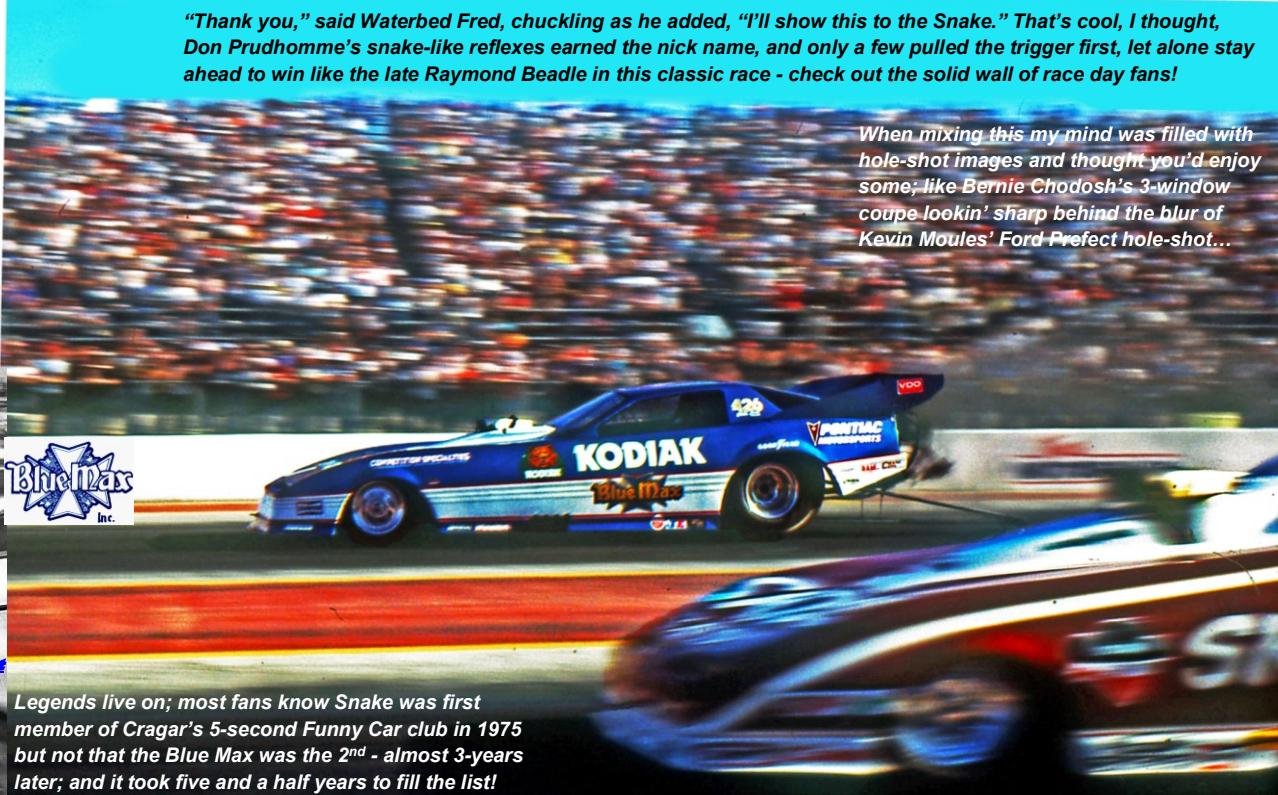




words & photos  
mike collins



UK nostalgia data  
courtesy Nick Pettitt

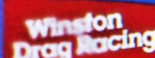
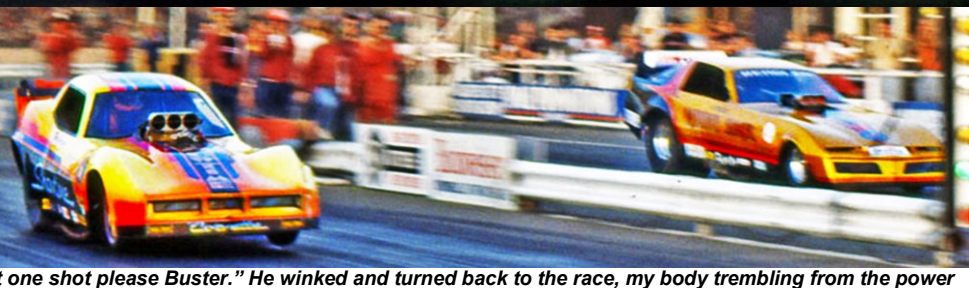


