



STREET MACHINE

'40 COUPE & '32 ROADSTER AND FOR MY THIRD WISH...

COMMONWEALTH CLASSIC - BRITAIN'S ULTIMATE SLEEPER?

On the cover of the August issue, we have what could be the perfect hot rod - a big-block '32 roadster - meeting the perfect street rod - a fully-trimmed, small-blocked '40 Ford coupe - to cruise the Pacific Coast Highway of... erm, Kent. Then there's a one-owner, museum-quality original MkII Zephyr that looks like a concours classic until you fire up the supercharged Ford V8. It's one super-sneaky sleeper. There's a mega-detailed, clean-machine custom Beetle that rides on air and drops your jaw, plus an Escort estate that a young man built on his driveway as a street custom in the early Eighties, now back on the streets after a 30-year hibernation! There are show reports from Beaulieu, Hot Rods & Hills, Billing and our Lazy Sunday Midlands in Stafford, race reports from Santa Pod's Summer Nationals and Retro Show, plus the Coventry MotoFest, plus all the usual fun and much, much more, all in the late, late August issue of Street Machine!

In July's Hot Gossip Mike suggested this month would be a "NitroFree, wild-ridin' Slammer Special!" yet kicks off with Finnish NitroWarrior Timo Lehtimäki stunning fans with his domination of the FIA Top Fuel eliminations at the last running of the FHRA's wonderfully named [Nitro Nationals](#). MC thought this reason enough to publish an Xtreme crop (the whole car, wall-to-wall across the page!), of Timo making [the Pod's final 1320 Q run](#) to show the main difference between today's 21st century mega-powered, NitroFired monsters and our front engined AAFD's that billowed smoke from their slicks as they stormed the quarter mile in 1968...



...in August that year Commuter and Tudor Rose continued their battle for top gun honours (full frame this time folks!), with both cars breaking into the eights on a drag strip at roughly the same time - but just over a thousand miles apart! The loss of a caption amongst some 1960s images means there's an unannounced segue back to the future, landing at Dragstalgia where Mike continued his lengthy birthday celebrations in style with some action-packed images pages and an in-depth look at Saturday's great race between Rockin' Ramon and Nitro Nick in amongst the mainly nitro fueled action of the Nostalgia Cannonball that Mike calls "the best birthday present you could wish for..." (It was that good of a race I should've added, "Pity someone had to lose!") MC

On sale now!



OCDVW - THE CLEANEST GREEN MACHINE YOU'VE SEEN

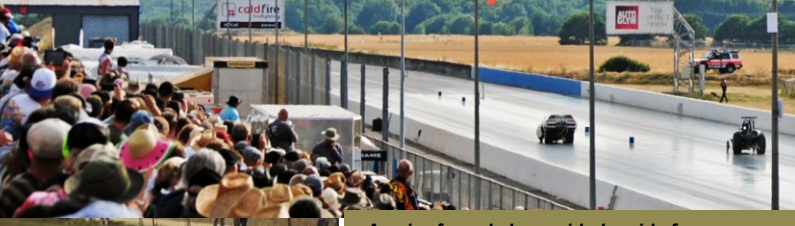


POST-PUNK TIMEWARP - HOW IT REALLY WAS IN '81

[Suzy Q](#) kicks off Nick's Saturday afternoon film on this link...



Après Street Machine had gone to print MC found out Chi Town had finally done its thing old school style, pounding the ground while churning an' burnin' way past the Street Machine banner...



A pair of good close, side-by-side funny car races led the session before [Chi Town's burnout](#)



Sadly after backing up it fell silent as Nick Davies let loose on Rob Loaring's tune-up, running a stout 6.21 and ending the session with a new PB top speed of 238.91! Nitro Nick returned later to give Havoc fans a fine farewell, eating Ramon's 0.0417 hole shot to win the Cannonball with another 6.21 at 231.70 over the TAFC's 6.41 at 215.93 - but Nick had gone home by then...



mcSnips from Sunday courtesy Nick Pettitt @ YouTube



Brian Sparrow photo courtesy [timetraveltdvs](#)



Santa Pod's drag racing roots began Easter Monday 1966 with rain - and a topless control tower!

And probably fewer spectators than in the original image mix that came to mind when I wrote "This was once the pits and we parked in the fields - just like today!" But it filled more than half-a-page and the lack of action between the pairs of cars was too much - so it was swapped for what I feel was a more powerful mix shown in your Hot Gossip. That said, it's still a cool mix, and with this pit shot and the track image on the next page from later in 1966, you can truly see just how much things have changed, both on an off track...

Up Next...

Close racing in 1967!





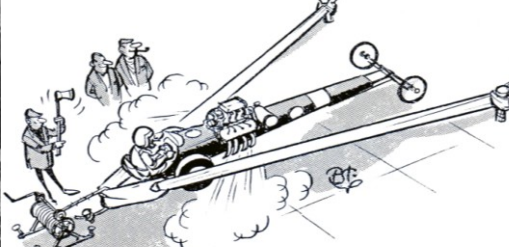
Most folks know that the Pod's first NitroMessiah was Bud Barnes, smoking his Ultra Sonic AAFD to an 8.57 in 1966 and then 8.47 at 189mph in 1967, but many forget about our two wheeled NitroWarrior Alf Hagon whose 10.27 from July '66 was 0.391 ahead of Les Turner's 10.661 dragster track record that year!



