

PATINA CHEVY SHOWS ITS AGE... BUT DOESN'T ACT IT

SEVENTIES SURVIVOR - STILL LOOKING VENOMENAL

Editor Dave Smith tells me "The contents of the June issue of Street Machine (out now), includes the '48 Chevy bomb topping our cover - a patina'd Fleetline on the outside packed with plush family comfort, a small-block Chevy under the hood, all carried on late-model G-body running gear - my kinda Street Machine! Venom, a 1973 Capri with wild paint, wilder body mods, deep-button Dralon interior and a healthy jack-up on the rear, was a star of the '70s custom shows. A real survivor, Venom looks exactly as it did then, but now packs a V8 bite! We've a traditional '34 coupe hot rod, except that it's NOT A FORD! It's a Chevy 3-window coupe; 327 Chevy powered, black with ghost white flames, and sees plenty of road miles. Then there's a 1967 Mustang fastback, built as a promo car for a recent Hollywood post-apocalyptic road movie (that we're not allowed to mention!), now living in the West Midlands! And a completely scratch-built, tube framed replica of a 1932 MG, blasting around Scotland after falling into the hands of a hot-rodder! There's also coverage from Volksworld, Hayling Island, AACL and Solent Renegades events, the NSRA Nostalgia Nationals from Santa Pod, the No-Prep Nationals from Rockingham, a big piece on balancing the rotating assembly on my small-block Ford, and all the usual fun and gubbins. Dave also told me he "Loved reading," Hot Gossip, adding, "What a superb story!" Hope y'all enjoy it too, even though it's not really NitroFired!



In truth it's a love story (with a Chevy!), and yep I do get lucky! Our tale begins in the cold, wet an' wild winter of '67, as we struggle to finish the "New Look Santa Pod Raceway with the Seven Second Surface" in time for the first race of 1968, the big Easter meet.



Photo by Sarah

There's hi-octane action, a climax with a sting in the tale, then a happy ending in paradise with power shiftin' V8s en route to Shaky County via Long Marston and Avon Park. But we don't get misty eyed in Warwickshire, just savour some magic memories, from Street Machine's first track trip in 1980 to our Editor 21st century adding a NOS pin at Hot Rod Drags 2017 - a touch of NitroFire, our favourite flying female, my ol' Huggin in GM blue and much more...

LET'S GO DRAG RACING!

SANTA POD RACEWAY

RACING 12 NOON to 6 P.M.
EASTER MONDAY APRIL 15th
Then 1st Sunday every month

ADMISSION 10⁰⁰ - Includes... 12 PROGRAMME 12 CAR PARK 12 CUP ADMISSION

Action organised by BRITISH DRAG RACING & HOT ROD ASSOCIATION
INCLUDES - DRAGSTERS, ALTEREDS, SPORTS, MODIFIED and PRODUCTION CARS

Includes: ELIMINATIONS, MATCH RACE'S, DEMONSTRATIONS

Special Match Race
Special Blue Race
Special Yellow Race



MUSTANG GETS READY FOR THE APOCALYPSE



HOT ROD IN CHEVY-IN-CHEVY SHOCKER!

This mini-feature and following page are eXclusive to Eurodragster readers

Captain Cool re-visited



In y'face action from Andy Willsheer

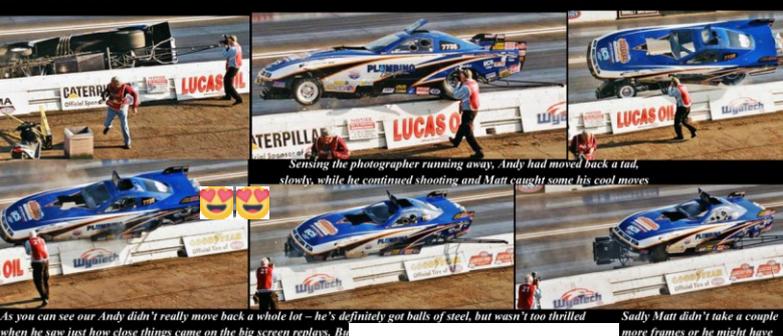
Flying photos by Matt Hansink

eXtreme crops of Matt Hansink's shots show the action, but the full frame image above captures the rampaging TAFC hitting the wall, filling Andy's lens with a totally awesome in y'face image. No wonder he took a step backwards - balls of steel indeed!

You gotta admit, that's quite a wicked right turn, the car already trying to flip over



The advantage of being tall allows our Andy to look down on this amazing, and thankfully not often seen view - talk about what d'e've have for breakfast!