When mixing this my mind was filled with hole-shot images and thought you'd enjoy some; like Bernie Chodosh's 3-window coupe lookin' sharp behind the blur of Kevin Moules' Ford Prefect hole-shot...

Legends live on; most fans know Snake was first member of Cragar's 5-second Funny Car club in 1975 but not that the Blue Max was the 2<sup>nd</sup> - almost 3-years later; and it took five and a half years to fill the list!

In fact, they both ran 5.98s

along with two others; a pair of 5.99s and a 5.97 filling Cragar 5-second Club. Odd man out's Tom Hoover, 5<sup>th</sup> and the leader of the pack at a 5.95 in his gorgeous Showtime 'vette seen leaving on Rune Fjeld's swoopy ex-Al Bergler Motown Shaker Pontiac blur; cool holeshot action with a pair of Pod fan favourites. Back in Texas I wanted a shot of the huge crowd, but not just a wall of people, thinkin' they'd look much better behind a fueler launching; as Dick LaHaie's Miller car backed up I slid round inside the retaining wall; legendary Chief Starter Buster saw me intruding on his track so I put on a big grin, raised a finger, "J'st one shot please Buster." He winked and turned back to the race, my body trembling from the power



shaking the ground as I crouched low and the future 1987 Top Fuel World Champion LaHaie got a hole shot! Two kids fill this back-row space - and t'other car's front wheel's visible beneath them too! The depth of that crowd's truly awesome - SRO!!



Meanwhile, back at the Pod...



Harold Bull's Stripduster gets out on Derek Metcalfe's camera cropped Strip Star driven by Richard Jarman.

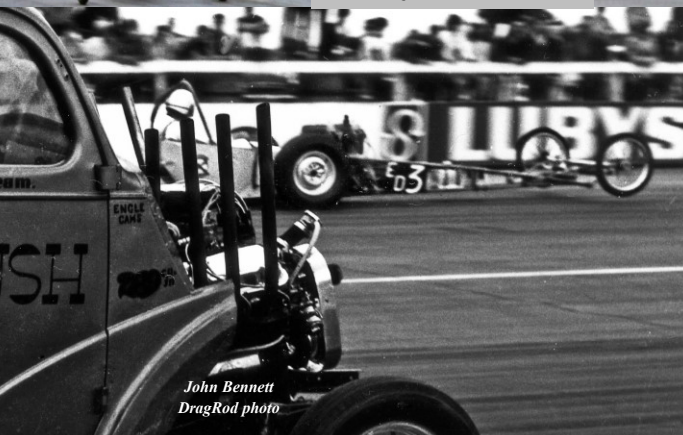


BBLF  
Photographer unknown

While shooting those moons and sky at 04.23 on July 7<sup>th</sup> thoughts of Dragstalgia and my long-time pal Stu Bradbury came to mind; sadly, he passed away on Friday July 10. God speed my friend.



Thoughts and prayers go out to Bev and Gemma who can be proud of Stu's powerful legacy



John Bennet  
DragRod photo

Outlaw Anglia's site says Danny Cockerill was a fierce competitor when he joined in 1992, with 7.63 and 180mph as best numbers, but maybe not in this guise! Pat and Chris Church's Gold Rush, an original 1968 Outlaw with max setback on its big V8 motor for extra traction gets hole shot by Derek Metcalfe's Wombat, known for quick leaves and hiking the front end...