Unless noted all B&W photos
John Bennett
DragRod



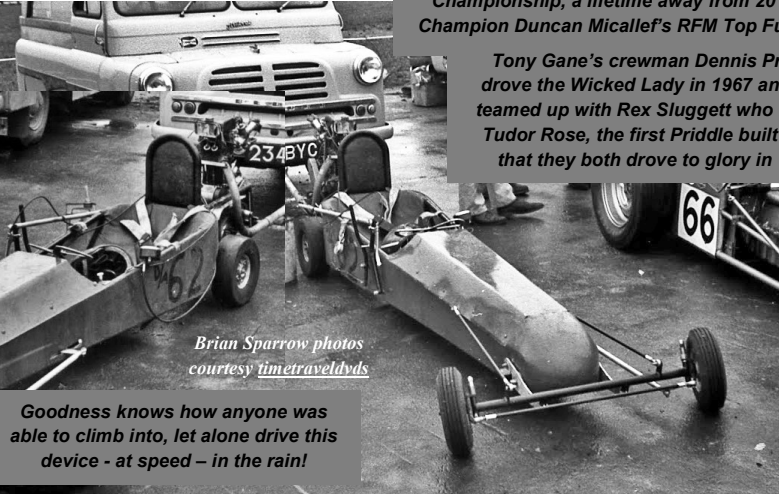
In winning Britain's first Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship in 1967, Alf became the first biker on the planet to run single-digit quarter mile ETs - a 9.93 and a blistering 9.67 at 143 mph, the Pod's British track record until Tony Densham's 9.1 in the Commuter AAFD with an engine many times larger!



Always loved this 1965 cartoon from Drag Racing Magazine 'cos I figured that's what it'd feel like when you hammer down in a rail!



The following year Alf went 157mph in a mind-blowing 9.3 seconds, and this Xtreme crop's just as wild...



Brian Sparrow photos courtesy [timetravelvids](#)

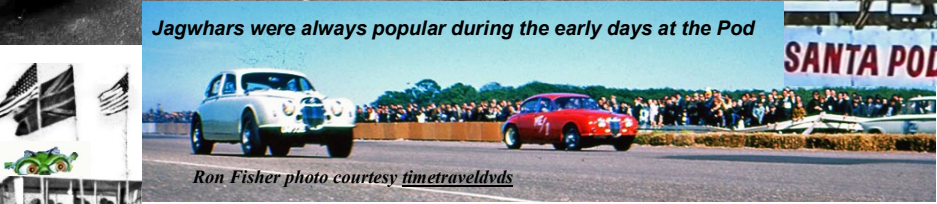
Goodness knows how anyone was able to climb into, let alone drive this device - at speed - in the rain!

Tony Gane's diminutive Rudge powered Wicked Lady that he drove to the 1966 BHRA Championship, a lifetime away from 2017 FIA Champion Duncan Micallef's RFM Top Fuel ride.
Tony Gane's crewman Dennis Priddle drove the Wicked Lady in 1967 and then teamed up with Rex Sluggett who funded Tudor Rose, the first Priddle built AAFD that they both drove to glory in 1968



mcSnip courtesy Ron Bailey

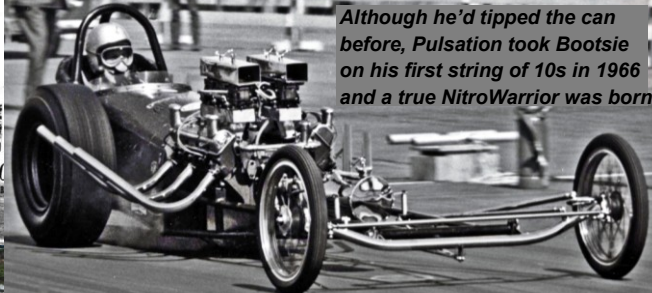
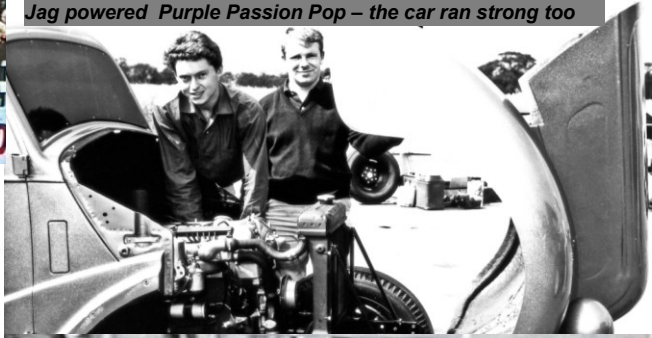
Jerry Jackson and Dave Cottingham made the lightweight 'glass doors, boot lid and the UK's first flip front end for their Jag powered Purple Passion Pop - the car ran strong too



Jagwhars were always popular during the early days at the Pod

Ron Fisher photo courtesy [timetravelvids](#)

In the summer of '66 Brian Holmes flag starts Northern drag racing pioneer Clive Lingard who put the Owen, Hicks, Lingard Lincoln powered slingshot ahead of a modified Mustang, probably driven by a US serviceman. The arena looks a tad more laid back than the 2018 version at left!



Although he'd tipped the can before, Pulsation took Bootsie on his first string of 10s in 1966 and a true NitroWarrior was born



Didn't have the space to use this in Street Machine so I put Bill Sherratt's gorgeous cackle car on white, but thought you'd enjoy seeing it on the mud from that crazy Easter weekend!

Mud shot courtesy Andy Willsheer

Cliff Jones Corvette powering away from a flying Jagwhar in my all-time favourite top end shot from 1966. Oh yes, those were true glory days, when men were men - and perhaps a tad crazy too!

