

NHRA NATIONAL OPEN; by Hal Sangunitti-.....Speedworld officially kicked off the 2010 NHRA Division 7 racing season with their National Open on the weekend of January 29-31. The classes included a Stock/SuperStock combo, Super Street, Super Gas, Super Comp and Top Cop along with two brackets, plus 5 Junior Dragster Divisional Classes; and the racing was good in every class to go along with the great sunny weather.

Some of the classes suffered from lighter-than-expected turnouts, such as Top Comp. The lack of entries, however, was offset by the excitement of seeing John Taylor, Jr (known as Po-Po) take the victory exactly a year after his heart-stopping crash in last year's event - in the same car, no less! John stopped his final round opponent Roy Cracraft with a 7.536, 170.00 (7.51 dial) to Cracraft's 7.231, 172.88 (7.21 dial).

This year's anxious moment came in Super Comp, when Chandler driver Darin Dolezal flipped his son Brandon's beautiful car just past the finish line when the carbon-fiber brakes grabbed unevenly. Darin was extremely fortunate that the car cleared the ground and ended up more-or-less on the wheels, also narrowly missing the guardrail in the other lane before coming to a stop. Once again, the stringent NHRA safety rules did the job and Darin suffered only a minor cut in his wild ride.

In the Super Comp final, it was John Freer from Maricopa taking a holeshot win at 8.930, 174.55 over Mike Theulen from nearby Laveen who ran 8.926, 166.17.

Super Gas was the largest of the NHRA categories and had a pair of good friends in the final. Joe "The Plumber" Esposito had his orange machine running well all day and ended up against Kevin Kleinweber in the Hughes Performance racer. "I couldn't have done it without his help," Joe said after the final, referring to Kevin - the two racers were parked next to each other and ended the day that way on the line for the final, which Esposito won on another holeshot: 9.936, 158.12 to 9.910, 158.17.

Super Street was doing double duty on Sunday, running both the National Open and an AZ S/ST Points race. Several of the favorites went out early, including National & Divisional winner Tim Landis, who related "When the green came on I guess I just thought, oh wow it's time to go" - not the hot tip for winning in this extremely competitive category! But probably the most interesting thing in the entire class came in the final, as father Bernie Polvadore raced son Seth Polvadore for the class cup! Needless to say, there was a lot of friendly trash-talking in the lanes before the race, but when they came to the line it was all serious - so serious that Dad left too soon to hand the victory to the Kid! Oh well, old age and treachery will have another chance to race youth and cunning sometime again soon.

The Stock/SuperStock combo was also a little light on cars but definitely not light on action! The slowest car in the field - Mark Yacavonne's little turbocharged V/SA Mustang - set a National record in qualifying and was #1 by a big margin. However, in eliminations he came up short in the second round and had to go home satisfied that he has the quickest and fastest car in the country for its class. The final was somewhat anti-climatic as Bob Elliott's '84 Olds rolled to the line alone because Josh Edwards heard something wrong in the engine of Rick Watters' low-slung new ride. "It didn't sound right to me, and I didn't want to damage a \$30,000 engine for him," Josh related later - smart move. Elliott singled for the win at 12.847, 102.83.

The largest class of the weekend was the Non-Electronic bracket and it ended up with an unusual pair - a car and a motorcycle! Jerry Martinez from nearby El Mirage had his '08 Suzuki Katana running very well all day to reach the final, where he came up against former track Champion John Shure in the Mr Magoo II Valiant. The experience paid off as Shure took the win, 10.773, 122.32 (10.79 dial) to Martinez' 9.886, 142.50 (9.70 dial). The Electronic Bracket winner was Kent Goodyear in his flamed Vega wagon at 10.919, 132.08 (10.90 dial) over Mike Goad's very sharp Camaro from Washington state, who ran 9.6197, 136.61 (9.56 dial).

NHRA NATIONAL OPEN; JUNIOR WRITE UP AS FOLLOWS.....

Jan 29, 30, 31 2010 by Amy Eberwein

JUNIOR SECTION; What a GREAT WEEKEND!!!!!!!

Thanks to everyone who came out.

On Friday the 29th we held a gambler race. There were two groups. 8-12 and 13 and up. In the 8-12 #7266 Dylan Horrage took the win over #765 Brandon Savolt. With a double break out final, the winner in the 13 & up was #7505 Shelby Eberwein who ran #7636 Ryan Greenwell.

On Saturday all the Jr's were battling it out for the Wally. In the 8-9 year old category #721 Keuki Desa took home the Wally running on his 12.93 dial. # 7910 Kyle Cowling coming in second. In the 10-12 year old category #704 Payton Fleetwood won over #A701 Evan Kowalski. In the 13 -14 year old category #7644 Josh Taylor took the win over #7559 Avery Brown by running on his dial of 8.08. In the 15 & up category #787 Zack Meziere took the win over #7496 Kaytlin McGee.. In the Jr. Comp category Kaytlin McGee took home the Wally, with #7095 Darien Lederer coming in second.

Sunday Morning all the racers were prepping for the first Division 7 race of the year.

With one time run then straight into eliminations #721 Keuki Desa came home with a double header weekend. #7910 Kyle Cowling came in second to Keuki Desa in the 8-9 year old group. #7127 Cody Webber won the 8-12 year old category followed by #765 Brandon Savolt. In the 13 – 14 age group #7559 Avery Brown took the win over #7124 Dotson S. In the 15 & up bracket #7044 Jimmy Morosan took the win dialing 7.91 and running a 7.91 against #749 Chad Webber. In the Jr. Comp bracket Darien Lederer didn't like second place on Saturday. So he took the win on Sunday from Kaytlin McGee. It was a great day of racing.

The 50/50 raffle that was held for Jacob Valencia totaled \$1080.00. Thanks for all the donations. If you go onto the Caring Bridge site below you can see the posting from the Valencia's as well. Go to the following site and log in to keep an eye on him and to follow his treatments and recovery. www.caringbridge.org/visit/jacobvalencia