

Read the story then come back and click the links, you'll have more fun that way...

Hot Gossip

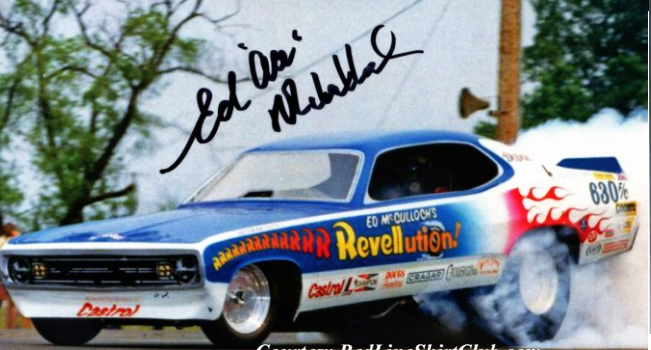


Before these Fuel Coupes had even fired up, I was reflecting on the buzz I'd got from watching Rune Fjeld and Eric Otley put together their new Mobil 1/Pepsi Trans Am to become the quickest EuroRacers with a stout 5.58 at 257mph. In the first round Rune got the hole shot but hit tyre shake, clicking off as KC Spurlock sped to 5.39 at 266 for the win.



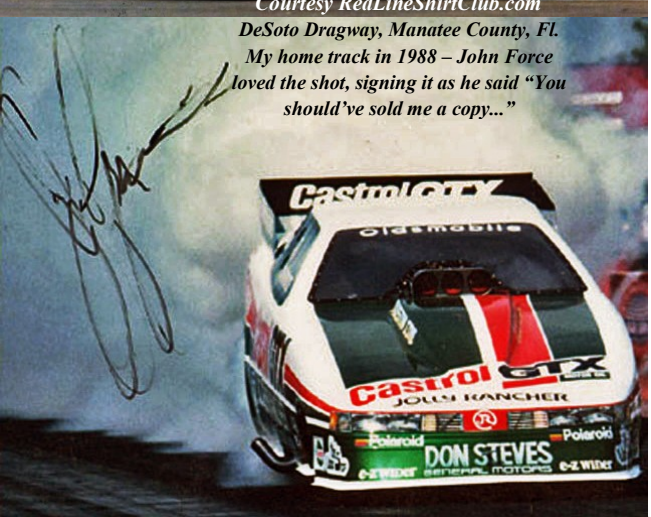
Words & photos Mike Collins

"Hollywood," as he's known, became an instant legend as the first fuel coupe rookie to win an NHRA event first time out, and only a couple of NitroPilots have done it since! Licensed shortly before the event and with just half-a-dozen passes under his belt, Hollywood ran a string of 5.3s, beating reigning NHRA Champion Bruce Larson and then a true racing legend Ed "the Ace" McCulloch ("Roaring down memory lane" by National Dragster Editor Phil Burgess at Dragster Insider), and the pair met again in the 1990 Gatornationals finals above (links to the ESPN's 5-minute Finals show - with the Greek beating the Bud King!). As I put these words down in Street Machine came the thought that most of our readers are aware of the awesome ground pounding power of NitroFired Fuel Coupes thundering into the night, and especially Eurodragster readers, but either way, many weren't born when I was enjoying this magic moment! So I decided to grab a few signed images for our younger readers to enjoy with a glimpse of some drag racing greats in a special Legends Signature Edition kicking off with our own Dennis Priddle's JWR Monza (shot on a 110mm Kodak!), prior to facing the Blue Max - tell you about it one day! Ron Hope was thrilled with my shot of Isky wishing him luck before racing his Rat Trap AA/FA at the CHRR 2016, me too! Even flat batteries couldn't rob this 2011 image of its powerful Christmas tree reflections as Risto Poutiainen blasts by in Rune's Fjeld's "Bad to the bone" fueler to set low ET and Top Speed (4.91 at 293) of the Pod's final Saturday night 1320 Q session - side-by-side 'cos I love it!