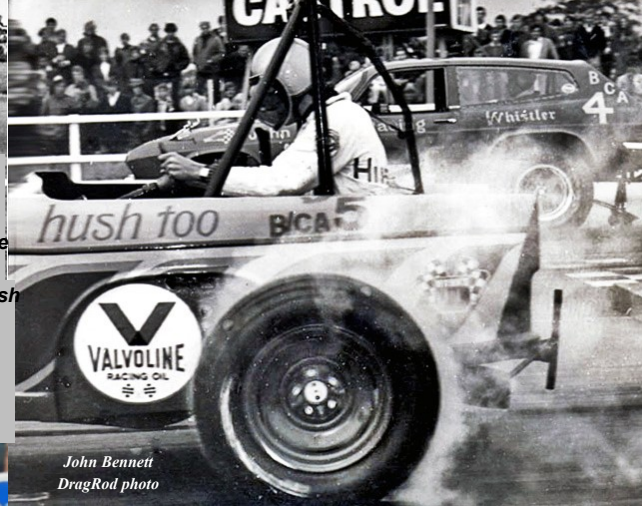
Photographer unknown  
BBLF



In 1969 the BDR&HRA hit Woodvale, DragRod reported that Dennis Priddle "put Whistler into the final of Top Competition with a strong 11.4" to beat Fred Whittle's Shutdown's 12.05; and that's cool, but when it came to the race that "brought the crowd to their feet," it seems that

"the invincible Whistler lost out on a slow start..." - oops! Ed Gurney's hole shot aided 11.67 in Hush Too beat an 11.56; DragRod's "a real drag race to talk about" proved prophetic; the words adding salt to racer's wounds. Like I said, oops! Never seen shots of that race, but we've John Bennett's great image of Ed's Hush Too doing it to Whistler in fine style at the Pod.

Here's another great hole shot that had folk's talking after I wrote that delightful Top Fuel rookie Maja Udtian "spanked" Liam Jones in 2019's first race. Liam chuckled, "But she was nowhere near me at the finish line!" Oh-so-true; Maja clicked it early after being quicker at the hit! But Top Fuel racing's tough; Anita hit a 3.923 at 302.89 - seven other runs were aborted with only two only full pulls all day; however, it was truly a sun-filled FunFest!



John Bennett  
DragRod photo

Liam thundered to a 3.90 at 309 in the first "Top Fuel Match Race" Saturday at 2019's FartFest; Eurod's report had a rare faux pas (that's f\*ck up en Francais!), saying said Liam got away first; not true folks, Maja spanked him on the line, lucky guy! Her 0.1221 RT whooped Liam's 0.1447!



Check out the slicks on Liam's 3.90

First heard Shirley Muldowney say "But I spanked him on the line..." after losing in the 20th century; it was cool then, even more so now!

This was almost Maja's first full pull...



But our Top Fuel babes had an amazing season! Anita won back-to-back FIA titles (her fourth!) after losing only one final round to Maja; she came 2nd - reached three other finals and set the FIA ET record of 3.806 at the Pod après Swiss miss Jndia Erbacher eclipsed Batman's 2014 mark with a thundering 318.96 at Tierp Arena! The **quickest** an' **fastest** Top Fuel driver on the planet's also a babe; JFR's Brittany Force ran 3.623@331.61 and then a 3.659 @ 338.17mph!



mcEurodBonus photo

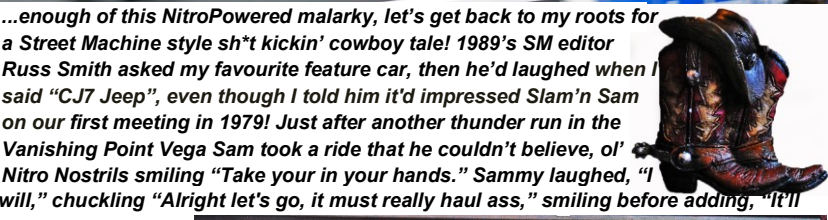
What y'see is what y'get; and our babes are simply the best - all ours and do it j'st for us!

