

STREET MACHINE



STARTING OUT IN STREET ELIMINATOR

MIGHTY MOUSE

POCKET ROCKET TOPOLINO SLEEPER



FEELIN' LUCKY?

SEVENTIES-STYLE STREET BRAWLER CAMARO

April's issue has a sleeper-ish feel, and leads with the Mouse that Roared - a tiny Topolino that looks like a resto but hides a screaming modern four-pot powerplant. Then there's a cool, clean '67 Camaro RS, looking like the king of the Seventies streets, and a Standard Vanguard pick-up from down under that's now back in Blighty with modern Ford motorvation. We have reports from the NSRA Southern Swap Meet and Race Retro - the last events that happened in the UK before Corona shut everything down - and part one of the tale of the Street Eliminator rookie who brought his 11-second Cortina out to play with the big boys. Add in a catch-up on some of last year's events, all the usual fun and much much more and that's the April issue of Street Machine, out now!



Hot Gossip Time Travel Xclusive from 1998! Re-visit NHRA's Nitro Thunder Trucks next Wednesday via [spatial link](#) to the DI GeoDome out there in low space; enjoy! With special thanks to Croydon Libraries Mark Foster and Nurse Maria at PRMC; then and now...

And to NatD's Phil Burgess & Jim Billups who began it all! An NHRA.TV March Meet ad fired memories so strong my AAFZ almost lit; NitroFueled images of a first 2010 Famoso visit loading my mind with wide open fuel coupes; a track full o' Cacklin' AAFD's



filling the air with the sweet scent of NitroThunder before the last stab of NitroFire lit the sky. A millisecond's silence later the fans erupted, thronging around the stilled visions from glory days long gone; those magic mind movies taken over briefly by those of an empty track most folks saw at the 2016 CHRR; very briefly! This month's Hot Gossip is full o' fun, some truly rad rides like a comin' an' goin' tin lizzie you'll never believe, the highest riding GTO in town and a bitchin' 1948 GMC tow



truck with its super cool, matching 6-second Willys coupe taking us back to the track for some good ol' NitroThunder; a quick chuckle at Bob Taylor's funny car roots before blasting off to the 21st century to see the quickest fuel coupe & fastest piston-powered race car on the planet... Santa Pod sunset!



BEAUT OF A UTE - DAILY DRIVABLE VANGUARD PICK-UP COMES HOME



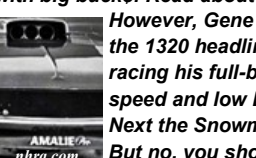
SPRING INTO LIFE - ALL THE UK'S EARLY SEASON SHOWS AND EVENTS

...and that's Robert Hight's JFR/Auto Club Camaro Fuel Coupe in Highway Patrol war paint making its 339.87mph pass a couple years ago - see the AA awesome full-size image in April's Hot Gossip!

Then we get stuck into some good ol' Fuel Coupe NitroNostalgia with a few words on NHRA's first Funny Car races; in 1966 (a flip-top Mercury Comet!), and the first of Ford's AAFC wins (fuel injected Mustang) in 1967 illustrated by a couple of my mini machines, the latter inspired by cars raced in the day. And once again I was blown away when similar Fuel Coupes filled Famoso's legendary quarter mile with NitroThunder during its 62nd annual March Meet. Next up it's full astern to NHRA's 1970 Super Season launch; 7 events that all had fabulous floppers racing, their drivers going from quasi outlaws to legitimate contenders for the first NHRA Funny Car World Championship! All the while, new legends from the still-growing Match Race trail like the Snake and the Mongoo\$e were filling their pockets with big buck\$! Read about this AA awesome transition in April's all new



Mopar finally got in on the legit' AAFC action when Roland Leong's Hawaiian Charger won the NHRA Pomona Winternationals!



However, Gene Snow's Dodge Challenger was making the 1320 headlines; he'd won the US Nats in '66 and '67 racing his full-bodied beast in C Fuel Dragster and set top speed and low ET at Pomona before losing in the finals! Next the Snowman truly smashed 210mph and even... But no, you should read all about it in our next issue, on sale March 26th!



Seems there wasn't much action around Seattle so he made the move to the East Coast with its already thriving Match Race circuit and pretty soon was racing four or five nights a week. One of his crew thought they should try winning the Best Appearing Crew Award; more than just historically significant, the result makes mighty fine viewing! Talking of colourful crews; 1970 saw the birth of the Hot Wheels team created by the late Tom McEwen, changing our sport forever, taking Mongoo\$e and the Snake places they'd never dreamed of, including a fun filled movie a few years back. But their first cars were kinda basic as you'll see in the publication of a pair of genuine 1970 shots rescued by the BBLF about 40years back! Andy Willsheer described the Mongoo\$e's first roll cage as "rudimentary," and as you can see from this Xtreme crop it truly was! Especially when compared to Fast Jack Beckman's 21st century device on his Infinite Hero car, and those gorgeous 5-spoke Cragar wheels, beloved by many car builders to this day, are a far cry from the modular rims used now-a-days; you can see 'em in full frame glory from March 26th in April's all new



Our back page is wall-to-wall Fuel Coupe action from 2020's March Meet along with an AAFA, AAFD and the AAFC that wind tunnelled the journey towards our 21st century 330mph beasts



98% of page 4 pix are wide-open; one's got Heidi, t'other's cackling!