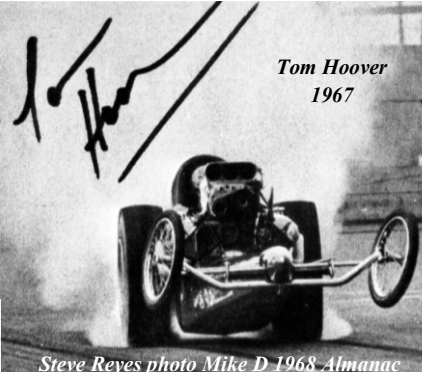


Courtesy RedLineShirtClub.com DeSoto Dragway, Manatee County, FL

My home track in 1988 - John Force loved the shot, signing it as he said "You should've sold me a copy..."

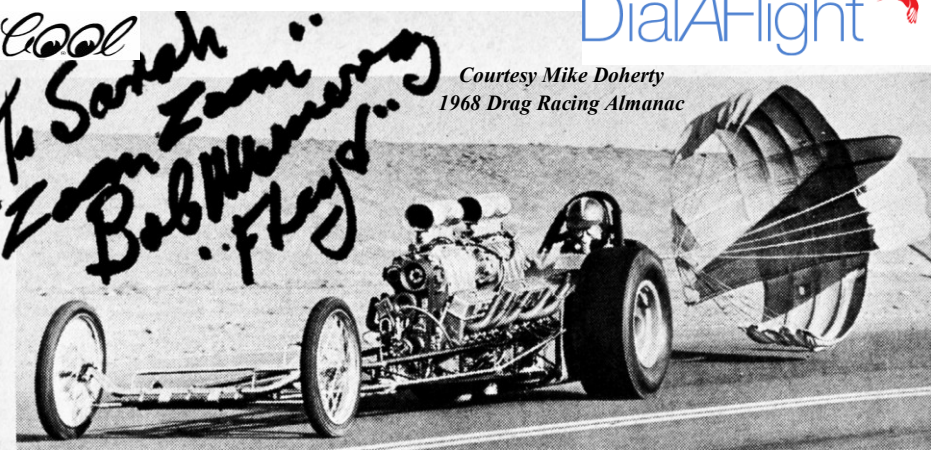


World's Fastest Accelerating Man Slam'n Sammy's attempt on his Oxygen ice record of 247mph in 1.60 seconds saw the 2002 RFC Mustang beaten by slush in 1986! Click the link to see what Sam said was his hardest drive ever! The Hawaiian, Clay Millican, Connie K, Bob McClurg, Gentleman Joe, Roy Phelps and Jeff Lutz all signed this t-shirt first time I wore it. Later Mr DialAFlight bought me a large JD - [if you need a flight](#), support our sponsors and give 'em a try



Tom Hoover 1967

Steve Reyes photo Mike D 1968 Almanac



DialAFlight

Courtesy Mike Doherty 1968 Drag Racing Almanac

In 1967 Floyd Lippincott Jr (aka Bob Muravez) ran low ET of 7.30 and Top Speed of 200mph at the U.S. Nationals in Freight Train - the first AA/ Gas Dragster over 200!



1989-90 Quickest AA/FC at 5.132!



One of the all-time AA/FC greats, Ed "the Ace" McCulloch (links to CompetitionPlusTV's Legends series), began racing in Top Fuel then switched to Funny Car in 1969. The Ace added to his legend in 1990 with a 5.33, 267.47 over Hollywood's 5.40 at 273.22 in this final round to win a fourth Gators title in Larry Minor's Miller High Life Olds Cutlass, and won five races including a record setting fifth US Nats in that year. In 1992 the Ace drove Larry Minor's McDonald's car to his first Top Fuel win, a sixth US Nationals title!



