

NATIONAL

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DRAGSTER

TOP NOTCH

There's no slowin' Cohen as he wins Bristol, Chicago Top Dragster titles on same weekend



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RACE COVERAGE

Norwalk, Chicago, Bristol completion

DELIVER BY JULY 31, 2015

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

by Jim Luikens

Mike Janis won the NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series presented by the Real Pro Mod Association event in Norwalk, but he was also a winner off the track. Last year at this event, a fan told Janis that a friend believed he had the Willys Gasser that had originally been owned and raced by Janis' father back in the day. Janis, who had been looking for the race car for several decades, was interested but skeptical. The same fan approached Janis this year and said that the car's owner was at the track.

After preliminary conversations seemed to indicate that it might indeed be the long-sought car, the current owner then traveled one and a half hours home to retrieve the Willys. Upon arriving at the track, further inspection continued to indicate that this might be the racer. The Willys remained in the Janis pit for the rest of the weekend as a good-luck charm before joining Janis and crew in the winner's circle for photos.

Due to the substantial growth of his business, **Harold Martin** has only been able to participate at a few Pro Mod races this season. He was particularly happy to be in Norwalk because it is the closest race to his Michigan base. Martin said that one thing he finds extremely gratifying at the track are the knowledgeable fans who attend NHRA races. He enjoys talking with them because they are very up to date about the latest forms of racing technology.

Mike Yedgarian, of Toronto, made his NHRA Pro Mod debut in Norwalk. He and his wife are sometimes called the Canadian



Dan Stevenson

Gliddens because they were the only two people to work on Yedgarian's race car for many years. In Norwalk, they had a little larger crew to help them as they worked most of the week to convert the '68 Firebird to NHRA-legal trim. His driveline combination is somewhat unique in that he runs a manual transmission behind his turbocharged engine. Yedgarian's best elapsed time of 6.015 left him 20th on the final qualifying sheet despite being only .019-second away from the 16th spot; however, his 251.02-mph run was the second-best speed of the weekend.

It was good to see the other '68 Firebird on the premises qualify for eliminations. Albuquerque, N.M.'s **Clint Satterfield** recorded a best elapsed time of 5.979 seconds in qualifying. Satterfield has been testing heavily recently with stops in Rockingham, N.C.; Norwalk; and Reading. He credits converter and gear ratio discoveries for his improved performance. More testing is planned in the days and weeks ahead as his team prepares for the Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis, the next stop on the Pro Mod tour.

Troy Coughlin Sr. set top speed of the event at 252.85 mph on race day. Coughlin anchored the all-five-second starting field at 5.996 seconds but went all the way to the

final round to notch a runner-up finish, his second of the year. Coughlin's 252.85-mph run earned him his third top speed of the meet in the six NHRA Pro Mod events that have been held so far in 2015. When you add in Troy Coughlin Jr.'s two top speeds of the meet, it is obvious that the pair have a lock on going fast.

Part of the story of Norwalk 2015 were the nonqualifiers. Four regulars Steven Whiteley, Gerry Capano, Steve Matusek, Eric Latino, and Don Walsh were among the 12 drivers who found themselves on the outside of a very tough starting field.

It was good to see **Dan Stevenson** qualify for his first race of 2015. Not only did he qualify, but he also won his first round of racing this year when he defeated Kevin Fiscus on a holeshot. Stevenson and Fiscus were just two of several racers who worked through the night to prepare their cars for Sunday's eliminations. Stevenson jokingly said that he expected Fiscus to be sleepy in the first round because he knew that the Fiscus team had worked until 5:30 a.m. on Sunday to prepare their car while his team had been able to call it a night at just 3:40 a.m.

Bob Rahaim continues to lead the points after Norwalk, but the top five are now only separated by just 29 points with four races to go. **ND**



Mike Yedgarian

PRO MOD

- Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) **5.838, 246.98**
- Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) **5.861, 250.92**
- Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. ('69 Daytona) **5.868, 247.93**
- Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) **5.900, 244.92**
- Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('69 Chevelle) **5.903, 244.52**
- Kevin Fiscus, Jacksonville, Fla. ('12 Mustang) **5.910, 247.52**
- Mike Knowles, Grand Junction, Colo. ('67 Mustang) **5.913, 244.21**
- Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('68 Camaro) **5.918, 248.61**
- Khalid alBalooshi, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) **5.923, 244.69**
- Robert Patrick Jr., Fredericksburg, Va. ('12 Mustang) **5.929, 246.26**
- Dan Stevenson, Bolingbrook, Ill. ('13 Camaro) **5.953, 239.82**
- Troy Coughlin Jr., Delaware, Ohio ('13 Corvette) **5.963, 247.88**
- Bill Glidden, Whiteland, Ind. ('10 Mustang) **5.964, 241.93**
- Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('15 Corvette) **5.966, 243.63**
- Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('68 Firebird) **5.979, 248.84**
- Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) **5.996, 247.84**

ALTERNATES: Steven Whiteley - 6.004, 242.76; Gerry Capano - 6.007, 237.59; Steve Matusek - 6.014, 244.60; Mike Yedgarian - 6.015, 251.02; Eric Latino - 6.017, 239.36; Don Walsh - 6.030, 248.75; Kenny Lang - 6.051, 241.97; Harold Martin - 6.094, 235.97; Michael Biehle - 6.099, 245.72; Jim Bell - 6.599, 210.21; Doug Winters - 7.184, 136.95; Chip King - 8.616, 102.81.

PRO MOD CHAMPION

MIKE JANIS

5.856-247.88 SMITH (.049)	5.878-252.85 COUGHLIN SR. (.075)	5.901-247.29 JANIS (.056)	5.867-246.80 JANIS (.081)
5.859-250.27 COUGHLIN SR. (.011)	5.948-247.66 COUGHLIN SR. (.049)	5.902-247.79 JANIS (.077)	7.362-136.69 SATTERFIELD (.084)
5.947-247.11 ROWE (.055)	6.019-236.84 ALBALOOSHI (.084)	5.960-242.71 PATRICK (.099)	11.810-69.58 KNOWLES (.284)
5.907-247.57 ALBALOOSHI (.064)	7.120-137.43 COUGHLIN SR. (.150)	5.902-247.34 JANIS (.102)	5.948-241.15 PATRICK (.087)
5.824-246.66 RAHAIM (.058)	6.224-231.24 RAHAIM (.089)	5.994-241.24 (FOUL) CASTELLANA (-.146)	5.910-247.79 FARBER (.044)
5.909-223.32 GLIDDEN (.018)	10.875-78.03 COUGHLIN JR. (.036)	6.032-241.15 STEVENSON (.076)	5.922-243.41 CASTELLANA (.027)
5.866-244.03 J. WHITELEY (.089)	6.061-249.39 COUGHLIN JR. (.044)	5.992-240.68 STEVENSON (.030)	5.931-247.57 FISCUS (.061)
5.901-250.18 COUGHLIN JR. (.024)			5.969-241.11 STEVENSON (.015)

LOW E.T.: 5.824 - RAHAIM
TOP SPEED: 252.85 - COUGHLIN SR.