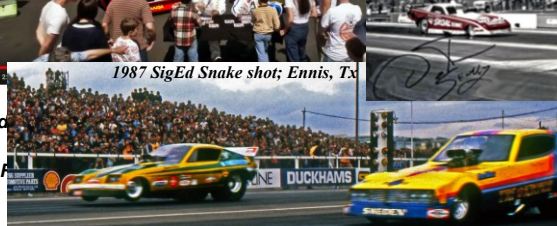


Felt good when Simon let me know he's a fan of "Hot Gossip and exclusive Eurodragster.com content!" These images relate to the first page with some unique, long-time favourites to help make an extra cool bonus page. Although the Snake & Mongoose movie would never win an Oscar, its real racin' clips are pure epic NitroThunder; my lil' green pal loves it; me too!



Knut Söderquist's good looking Tre Kronor. He took out Swedish superstar John Anderson (who'd run low ET and Top Speed of eliminations, a 6.26 at 229mph!), giving fans a great side-by-side race, the American match racing legend's power blur just ahead of the nose high Monza, his 6.35 winning over a close 6.40; both cars ran 224mph. In the final Harlan ran his best ET of the race; a 6.32 at only 196mph after the Snowman's motor quit.

Mongoose & Snake SigEd Cap
Kenny Youngblood's artwork is awesome! Sadly, when the Snake visited in 1980, he had problems and only made one full pull, unlike Harlan Thompson who kicked off his BDRH career in fine style, winning the largest Fuel Coupe race ever seen outside the USA in



1987 SigEd Snake shot; Ennis, TX
Multi-camera magic courtesy ComPlusTV



Fireball Monza Norman Blake courtesy Harlan Thompson



See the Fireball Monza in 21st century action!
A Witeo Product

East Coast Match racing was how Harlan made a name; the Vega an' Monza of Gary Phillips an' Jim Shores were his favourites back in those days and the late Jim "Fireball" Shores was Jamie Shores Fraijo's father. She shot our Back-Up-Babes at CHRR 2019, and the stunning top end shot at 2020's March Meet and said it's okay to use 'em; thanks Jamie. Here's some kinda atmospheric ol' school NitroFire; Rico thunders to a 5.03 as Jens Nybo lights 'em up in 1996. A true 20th century favourite AAFC shot here at 21st century CHRR; Dale Pulde in the awesome Tejon Indian War Eagle NFC; my Bill Schultz gifted Tee shirt's always worn back-to-front to show the Warrior image!

"Fireball" Shores' blown BB Chevy Anglia JSF Facebook



Mark Hentges 5.78 248.34 put Bucky Austin's Plymouth on pole in 2010



Halloween fun at Famoso; Jailbreak Jana's still Queen of the ball!



War Eagle crew shirt
The mega-motor's CHRR 2019, the wild Rambler an all-time favourite from my 2010 visit; it's still winning on hole-shots to this day!

The view from the hi-dollar VIP stands during the shambolic 2016 Cacklefest; an empty track with the AAFC's w-a-y down the other end, sounding cool when their aroma floated gently up on the breeze, but not visible for us! It was tad better in 2019; they'd fewer Cackle cars, all soundin' fine, but hidden by push cars parked on track! Unlike 2012 when all fans had an unhindered view of more cars Cacklin' on Famoso's 1320 than you could count!

Still don't believe the size of that motor as it's in a large car! Did you know the Muppets drove a psychedelic Studebaker back in the day! 20th century Hot Gossip did; and we still love it today!

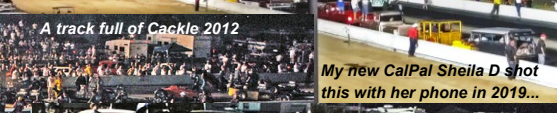
VIP view 2016!

A track full of Cackle 2012
My new CalPal Sheila D shot this with her phone in 2019...



Fuel Coupe fever! CHRR 2010

Our TAFC man Rob Turner wasn't wide open, but impressed the world; he kept it out of the wall and off the line in a wild ride at Vegas 2019! Mendy's 21st century smile in your Special Edition Hot Gossip's forever in my mind. Here's the first from 1987; my Santa Pod Mud wipe out NitroFree, while yours is an ultra-cool 2019 Surf an' NitroMix! Wishing her and Cole even more fun down the road...



Now this is a real funny car...



For Tog & Simon! Good luck to you both 1987 Pomona-Pacific 2018 PodMud Mix!



Pacific topic one by Bo Bertilsson; Pod Mud by Amy Willshere
jbPix DragRod 1/25th scale!