



STREET MACHINE

HENRY V8TH HIGH-TECH HAULER IS BLUE OVAL THROUGH FROM BUMPER TO BUMPER

EASTERN PROMISE

FORGOTTEN SEVENTIES SALOON TURNS RETRO ROCKET



T ON THE BEACH - CLASSIC SHOW - T-BUCKET STILL GOING STRONG

ROUND 'EM UP - ALL THE UK'S LATE SEASON SHOWS & EVENTS

Renowned artist Kenny Youngblood also created this unique "This win's for Tom..." artwork that day, the image lodged firmly in my mind back at Famoso when we join Mendy and the High Speed team next day as they prepare to try and do just that. We join 'em in the pits for some of the "fun" prior to the first ground poundin' burnout of the weekend in Q1. Time out for a glimpse of Mendy's pre-High Speed days (blue AAFD and A AFC) before a race day packed with drama from round one to a mind blowing emotional ending beyond the finish line in the final round as you'll see in January's



Being friends with 2-time Top Fuel Champions Anita Mäkelä and Mendy Fry gives such a feel good factor my lil' green pal suggested putting together some in y'face Nitro Powered action shots for all our loyal fans out there in Eurodragster land, so here y'go...



words & photos mike collins

Want something to brighten up those dismal days between Christmas and New Year? You need the new Street Machine. The cover star is a high-tech, high-buck Ford pick-up that's blue oval through and through with a Coyote V8. Then there's a forgotten Seventies Toyota saloon that uses classic track styling and modern six-pot power to make a unique street ride. There's a classic T-Bucket street rod that's still with the guy who built it 40 years ago; there's a round-up of all the late-season events; Andy Willsheer looks back to Hockenheim's NitrOlympX, plus all the usual fun and much more in January's Street Machine. Happy New Year!



words & photos mike collins

The Xtreme crops are all a tease; not this 2010 Ol' Yeller shot, but it's seen with full size images of smokin' an' wheelstandin' action when Hot Gossip kicks off on the start line at CHRR 2019, an obvious Super Stock 426 hemi messing my mind by crashing the A/FX Q session; thankfully my lil' green pal and screamin' eagle come to the rescue, honest! After some 2010/ '12 racing to cool me down, we've 2019 A/FX wheelies, two 9-second classics; one ol' school t'other wild paint, cool art - and a real 1950's rickshaw in action! My first stunning sight of



Bakersfield 2010 mixed to a golden 2019 sunrise leads to a celebration of life in memory of the well respected, much loved Tom Shelar who drove the High Speed top fuel team to the very top. Mendy swapped her throttle pedal for a mic, leading



his family and friends who re-tell tales of Tom to a to packed room making for an entertaining evening of bench racing put together by Mendy and her husband Cole Coonce who produced an evocative tribute film that was enjoyed by all.

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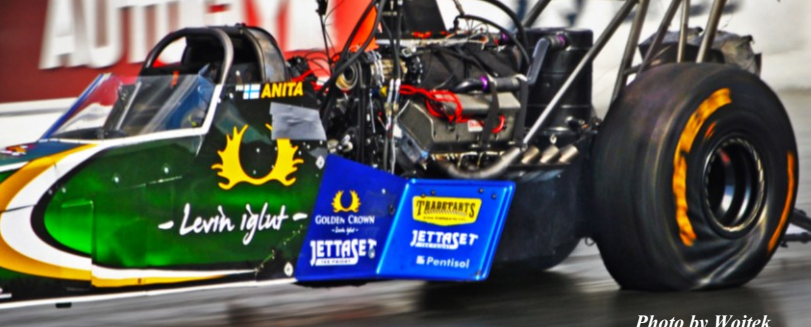


Photo by Wojtek

Enjoying Anita win and Mendy doing the same was incredible, an amazing buzz mixed with so much NitroThunder!



John Bennett DragRod photo

Never ceases to amaze me how far we've come since those halcyon days of 1968. Our first home-grown, side-by-side AAFD races turning my world upside down!

Since those early days good drivers in Fuel Coupe and Top Fuel need a good team behind 'em; happily my years have been spent backstage with our best at home. The first AAFD champ I saw at Famoso was Adam Sorokin in 2010,



and again in 2012 with the Champion Speed Shops streamliner. Loved it in black, still cool in red; I was lucky at this year's March Meet,

getting to know owner Bob McLennan and his team, along with Tom Shelar's High Speed crew. Watching the teams work together was amazing; especially the Nitro tasting warm-up! But let's go racing with our current 2-time Top Fuel Champs



Tom Shelar stood tall behind the High Speed Top Fuel team no matter what; overcoming many problems until Mendy took her only round loss of 2019 when a minor part malfunctioned in the March Meet final! Their shared empathy was strong enough to feel; Tom's passing leaving more than just sadness. But his memories will live on forever...



A ground pounding burnout in E1 led Mendy to 265.43 and a 5.51 NHRA record!



From power launch to top end charge, the small block Chevy took Adam to 2nd in points this year



Mendy drove the High Speed fueler into history with a blistering 5.490 at 259.71 next run; the first AAFD on the planet to run in the '40s! After she won the 2019 title they came back to Famoso to win the CHRR for Tom; it makes for some real cool Hot Gossip in January's



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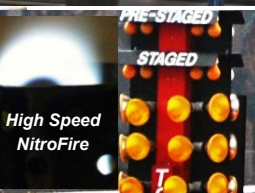
Awful Awesome AAFA's are the wildest rides of all!



At BDRHoF's Bench Race Rat Trap's Ron Hope said, "There are no Fuel Altered drivers; just passengers!" Kleet Norris shot pre-race side-by-side burnout action at Auto Club Famoso's Good Vibrations March Meet back in 2017. Happily my name's on the list for their 2020 PowerFest!



With NitroPower anyone can have problems; Anita's ultra-tough tall tyre burnout in the Levin Iglut car led to only 224mph!



High Speed NitroFire

A 21st century top fuel car's NitroThunder is close to double the AAFD's, and ahead all the way; here hitting a new 3.84 record at 312mph. But Anita and Mendy are top of their class in every sense!



Photo by Wojtek

Can't wait for these mighty machines to be duking it out again at Dragstalgia in July; a great way to celebrate my birthday...



Hope you had a cool Yule!



Best wishes for a Healthy, Happy and ground pounding NitroFueled New Year