 16.13.46...





The bike was down again in the same second @ 16.13.46

Back in the day and John Bennett, a true drag racing pioneer (my boss at Drag Rod), with John Hobbs after he won the BDR&HRA Championship on Olympus in 1968. The second wheelie shot was taken at 16.13.48, the front end lifting higher as John took off, the dude next to me standing, his head filling my lens until Olympus passed the finish line - I shot the clocks at 16.13.53 with a 10.104 ET at 136.94mph. Talk about a wild ride, so let's get out feet firmly back on the ground! Still can't believe how

lucky we are that Janne Johansson brings these cars from his AA awesome fuel coupe collection, and to see Jungle Jim Liberman's original Vega was pure magic. While mixing these pages I found this tale at Dragster Insider (an awesome site for nostalgia fans refreshed almost weekly by National Dragster editor Phil Burgess), from an August 16 2011 feature titled "[Chi-Town and 'Jungle': Farrrrrrrrrrr out!](#)" "At the end of the 1975 season, 'Jungle' sold his Vega (in which JJ Liberman won his only national event, the 1975 NHRA Summernats at Englishtown), to a guy from Sweden. 'Jungle' sold it complete, ready to run, and it was stuffed in a container at Port Newark (NJ) and went to Sweden. The new owner was Janne Johansson, who raced it a few times, then parked the car until a few years ago when he did a full restoration on it (and Pisano & Matsubara's car), both of them are cackle cars only, and Janne's plans are to bring them stateside someday." Now that would be



farrrrrrrrrrr out!

While thanking Janne for sharing the magical line-up you'll see on the next page I said, "If I ever win the lottery you'll get the funding so you can fix these suckers to race on Nitro, really have some fun and watch our fans go nuts! Have often spoken with ol' Nitro Nostrils on giving away a ferry load of free tickets après such a win for each FIA race on the continent and shipping fans out for some extra NitroThunder so they can see just how lucky we are to have two major races at the Pod!

The only car to make a full pull with a string of sixes was Swedish race winner Tobba Jansson's Nitrocalypse



mcSnips courtesy nhra.tv

Buying a season ticket to nhra.tv was a cool deal! We've 5-days of track action & 5-Q sessions of NitroThunder at Indy for about the price of two beers!

Switched on a TV show [Speed Freaks](#) about Zef Eisenberg wanting to become the first to run over 200mph on Pendine Sands - he took a TV crew to Malta's Hal Far drag strip where 2017 FIA Top Fuel champ Duncan Micallef introduced him to NitroThunder with a Rune Fjeld Motorsports' car and Zef was blown away (naturally!), and was also stunned to find out that after every pass the engine had to be rebuilt - even without the explosive results that happened to Big Jim Dunn's Cattleman's Cut fuel coupe during qualifying at NHRA's Atlanta race earlier this year! All our fuel coupes had problems at Dragstalgia, but don't think any of 'em went k'boom, mind you they were all hard at it between rounds and, as you'll see on the next page, most of 'em were happy and having a good time while working, I kid you not!

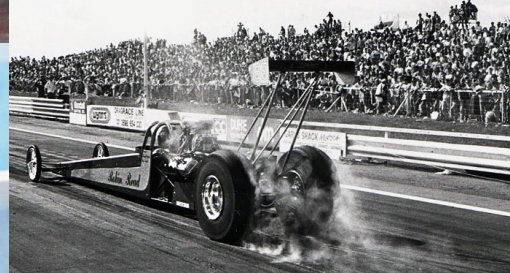


Always good to have Swedish fuel coupes visiting 'cos they're so damn good lookin' and generally get things done in style too...

Robbie Grabham drove Freddy's Revenge to a 7.31, 185.88 in Q1 behind Tim Garlick's 6.38, 216.87 Low ET, Top Speed in Apache, making it to the final by 0.327seconds over Austrian Doc Stingers's Challenger fuel coupe! It's for sale guys and gals, so buy a Lottery ticket and you'll have NitroThunder to spend all that moolah on – and you'll entertain us fans too!



John Hobbs managed only one full pull on the Hobbit's last outing, a 8.43 at 163.93, but this rolling burnout felt good and looked cool



I believe the B&W shot is his first six second pass. Robin Read's lil' fuel car ran a best of 6.88, 197 mph then blew a motor at Dragstalgia!



Congratulations to Maja Udtian in winning her first FIA Top Fuel title and Rune Fjeld for giving us yet another first-time winner in one of his RFM cars at Tierp's Summit Racing Internationals with a 3.88, 271.69 over Anita Mäkelä's 3.91, 288.76mph. Jndia Erbacher made the quickest and fastest 1000ft pass this side of the Atlantic to take pole and set both ends of the FIA record with a 3.817 at 318.95mph. Current FIS champion Anita Mäkelä was next with a 3.828 at 317.44, our own Liam Jones 3rd with a 3.867, 314.47 and Maja Udtian at 3.924, clicked off for 256.92! Maja then drove her SalMar RFM fuel car on a 3-second string, setting a new FIA ET mark of 3.816 at 316.52mph in round two while shutting down Jndia. Could be a real September Showdown at the FIA Finals – as they used to say a life time ago, be there or be square!

Good luck to all the gals and guys as they go for gold and glory at Santa Pod's FIA Euro Finals in just over a week, yee haw!



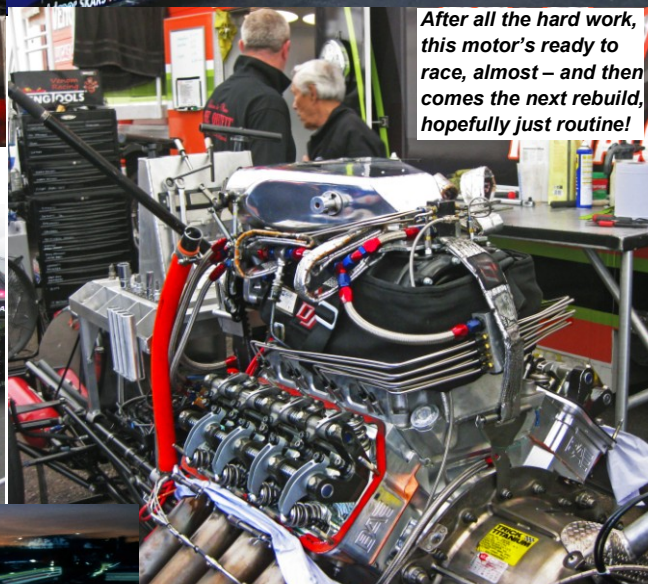
God speed Björn Mårtensson

mcSnip courtesy Nitrozplay



Workin' hard and smiling's cool! Then the camera was put away, the guys at left got it right and the laughter came strong!

Fire these suckers up and Dragstalgia'd really have something to cackle about!



After all the hard work, this motor's ready to race, almost – and then comes the next rebuild, hopefully just routine!



Thank you Janne, and please come back again...