Legends portrait
Andy Willsheer
fine-tuned by mc
beech underwriting agency

Wow, what a show! Sponsored by Geoff Stilwell's Beech Underwriting Agencies, the BDRHoF's 2017 Bench Racing session was the best Saturday afternoon entertainment any nitroholc could wish for on this planet – off track that is! Clockwise from top left there's Jim O, Tom Hoover, Dennis Priddle, Ron Hope, Bob McClurg, Clay Millican, Jeff Lutz, Roy Phelps, Connie Kalitta, Dale Emery, Marvin Graham, Bob Muravez, Ed McCulloch, Steve Gibbs, Roland Leong, and Joe Schubeck busy smiling at his delightful wife Gigi. After a couple of hours of wild war stories they took a break, so I went to check-in, returning to find it was over... Oops! And that's probably a good word to describe Roland Leong's 1964 Stateside debut in "Hawaiian," a Keith Black Hemi powered AA/FD, after crashing when he "Couldn't find the parachute handle and ran off the end of track..." Keith Black suggested he bought the Greer, Black & Prudhomme car and hire Don Prudhomme – and the Hawaiian's been smiling since they won the NHRA Winternationals in 1965!

In 1967 the Hawaiian won the US Fuel & Gas Championship (aka the March Meet) at Famoso with Mike Snively driving.

1967	*Mike Snively	San Bernardino, Calif.	Hawaiian	7.29	212.28
	**Roy Tuller	Los Angeles, Calif.	Chrysler Freight Train Dual Chev	7.77	191.88

*Denotes Top Fuel Eliminator
**Denotes Top Gas Eliminator

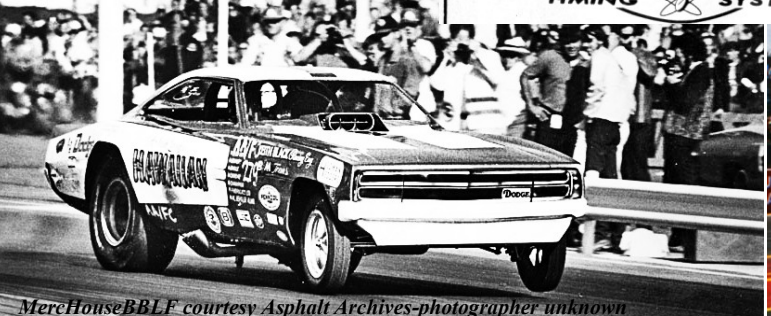


Fast forward 50 years and Roland Leong led Jim Murphy's WW2 Nostalgia Top Fuel team to the 2017 NHRA Heritage Series title at the CHRR to show he's still got what it takes. (Below, center)

In 1969 the Hawaiian went funny car racing with this wild first generation "flopper."



At the 1990 Gators Fuel Coupes were swoopier; Jim White took the Hawaiian Punch Dodge to a 5.281Low ET, here with JFR's Olds



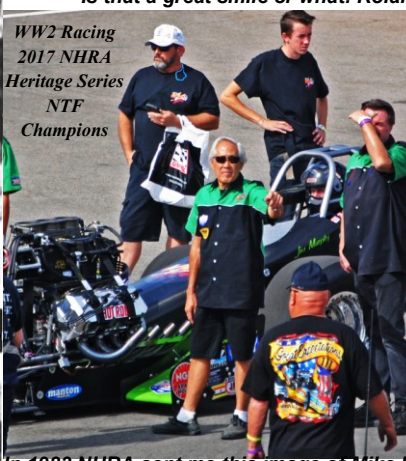
MercHouseBBLF courtesy Asphalt Archives-photographer unknown



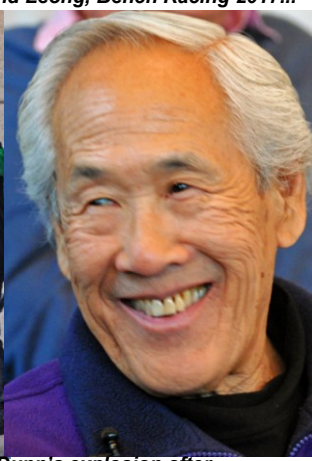
Is that a great smile or what! Roland Leong, Bench Racing 2017...



