

3720 Arrowhead Ave., Suite 103, Independence, MO

February / March

Night of champions

The Overland Park Marriott Hotel was once again the site for the 2002 NHRA West Central Division awards ceremony. Division 5 competitors, sponsors, and staff members came from all over to honor the 2002 champions. Among the special guest presenters was NHRA Executive Vice

President/General Manager Peter Clifford. Lucas Oil President and CEO Forrest Lucas presented and received his own special award honoring his company for its commitment to West Central Division Sportsman racing.

In addition to honoring the 2002 champions, many special awards were presented. The winners included Lucas Oil Pro Sportsman Driver of the Year Ed Schmeeckle; KD Kanopy Sportsman Driver of the Year Roger Benne; Summit Racing E.T. Driver of the Year Brent Kopejtka; Madcap Racing Engines Crew Chief of the Year Chris Williams; Eagle Eye Photography Best Appearing Car Overall Larry Piper; and West Central Division Person of the Year Donnie Durenberger.

Ray Motes, 2001 inductee into the Taylor-Vertex High & Mighty Hall of Fame, inducted the Hall of Fame class of 2002, which included John Bandimere Sr., Don Cain, Judy Lilly Gunson, John Pusch, and Mike Troxel.



Summit Racing Series division champions (sitting, from left): Leslie Benbo, Delray Dykstra, Mike Voss and Lacey Rowe. Back row (from left): Ron Conner, Doug Heinrichs, Brent Kopejtka, Eric Anderson and Peter Clifford.



Lucas Oil division champions (sitting, from left): Brian Johnson, Roger Benne, Tim Schell, Steve Swenson, and Gene Mosbek. Back row (from left): Rob Park, Alan Bradshaw, Kirk Williams, Lucky Snyder, David Bogner, and Peter Clifford.



Division 5 Junior Dragster champions (from left): Kris Whitfield, Bobby Polson, Lauren Thomas, and Shaley Epperson.

















Hall of Fame gets sponsor and jackets

Taylor-Vertex in Grandview, Mo., a supplier of spark-plug wires, magnetos, and other types of wiring for the motorsports and auto industries, has become the lifetime sponsor of NHRA's Division 5 High & Mighty Hall of Fame. Taylor-Vertex Vice President Ray Motes, a 2001 High & Mighty Hall of Fame inductee, is proud that the company is part of such a prestigious group that honors racers, workers, and track owners who have made NHRA Drag Racing what it is today.

In addition, Phoenix Custom Apparel, which designs and manufactures custom uniforms for individuals and teams competing at NHRA events and other races, will provide custom jackets for members of the Taylor-Vertex High & Mighty Hall of Fame. The black jacket will have the Hall of Fame logo and the inductee's name across the front with blue flames running up the sleeves.

"We are honored to be able to provide this special recognition to the inductees," said Phoenix Custom Apparel President Bruce Bowler.



Series sponsors renew for 2003

KD Kanopy Inc. will continue its sponsorship of the NHRA West Central Division Super Shootout Series, which features a race within a race among Super Comp, Super Gas, and Super Street racers at NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series events. The 16 Super-class racers who run closest to their indexes during the first time trial Saturday compete in the shootout, which is handicapped according to class index. The series champion will receive a jacket, gift certificate, Gold Card, and Wally. KD Kanopy and NHRA will donate 20 percent of the entry fees to DRAW. KD Kanopy presented a \$2,500 check to DRAW at the 2002 West Central Division awards ceremony.

Wyoming Ethanol, based in Torrington, Wyo., will extend its sponsorship of the West Central Division National Open series. The four-event series will travel to Tri-State Raceway, Pueblo Motorsports Park, Interstate Dragways, and Kansas City Int'l Raceway throughout the 2003 season. Competitors entering in Super Stock,

Stock, Super Comp, Super Gas, and Super Street will receive a national event grading point for entry into select NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series national events. Additionally, the West Central Division is pleased to announce the return of the Top Comp eliminator to the National Open schedule. Watch for further details in upcoming issues of *High & Mighty*.

REMOTE CHASSIS INSPECTIONS

The following remote NHRA chassis-certification sites have been set up to provide a convenient opportunity for racers to have their 9.99 (6.39 for the eighth-mile) and guicker cars inspected.

These preseason inspections are not required. NHRA chassis inspections will continue to be available at all NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series national events, Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division events, and National Opens.