These Top Fuel images first appeared après Hot Gossip's Eurodragster preview in a mcXclusivePixMix



Steve Saunders photo

probably run 14, 13seconds," and as I pressed the gas pedal gently let out another chuckle and, "Hey that drive just breaks those tyres loose like crazy," as we eased out over the dirt, the engine turning heads with its pure power burble. "Super," Sam smiled, climbing out at the top end, "It's been nice meeting you." "See you tomorrow Sammy," I replied, "Hope you break 300." He chuckled, gave us a high sign, turned and walked away; Sunday, Slam'n Sam stood tall atop a new record in the world outside the USA, a 4.2 at 307mph! A new era'd truly begun at the Pod, and in September he zapped fans again with 317mph; a couple years later Sam gave us a 3.85 ET at 331mph over the quarter mile - wow! Sadly, an evil pig sliced a tyre so we left without an on-track run! And that was bad as it was a true street machine; Gauthim Bhasin ran Jeep St James's while his pals drove Porsches and the like; not only takin' the p\*ss, when they blew his Jeep CJ off - were laughing about it!



See Sam's 1979 pass is on YouTube courtesy Nick Pettitt

Slam'n Sam 4.2 @ 307mph Andy Willsheer photo

mcSnip courtesy nhra@youtube

Slam'n Sam's quickest pass was a 3.58 quarter mile in his VP11 Mustang! Today's **quickest fuel coupe's** Robert Hight's JFR Camaro (right), at 3.793 (the first!), next to Matt Hagan's DSR Mopar's 3.807 in 2017! You may recall that Robert Hight's Highway Patrol fuel coupe is still the fastest race car on the planet at 339.87!



Steve Saunders photo

Gauthim got in touch with Howes Racing, "Please build me something to eat Porsches..." Which they did and it was truly awesome; I can still recall the first time I fired the sucker, even more so when I stood loud, reaching the street's end quicker than ever before! Like I said a true Street Machine, a real 350 horsepower Renegade; a stock block 360 rebuilt with an Edelbrock manifold, 750 Holley, an Isky cam doing far more than just sound good through headers and Edelbrock side pipes. Enough to put down a Porsche! J'st open up the Hurst Dual Gate, grab second, and stand loud; Quadra-Traction with Goodyear A-T Trackers so good the nose lifted, launching hard as you stood on it. The speed limit's reached very rapidly so you back off, slip into high, the power blast easing to an extremely healthy burble still turning heads that saw big grins inside! We got a second shot too, doing far more than just use it as viewing platform...



Loved the decal on the dash board "If you value your life as much as I value this Jeep; don't f\*ck with it!" The message clear to read in front of the steering wheel; thankfully the owner gave me a carte blanche "Enjoy," whilst mentioning almost casually that "I'd rather you didn't go beyond forty-one hundred rpm, which I think you'll find more than adequate." He also added that a fat wallet could help as "When driven hard it tends to get quite thirsty..." That's what expenses are for came the thought a few weeks later as we thundered out to Blackbushe arriving after some hard driving at NDRC's 1979 finals where Hot Car editor Keith Seume was posing with a mighty Mopar 426 Hemi Challenger. Having a "fully-loaded" Renegade CJ7 it seemed right to throw down the gauntlet, so I did, "Put up or shut up," seemed right, adding with a smile "Let's race, head's up..." and he laughed as did his posse. Must admit it did seem kinda over the top to call out a 426 hemi while driving an almost six-foot square box of a Renegade, and not much of a drag race to boot. From their faces this was also what they thought too, but then, no one knew my Jeep was more than just tough looking, it was loaded for bear as mentioned on the last page; hence the challenge which was accepted with some mirth from those around, making me pleased to have parked the Jeep across the way, so none of them had heard its power when we'd arrived..