Don Gillespie photo courtesy NHRA (2012 Leslie Lovett Memorial award winning photo)



WW2 Racing
2017 NHRA
Heritage Series
NTF
Champions



In 1983 NHRA sent me this image of Mike Dunn's explosion after his huge 250mph fireball in Roland's car, it was AA awesome then but today YouTube lets us feel the power as it blows the engine out of the car. yet only sprained Mike's finger! Click the link for his "[Orange County Finals 1983 Flashbacks](#)," it's one of the most awesome rides you've ever seen!

Havoc's awesome Nitro warm-up has always been a buzz with Nick cracking it wide open at the Pod, but Famoso was a [huge win](#) - what a thrill for the team of Nick Davies, Rob Loaring and Scott Barnes - and the legion of fans who made the long trek to California! Click it to see and hear their final round win!



Andy Willsheer photos from Amalie Motor Oil's Skybox



CRUISE-O-MATIC FOR DRAGS

HOT ROD
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STREET-STRIP TEST
2017 CHEVY EL CAMINO
TECH TIPS!
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DRIVING THE HIGH BANKS - DAYTONA 500
LANDY'S NEW GAME: BARTS

HAIRY OLDS!!!
HURST'S TWIN ENGINE
4-WHEEL DRIVE
FUEL BURNING
SMOKER



Now this is what you call a close race! And with images signed by both drivers, they're classic Signature Editions, mixed with mcSnips and the original final overtake image just for Eurodragster readers. To see this [AA awesome race](#), click the link, fast forward 12 minutes and enjoy!



mcSnips courtesy nhra.com

MARGIN OF VICTORY: .0001 SEC.

T. WILKERSON	RT	R. CAPPS	HOLESHOT WIN
.074	.066		
4.112	4.120		
308.85	308.71		

WOW 0.0001seconds!



Bob McClurg photo courtesy Hot Rod

In 1964 Gentleman Joe Schubeck drove his first AA/FD (replicated below), on a 1,000 foot wheelie and then won "Best Engineered Car" at Famoso's 1965 March Meet and retired from racing. He was very busy building chassis and revolutionary scatter shields at his Lakewood Industries when he was invited to meet George Hurst who made an offer no man could refuse, basically "Drive this car for us, Linda Vaughn will be in the pit crew - as your valet!" With Linda, freshly crowned Miss Hurst Golden Shifter, helping with his three-piece "tuxedo" fire suit, custom built by Jim Deist, Gentleman Joe Schubeck and the Hurst Hairy Oldsmobile drove (built for pure show rather than speed or ET), into legend, thrilling fans with wild smoky runs. Then Joe tipped the can, NitroThunder making the beast truly awesome as you can see below, with Linda & Joe (morphed in by yours truly), fully suited and booted for the car's debut at Famoso. Using Hurst's first Line-Loc, Joe just mashed the gas pedals and left, real hard! It was Hot Rod's [first see-through cover car in 1966](#) - click it for Gentleman Joe's slide show, and then try Bob McClurg's [Hurst Hairy Olds story](#) for Hot Rod - they're both fun and full of colour!



This AA awesome image and Linda Vaughn photos courtesy Gentleman Joe Schubeck

Twin Blown-Fuel Engines @ 5000hp • 4-wheel drive • Dual Controls

"Some of the Hairiest rides I've ever taken down the quarter mile strip were in the Hurst Hairy Olds"

- Gentleman Joe Schubeck



Next month Hot Gossip will be 98% NitroFree!

Joe cruising his AA/FD at CHRR 2016, his awesome push truck a real Street Machine!