Temporary 90-day chassis-inspection permits for E.T. racing only are also available at all NHRA member tracks.

| Date | Location | Time | Contact |
|----------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| March 15 | SRCA Dragstrip – Great Bend, Kan. | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | (785) 483-1980 |
| March 22 | Springfield, Mo. | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | (800) 255-6827 ext. 115 |
| March 23 | Rolling Thunder Dragstrip at Mid-America Motorplex – Pacific Junction, Iowa | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | (402) 672-4826 |
| March 29 | Wichita Int'l Raceway – Wichita, Kan. | Noon – 5 p.m. | (316) 755-3474 |
| March 30 | KCIR – Kansas City, Mo. | Noon – 4 p.m. | (816) 358-6700 |
| March 30 | Pueblo Motorsports Park – Pueblo, Colo. | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | (719) 543-7747 |
| April 5 | Mid-America Raceway – Wentzville, Mo. | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | (636) 639-6465 |
| April 5 | Wichita Int'l Raceway - Wichita, Kan. | Noon – 5 p.m. | (316) 755-3474 |
| April 12 | Bandimere Speedway – Denver, Colo. | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | (303) 697-6001 |
| April 12 | Elsinger Mech. Services – Tea, S.D. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | (605) 368-5638 |
| April 12 | Rock Falls Raceway – Eau Claire, Wisc. | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. | (715) 858-0170 |
| April 19 | Tri-State Raceway – Earlville, Iowa | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | (563) 923-3724 |

SUMMIT RACING SERIES E.T. FINALS RULE CLARIFICATIONS

The rules for Division 5 are as follows:

- Super Pro: Electronics Refer to the E.T. section of the 2003 NHRA Rulebook for what is accepted.
- Pro and Sportman: Non-electronics Refer to the E.T. Section of the 2003 NHRA Rulebook with the following exceptions:
 - **Tachometers** Playback and shift light permitted. Printing tachometers prohibited.
 - Transbrake Wiring must consist of a single continuous wire from the power source to a switch and a single continuous wire from the switch to the transbrake. One splice is permitted from the two-step to the solenoid (i.e.. between the switch and the solenoid).
 - Dual line-loc Wiring must consist of a continuous wire from the power source to the switch and a single continuous wire from the switch to the line-loc(s) solenoid(s).
 - Shifter Mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical shifters permitted AS LONG AS THE SHIFT FUNCTION IS DRIVER ACTIVATED.
 - Rev Limiter Two-step maximum permitted. No three or fourstep allowed. Refer to the E.T. Section of the 2003 NHRA Rulebook, Electrical: 8, Ignition, for correct installation requirements. Single stage rev limiter permitted in Sportsman category only.
 - The following are prohibited in non-electronics classes: automated shifters, electronic throttle stops/timers, and aftermarket electronics; i.e. delay boxes, counters, timers, etc.
- Motorcycles Refer to the E.T. Motorcycle section of the 2003 NHRA Rulebook

National event entry forms

Please remember that national event entry forms must be submitted to NHRA headquarters, 2035 Financial Way, Glendora, CA 91741, before the deadline date to avoid late fees. Generally, the deadline for an event is 30 days prior, but this is not always the case. If you have questions, please contact the division office.

Additionally, keep in mind that a new withdraw policy has been placed into effect. A transfer fee of \$50 due for all contestants wishing to transfer a previously withdrawn entry to [this event]. Applicant must withdraw [this event] entry prior to the deadline date. Failure to withdraw prior to deadline date will result in forfeiture of entry fees paid. Requests to withdraw from [this event] must be made in writing (fax, e-mail, or letter) to the NHRA Competition Department prior to the event deadline. Sample entry deadlines are as follows:

NHRA SummitRacing.com Nationals, Las Vegas
O'Reilly Spring Nationals presented by Pennzoil, Houston
Mac Tools Thunder Valley NHRA Nationals, Bristol
Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Southern Nationals
presented by Pontiac, Atlanta
Matco Tools SuperNationals presented by Racing
Champions, Englishtown
April 14
O'Reilly Summer Nationals presented by Castrol GTX, Topeka
April 21

NHRAZDay returns to Division 5

Bob Frey and *NHRA2Day* will feature two West Central Division member tracks during the 2003 season. On July 12-13, the King of the Track event at Viking Int'l Raceway in Gimli, Man., will be featured, and on Aug. 23-24, Frey and his crew will travel to SRCA Dragstrip in Great Bend, Kan., to spotlight the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event.