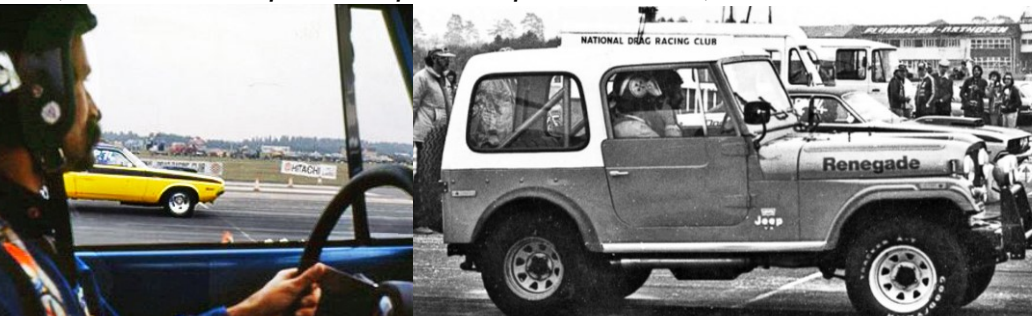
Being already entered in competition Keith was wearing big fat M&H slicks; my only nod to our race was to adjust air pressures on almost as big and fat, but chunky Goodyears! Never thought to remove the huge spare wheel or pull the big mirrors flush; even added the weight of Street Machine's Editor Clive Househam who rode shotgun with my camera. And he got a couple great shots to back up those from Peter Robain at trackside, nose hi-Snips from Time Travel DVDs and my friend Pat Kirby whose shot below gets this race underway...



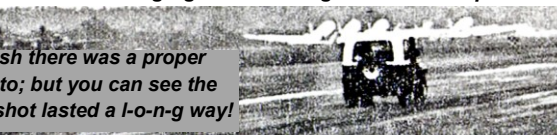
Wow! She got hemi brake lights and the Jeep's nose high over the line; Peter gets the hole shot and Clive took the in-car shot at left before panning round to show just how well the Renegade's goodies really worked! More than a hole shot; we'd a sleeping hemi driver, not much of a Challenger there, but his 426 cubic inches were coming to life. Guess it woulda been better if we'd be racing over a 1000foot short track! Only joking, but to have led a 426 hemi Challenger for the first 1300ft of a drag race was a blast, and to have the Jeep's wheels up launch captured on cine film, wow - how cool is that!



Courtesy Nick Pettitt



On film the Challenger is credited with passing us at half-track; but as the messy image below shows, it's still way behind and Clive's 2<sup>nd</sup> in-car shot, taken about 1300ft down track, shows wheel speed as the mighty Mopar starts to pass us with slicks spinning. The Renegade faltered like it was leaning out, the hemi's top-end torque way too much and Keith took it in the lights. Slam'n Sam was right about its potential; with half a tank of gas, spare wheel still hung on the back, a passenger on board and huge mirrors stuck out like elephant ears, we'd cracked a 14.99 at 92mph! "I found you a whole lot harder to catch than I expected," Keith Seume chuckled, no doubt relieved to have made it across the stripe first; mind you I was happy being only half-a-car behind a hard-charging hemi in a big brick of a Jeep!



Wish there was a proper photo; but you can see the hole shot lasted a l-o-n-g way!



This too was a hole shot as Adam Sorokin drove the world's quickest small block Chevy to a fine 5.68, 220mph win; the Champion Speed Shop team was 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Mendy Fry's back-to-back NHRA Heritage series 2019 win. Mendy's 2<sup>nd</sup> straight CHRR victory was a [truly emotional race!](#) Click and enjoy...