As you can see our Andy didn't really move back a whole lot - he's definitely got balls of steel, but wasn't too thrilled when he saw just how close things came on the big screen replays. But

Sadly Matt didn't take a couple more frames or he might have caught Andy checking his shots

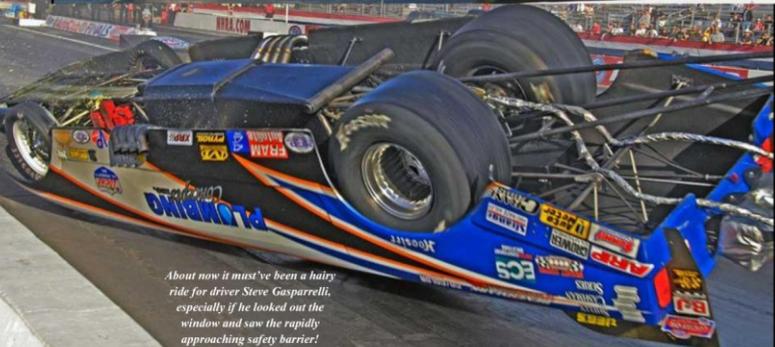
Two Much Teddy mcPix courtesy Norm Wheeldon & Herb Andrews

Shaky Town special



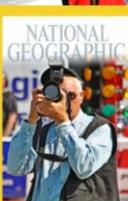
THE "WELL, HE'S GOT BIG ONES" AWARD Goes to Andy Willsheer

Imagine this. You have a Funny Car flip right in front of you and come within inches of your "my space" zone. Do you (A) Dump the cameras and run? (B) Run and establish a newer or safer distance? (C) Stand right there. Well-being be damned and get the million dollar shot? You're bloody right, you stand there and don't flinch!



About now it must've been a hairy ride for driver Steve Gasparelli, especially if he looked out the window and saw the rapidly approaching safety barrier!

Thanks to competitionplus.com



"This nite time fire burnout photo of Team Schumacher #2 driver the late Bobby Rowe was taken in 1972 at Budd's Creek, Maryland using my trusty Hasselblad 500-C Medium Format camera with Kodak Ectachrome-X 120 film pushed to 200 ASA and flash filled," wrote Bob McClurg.



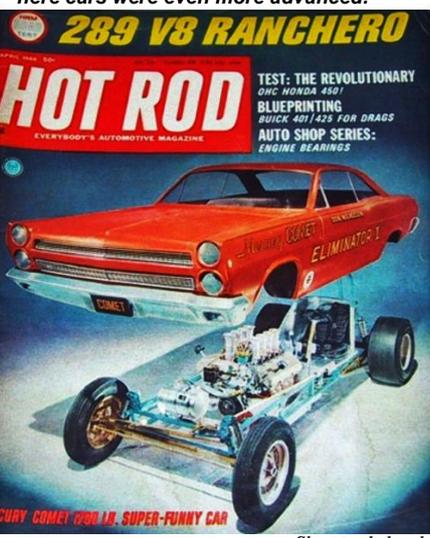
Bob McClurg photo

Bob also wrote, "That year the Shoe fielded a total of 3 Superior Sizzler Plymouth Barracuda's. The yellow Buttera-chassis version was actually his 1970 US Nats winner and that car went to England where it was sold. The sometimes blue, sometimes purple Woody Gilmore-chassis 'Cuda (shown here) was driven by Bobby Rowe and eventually re-painted in Wonder Bread team colors, and the red, T-Bar-Chassis 'Cuda driven by Raymond Beadle was eventually re-bodied into a Vega and was runner-up to Billy Meyer at the 73 NHRA Nationals." His words brought to mind a 2016 Press Release that told me of the summer of '73 when Don Schumacher and Paula Murphy "unleashed the first full-tilt American Fuel Funny Cars seen on these shores at that year's July Internationals at Santa Pod Raceway and seared the occasion into the minds of all who witnessed it."

And that was cool - far more inspiring that the image that was sent along with the release, which then added "The spectacular, ground-shaking Funnies - essentially nitro-burning dragsters cloaked by lightweight, saloon-car-replica bodysells - were all the rage across the Atlantic..." I'd shaken my head in disbelief, and replied, "Hot Rod's cover car in 1966, Dyno Don Nicholson's Mercury Comet with a purpose built Logghe Chassis - this "one-piece flip-top body, tube-frame, ladder-bar rear suspension, four corner coil-over shock cars revolutionised the Funny Car category." Then I'd added, "This is many years before Don Schumacher and Paula Murphy came to the UK, so you just know that here cars were even more advanced!

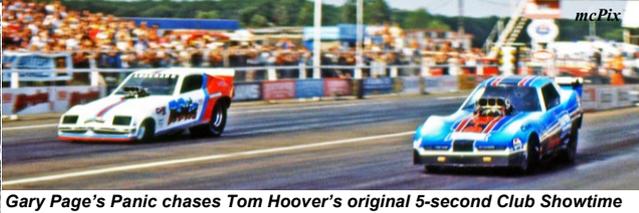


Don Schumacher won the 1970 US Nationals with a John Buttera built car which, as Bob McClurg tells us above, came over as Stardust - a "full-tilt American Fuel Funny Car" using a purpose built funny car chassis! Although forwarded to the author, no response was forthcoming! You'll find a few lines on a couple of the "cloaked dragsters" like Big Daddy's Dart 2 in Hot Gossip...



Mantorp Park, Sweden

Harlan Thompson had a 100% win record in 1987, including this race winning hole shot 6.05, 236.96 mph over Norwegian ace Rune Fjeld's 6.03, 241 mph at Sweden's Sko Uno Drag Festival (center left), the quickest & fastest race of the year!



Gary Page's Panic chases Tom Hoover's original 5-second Club Showtime Corvette in 1987 - painted blue for new sponsors Champion Autostores



Short track thunder



Glory days
Nobby Hills' Hounddog and the Stone's Stardust
in a classic Fuel Coupe shootout at the Pod