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

As many of you are aware, a number of member tracks in the West Central Division have undergone significant changes during the winter months. The biggest question on everyone's mind has been whether Heartland Park Topeka will open for the 2003 season and if the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event as well as the O'Reilly Summer Nationals will take place. The answer to both of these questions is a resounding yes. Heartland Park Topeka has been purchased by Raymond Irwin, who is eager to get started. Additionally, the track in Douglas, Wyo., has undergone significant changes, both in name and management staff. The new name of this facility is Douglas Motorsports Park, and it will have a full schedule in 2003, Finally, Mid-America Dragway in Arkansas City, Kan., has been purchased by Division 5 Super Comp and Super Gas competitor Tom Vargas.

The fifth stop on the 2003 Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series schedule will be SRCA Dragstrip in Great Bend, Kan., home of the first NHRA national event. We look forward to bringing a division-level event back to Great Bend and extend a warm welcome and thank you to R.C. Williams and his staff.

With the division events in mind, West Central Division track operators voted to increase the purse for Comp through Super Street in 2003. The increase represents an approximate \$2,800 maximum increase at each event. Additionally, the entry fee for all eliminators will increase to \$140.

We look forward to an exciting and challenging 2003 season here in the West Central Division. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a member of my staff at the division office at (816) 795-8055.

Have a safe and prosperous season,



APR

NHRA SPRING SPORTSMAN

AN OFFICIAL NHRA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT









CASH PURSE Plus Contingency Awards





EVENT SCHEDULE

| FRIDAY, APRIL 4: Registration and Parking(Track test & tune pay to run) | .5-8 p.m |
|---|----------|
| SATURDAY, APRIL 5: Pit Gate & Tech Open | 9 a.m |
| Time Trials | 10 a.m |

| (Session Order: Stk/SS Combo, SST, SG, SC, Jr. Dragste | 10 a.m. |
|--|--------------------|
| Pro 1/4 mile, S/Pro 1/4 mile) | i, mopily, otreet, |
| Super Stock & Stock | |
| National Record Runs | 10 a.m-4 p.m. |
| Jeg's Super Quick Qualifying | 2, 4 & 6 p.m. |
| Tech Closes for Saturday's Events | |
| Saturday's E.T. Eliminations | |
| Super Eliminator Shootouts | 7:30 p.m. |
| | |

| SUNDAY, APRIL 6: | | |
|---|----------|------|
| Gates and Tech Open | 8 | a.m. |
| RFC Chapel Service | 8:15 | a.m. |
| Time Trials | 9 | a.m. |
| (Session Order: Stk/SS Combo, S/ST, S/G, S/C, Jr. Dragster, S/Pro | o 1/8 mi | le, |
| Trophy, Pro 1/8 mile) | | |
| Tech Closes | 11 | a.m. |
| Jeg's Super Quick Eliminations | | |
| (64-car field) | 11 | a.m. |
| Jr. Dragster Eliminations | | |
| Final Fliminations | 1:30 | n m |

| ENTRY FEES: | |
|---|------------|
| NHRA Classes Car & Driver | \$100 |
| Jeg's Super Quick Car & Driver | \$60 |
| Super Pro 1/4 mile Saturday Car & Dri | ver\$60 |
| Super Pro 1/8 mile Sunday Car & Drive | er\$60 |
| Pro 1/4 mile Saturday Car & Driver | \$50 |
| Pro 1/8 mile Sunday Car & Driver | \$50 |
| Street (1/4 mile Saturday only) Car & I | Driver\$40 |
| Jr. Dragster Car & Driver each day | \$10 |
| | A |

| S/S-STOCK COMBO (Qualifying - All Run) Winner Runner-up Round Money Begins 3rd Round | 500. |
|--|------|
| SUPER COMP (8.90 - All Run) WinnerRunner-up Round Money Begins 3rd Round | 500. |
| SUPER GAS (9.90 - All Run) WinnerRunner-up | |

Round Money Begins 3rd Round50. **SUPER STREET** (10.90 - All Run) Winner.....\$800. Runner-up400. Round Money Begins 3rd Round50.

| STREET E.T. 1/4 mile (Sat (NO electronics) | t. only) |
|---|----------|
| (NO electronics) | |
| Winner | \$500 |
| Runner-up | 250 |
| Semi-final | 125 |
| Quarter-final | 75 |
| JR. DRAGSTER (Each Day) | |

Semi-final......Medallion May enter two categories same day, same car & driver.