Time out from Awful Awesome Fuel Altered action at Famoso kickin' off with some **NightTimeNitroFire**

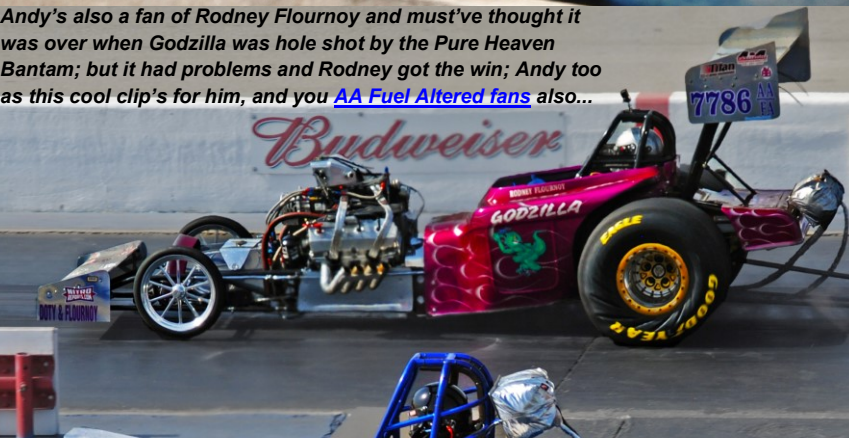
"Wild Willie" Borsch drove the Marcellus and Borsch Winged Express to the first 200mph speed back in the '60s and is probably the longest running Fuel Altered on the planet. With Mike Boyd now driving and making such powerful half-track burnouts fans love him; my new Cal pal Sheila did after this Saturday night pass at Famoso's California Hot Rod Reunion, and our Andy's right in there whenever he runs!



Winged Express  
courtesy Stock Eliminator



Andy's also a fan of Rodney Flournoy and must've thought it was over when Godzilla was hole shot by the Pure Heaven Bantam; but it had problems and Rodney got the win; Andy too as this cool clip's for him, and you [AA Fuel Altered fans](#) also...

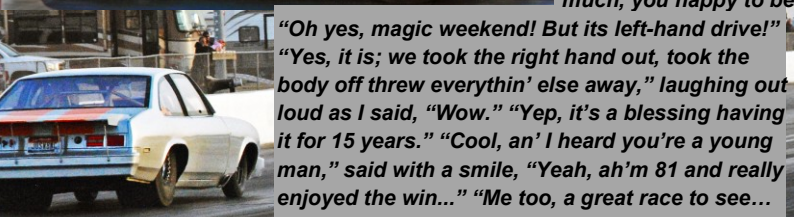


This D/Gas Ford Pop is about the furthest you can get from AAFA's; driven by 81year old Don Fournier to victory after 5-rounds of racing!



Don won a close race on a double breakout 10.577 to a 10.573! "Congratulations on your win sir," "Thank you very much, you happy to be here?"

Jonnie Lindberg took out DSR's Fast Jack, but went down to his team mate Matt Hagan in the 2019 NHRA Dodge Nats at Las Vegas. Standing in for Bob Tasca, Jonnie ran the first big numbers, 3.98,318.24 at Indy in NHRA's first CV19 race...



"Oh yes, magic weekend! But its left-hand drive!"  
"Yes, it is; we took the right hand out, took the body off threw everythin' else away," laughing out loud as I said, "Wow." "Yep, it's a blessing having it for 15 years." "Cool, an' I heard you're a young man," said with a smile, "Yeah, ah'm 81 and really enjoyed the win..." "Me too, a great race to see..."



HOLESHOT WIN		
LINDBERG	RT	BECKMAN
.055	ET	.084
3.930	MPH	3.915
325.30		330.07

mcSnip courtesy-nhra.tv



NitroFire! Fuel Coupe round one from the stands by Stock Eliminator. Cool stuff for funny car fans!

Team owner Bucky Austin adds extra stopping power to Heidi's Wonder Woman styled crossed wrists! Here's Heidi in Saturday back-up action from Hot Rod Blondie!



Bobby Cottrell won a 2<sup>nd</sup> straight CHRR title & Heritage Series Championship



Jailbreak Jana's still the Queen of Back up Babes; Andy's her #1 fan, so he'll love the clip! Click and enjoy...



Cool

