

Okay folks, it's show time with a rare Buckler, but Jagwar powered and sporting stovepipe headers long as the Gold Leaf gal's legs, almost! And a Pop with a 289 V8 in the driver's seat and I was still driving a Mustang! Until they shipped me up atop that tall tower to introduce Silverstone circuit race fans to NitroThunder from Commuter and boy did she pound the ground, with Stu Bradbury waving flags for our track stars including Roy Phelps, doing it in style, with FGR's good looking Stingray.



Did you know that Ford debuted their Capri in January 1969? That means that Ford's Euro-coupe favourite is 50 years old, and we're celebrating with a pair of the wildest on the street - both V8, both forced induction, and both as mean as a Grizzly with PMT. Then there's a trophy winning Skoda Rapid showing it all off in bare metal, and showing that you can build a show-stopping custom car without needing a bank-busting budget. Or perhaps you'd rather see a field-fresh '41 Chevy pick-up, looking quaint and mid-western while, under the bonnet, hides a very Eastern secret...? We've the tale of a bunch of hot rod and American car owners on a continental search for fine dining and finer driving, a quick catch-up on some of the summer show reports that missed their slot, Andy Willsheer visits the California Hot Rod Reunion at Famoso, Jerry Cookson recounts the superb bench-racing session at the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala, and some 'Oldsters' look back at the glory days of the West County Roadsters. All this, plus all the usual fun and much more in the January Street Machine, on sale December 27th. Have a really happy new year - get your copy. Merry Christmas!

Saturday night fever

We kick off January's Hot Gossip with one of the most pow racing, the mountain view from the 1,000foot club high up at the end of 1987's 1/4mile long grandstands morphed with a pair of fired-up, in y'face fuel coupes with the power of Pomona's California sunshine almost lighting up the driver's eyes in the planet's first 280mph AAFC ready to race on the start line



Then the first Winternats' Top Eliminator in 1961 (talk about contrast!), an ultrarare 1966 steel bodied FX funny with revolutionary 5-spoke Cragar's – even on its trailer! More in y'face fuel coupe action - a legendary shootout 'tween Ace an' the Snake, then the planet's quickest & fastest top fuel race for \$50k - wow! Half-a-dozen totally different shots of top fuel legends in classic NitroAction then we time shift to Silverstone way back in 1968, so please cross the page...



SPEED TRIALS

Searched for "Captain Z" to get a time shiftin' image, landed on this Still Ramblin' tale from about five years ago and thought you'd enjoy the lead images from the piece titled Except it's now 60 years!

My first drag race was in 1959, on the Bukit Timah Road in Singapore, and I won! Got lucky too when busted by the MP's - being Royal Navy in army trucks they let us off! 50-years later the California Highway Patrol pulled me over for running way beyond the limit. Being a Brit meant much paper work, so he just smiled and said "Enjoy the races. You too folks – here's Eric Sawyer's classic 1979 image of Snowman's 6-inch hole shot over Raymond Beadle's Blue Max in the planet's quickest side-by-side fuel coupe race, won by Gene Snow's 6.04 to a thundering 6.00! Okay, so I was surfin' and missed it, but

this image keeps the memory live forever! Young Eric was a true pioneer, being at Brighten when Mickey Thompson laid waste to our staid British sprinting establishment, telling 'em they were doing it all wrong and then unleashing the Harvey Aluminum

Special's AA awesome NitroPower on a totally unsuspecting seaside crowd! Missed that too - being down under in the southern hemisphere on an oriental Rock a' Roll tour courtesy my Sovereign Lady Elizabeth of England! Didn't miss this awesome sight though, being there for Street Machine, right where I love to be, up close for some in y face thunder as Dennis Priddle shows us the real deal with an earth shaking, old school, tall tyre burnout 🛭 before a 5.99,

230mph, first round bye run in 1982. Around that time Street Machine went oop north to York where Al and Brett from the Hit Man fuel coupe crew joined in fun for charity with wild hair does - do not try this at home 'cos it stains everything! Don't try fire breathing either 'cos it's crazy! It was the first International shootout at Sweden's Mantorp Park on my birthday in 1987, won by a local racer in the middle who flamed on first! This Xtreme



crop of Andy Willsheer's shot captures a magic moment that screams "Drag Race!" with