JEG'S SUPER OUICK (Qualify 64 cars)

| (1/8 mile - 4.50-6.39) | , |
|---|----------|
| (1/0 111116 - 4.50-0.59) | |
| Winner | \$1,200. |
| Runner-up | 600. |
| Semi-final | |
| Quarter-final | |
| Eighth-final | |
| Low Qual. Open & Bodied \$100 CERTIFICATE | |
| | |
| Non qualifiers may run S/Pro 1/8 mile | |

SUPER PRO 1/4 mile (Sat.)

| (7.50 - OD All hull W/Delay bux) | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Winner | \$1,200. |
| Runner-up | |
| Semi-final | 300. |
| Quarter-final | 200. |
| Eighth-final | 125. |
| 3 | |

SUPER PRO 1/8 mile (Sun.)

| (4.50 - Up All Run W/Delay Box) | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Winner | \$1,200. |
| Runner-up | |
| Semi-final | 300. |
| Quarter-final | |
| Eighth-final | 125. |
| | |

| PKU E. I. 1/4 mile (5af.) - 1 | /& mile (Sun.) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Winner | \$1000. |
| Runner-up | 600. |
| Semi-final | 200. |
| Quarter-final | |
| ighth-final | 75. |
| 3 | |

| PHONE CONTACTS | : |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Track Phone | 618-482-2400 |
| Track Emergency | 618-261-2700 |
| | 765-689-8727 |
| Division 5 Office | 816-795-8055 |
| | |

2003 CONTINGENCY AWARDS SPONSORS

| ADVANCED CHASSIS | CHASSIS |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CANODE CHASSIS | CHASSIS |
| CHAMPION RACING ENGINES | ENGINE ASSEMBLY |
| COAN ENGINEERING | TORQUE CONVERTER |
| COAN ENGINEERING | TRANSMISSION |
| CRANE CAMS | CAMSHAFT |
| CRANE CAMS | ROCKER ARMS |
| CRANE CAMS | ROLLER LIFTERS |
| HOGAN'S RACING MANIFOLDS | INTAKE MANIFOLD |
| HUGHES PERFORMANCE | TORQUE CONVERTER |
| BILL HURST ENTERPRISEWAY | COOL EVAPORATIVE COOLER |
| JIMS PERFORMANCE TRANSMISSION | TRANSMISSION |
| LENCO EQUIPMENT CO | TRANSMISSION |
| DICK MILLER RACING | REAR SUSPENSION KIT |
| OHIO CRANKSHAFT | CRANKSHAFT |
| More Contingency Award Sponsors to co | ome. |

SPECIAL NOTE

- JEG'S Super Quick Series is a qualified 64-car field at this event only.
- Super Stock and Stock National Record Runs.
- First Chance for 2003 National Event Grading Points in Division 3.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

| Four Points Sheraton (Fairview Heights) | 618-622-9500 |
|---|--------------|
| Holiday Inn (Collinsville) | 618-345-2800 |
| Drury Inn (Collinsville) | 800-325-8300 |
| Holiday Inn (St. Louis) | 314-421-4000 |
| / | |

2003 West Central Division schedule of events

| Date | Event | Location |
|-------------|--|---|
| May 2-4 | Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event | Heartland Park Topeka Topeka, Kan. |
| May 10-11 | Wyoming Ethanol National Open Series | Tri-State Raceway Earlville, Iowa |
| June 6-8 | Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event | Brainerd Int'l Raceway Brainerd |
| June 20-22 | Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event | Bandimere Speedway Denver |
| June 28-29 | Jr. Drag Racing League division championship | Kearney Raceway Park Kearney, Neb. |
| July 12-13 | Wyoming Ethanol National Open Series | Pueblo Motorsports Park Pueblo, Colo. |
| Aug. 2-3 | Wyoming Ethanol National Open Series | Interstate Dragways Moorhead, Minn. |
| Aug. 8-10 | Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event | Nebraska Motorplex Scribner, Neb. |
| Aug. 22-24 | Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event | SRCA Dragstrip Great Bend, Kan. |
| Sept. 5-7 | Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series division event | Tri-State Raceway Earlville, Iowa |
| Sept. 12-14 | Summit Racing Series division Finals | Bandimere Speedway Denver |
| Sept. 20-21 | Wyoming Ethanol National Open Series | Kansas City Int'l Raceway Kansas City, Mo. |

Bob's Bits

The most common phone call I have been receiving lately has been discussing the new "helmet bar" requirement for front engine and rear engine dragsters.

Here is how it is. You will need to have the helmet bars installed in your car before a chassis certification or re-certification can be done. The helmet bar size is 1-inch by .058 chrome moly or .118 mild steel. The bars must be installed approximately half way up on the roll cage. Also for a six-point roll cage there must be a total of five pieces or a total of four pieces for a five-point roll cage.

At this time, this requirement does not apply to roadsters or altereds. I will keep you posted on this.

Next on the old phone discussion list is the expiration dates for the transmission shield, flexplate shield and flexplate. All shields and the flexplate must have the current dated SFI sticker. The transmission and flexplate shields have a 5-year expiration; the flexplate has a 3-year expiration.

Also a reminder to the TAD and TAFC teams, you will need a clutch/bellhousing exhaust filter starting this season.

Last but not least, the electronic changes for the three super categories. Please read the latest rule revisions in National Dragster for the correct wording for this change. It is pretty self-explanatory in the revision.

Have to go for now, just remember to check the expiration dates on all of your safety equipment. It is easier to find out if it is expired now rather than waiting until you get to the race.

See you at the races! Bob

NHRA WEST CENTRAL DIVISION SUMMIT RACING SERIES FINALS RETURNS TO BANDIMERE SPEEDWAY

The qualifying phase of the season-long NHRA Summit Racing Series is about to begin at West Central Division tracks, and competitors will turn their focus to the NHRA West Central Division Summit Racing Series Finals, Sept. 12-14 at Bandimere Speedway in Denver.

A few revisions have been made to the division policies and procedures. Each of the track teams may now consist of a total of 40 qualifiers, including a combined **36-member team** made up of Super Pro, Pro, Sportsman, and Pro Bike racers. Each track will also be allowed **four high school students** on the final team roster. These high school participants will now be allowed to **earn points** for their respective teams at the event. Additionally, High School racers will now be required to pay a **\$30 entry fee** to participate in the event.

The event will once again feature the West Central Division Race of Champions (car and bike) as well as a Gamblers race, if time permits. Commencing with the 2003 season, a track will be eligible to compete in the Race of Champions if it has at least five registered participants in the Finals. Each track's representative will be its top points finisher in the NHRA Summit Racing Series.

The E.T. breaks for the Bandimere event are as follows:

◆ Super Pro
 ◆ Pro E.T.
 ◆ Sportsman
 7.00 to 13.00 (Electronics)
 ★ Sportsman
 7.00 to 14.00 (No Electronics)
 13.00 and slower (No Electronics)

♦ Pro Bike 7.50 to 15.00 (Electronics)

♦ High School 11.70 and slower (No Electronics)

All qualifiers must have participated in a minimum of one event and appear on their track's team points list and roster. Each participant will be required to hold a valid NHRA E.T. bracket competition number and/or license, including High School racers. These items must be obtained prior to registration at the event to avoid a \$10 per occurrence surcharge.

Individual division champions in Super Pro, Pro, Sportsman, and Motorcycle will advance to the NHRA Summit Racing Series National Championship, which will be held in conjunction with the Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA Finals in Pomona in November. Each National Championship finalist will receive \$3,500.



Perfectly Strange Award to provide bonus each opportunity for five NHRA Lucas Oil Orag Racing Series eategories

Strange Engineering has signed a three-year agreement with the National Hot Rod Association to present the NHRA Perfectly Strange



Performance Award to competitors in five NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series categories.

The NHRA Perfectly Strange Performance Award will provide a \$250 bonus to the first racer in Stock Super Stock Super Gas, Super Comp and Super Street who wins

the first racer in Stock, Super Stock, Super Gas, Super Comp and Super Street who wins an elimination round by running dead-on their dial-in or index during any of the 23 NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series national events.

"We realize every race car has a product from Strange Engineering," said Jeff

Strange, owner of Strange Engineering. "Since we cannot pay contingency for every product we offer, the NHRA Perfectly Strange Performance Award program is our way of saying thanks to all racers for over 40 plus years of success."

Drivers in the five NHRA sportsman categories become eligible for the NHRA Perfectly Strange Performance Award by displaying the

official program decals on their race cars for a chance at their share of \$5,750.

Strange Engineering is offering a prize fund of \$26,000 for the NHRA Perfectly Strange Performance Award. The company will double

the award bonus at all events if a qualified racer wins while running either of Strange Engineering's NHRA contingency products and required decals, bringing the maximum total payout for the program to \$52,000.

Should no racer meet the criteria to claim the NHRA Perfectly Strange Performance Award at a specific national event, the bonus cash

will roll over to the next race.

Strange Engineering, with headquarters in Morton Grove, III., is a worldwide leader in manufacturing quality driveline and suspension

broducts.









