



# NATIONAL DRAGSTER<sup>®</sup>

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## CHARGED UP!

BACK-TO-BACK WINS  
FUEL LANGDON'S  
RESURGENCE

## TOUGH TEXAN

WHEN IT COMES TO PAYING DUES, PRO STOCK'S CHRIS MCGAHA IS FREE AND CLEAR

# NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

It didn't take **Bill Glidden** and the Precision Turbo team long to bounce back from their DNQ at the previous NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series event. In only his third race with the team, Glidden drove the car to the winner's circle with a final-round defeat of Bob Rahaim. Glidden's record in this car is now an amazing two final rounds and one DNQ in just three races.

Speaking of Rahaim, the Michigan driver continued his recent hot hand with his second consecutive final-round appearance. In addition, he claimed his second consecutive No. 1 qualifying position as well as his second consecutive top speed of the meet honor. Not counting his DNQ in Atlanta, Rahaim has never qualified lower than sixth in his five other starts this year.

Both **Harold Martin** and **Chris Juliano** made their first NHRA Pro Mod appearance of the year in Norwalk. Even though Martin did not qualify, he fared the better of the two. Unqualified entering the final session, Juliano was pushing hard when he lost control of his car. Thankfully, he was unhurt in the ensuing crash, which saw his car slide for quite some distance on its roof.

Taking a look at the 27 Pro Mod cars on the ground in Norwalk reveals some interesting



Jim Bell

statistics. A total of 12 different body styles were represented by those 27 vehicles, and the most common was the C7 Corvette, which was on six cars. No. 2 was a tie between the '69 Camaro, C5 Camaro, and '67 Mustang with three entries each. That means that the four top body styles were split evenly with two new styles and two vintage bodies represented.

Canadian **Jim Bell** qualified for his first start of the 2016 NHRA season. Earlier nonqualifying efforts of 25th, 24th, 18th, 20th, and 19th preceded his 16th qualifying position in Norwalk. Brad Personett and Mark Savage, Al Billes' right-hand men during the week, are turning the wrenches on Bell's car, and his steady upward progression reflects that.

**Chuck Little** also qualified for his first NHRA start of the season. The New Hampshire driver recorded a fine 5.954 in qualifying that was good enough for the 12th starting spot. Noted

New England chassis builder Dan Page is the person getting his hands dirty tuning Little's Corvette.

North Carolina's **Doug Winters** continued to shine. His No. 6 qualifying position was his best of the season, and his second-round finish matched his best result for the year, which was recorded in Atlanta.

**Steve Matussek** is having quite a year in a Danny Rowe Racing team car. His '68 Camaro is affectionately named "Little Jimmy" in honor of crew chief Jimmy Rector and carries a large

mural of Jimmy on its trunk lid. For the season, Matussek has two third-round finishes, three second-round appearances, and one first-round finish in the six races to date.

**Mike Castellana** was a surprise nonqualifier in Norwalk after winning at the previous event. The competition to qualify for the Pro Mod field has never been fiercer, and Castellana's 5.987 best left him one position away from making the starting grid. Other strong runners who joined him on the sidelines for race day were Danny Rowe, Kenny Lang, and Houston winner Jim Whiteley.

It was good to see **Mike Janis** finally have a good race day this year. Last year's Norwalk winner reached the final four and notched a third-round finish. Entering this event, Janis only had four first-round finishes and one DNQ to show this year.

NHRA Pro Mod racers will take a two-month hiatus before their next event in Indianapolis over Labor Day weekend.



Michael Biehle

## PRO MOD

1. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) . . . . . **5.828, 247.16**
2. Von Smith, Kingston, Tenn. ('16 Corvette) . . . . . **5.832, 246.35**
3. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) . . . . . **5.838, 246.71**
4. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) . . . . . **5.853, 247.20**
5. Troy Coughlin, Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) . . . . . **5.867, 250.88**
6. Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevelle) . . . . . **5.867, 244.52**
7. Eric Latino, Whitby, Ont. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.891, 242.32**
8. Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('68 Camaro) . . . . . **5.894, 246.75**
9. Khalid alBalooshi, Doha, Qatar ('68 Camaro) . . . . . **5.896, 245.85**
10. Bill Glidden, Whiteland, Ind. ('14 Camaro) . . . . . **5.899, 249.67**
11. Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. ('69 Daytona) . . . . . **5.899, 247.25**
12. Chuck Little, Atkinson, N.H. ('63 Corvette) . . . . . **5.954, 233.72**
13. Mike Knowles, Grand Junction, Colo. ('67 Mustang) . . . . . **5.965, 241.32**
14. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('14 CTS-V) . . . . . **5.972, 244.65**
15. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) . . . . . **5.977, 249.16**
16. Jim Bell, Edmonton, Alta. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.984, 226.13**

**ALTERNATES:** Mike Castellana - 5.987, 244.25; Gerry Capano - 6.014, 238.34; Danny Rowe - 6.015, 243.37; Kenny Lang - 6.043, 244.69; Harold Martin - 6.111, 236.80; Ruben Tetsosvili - 6.188, 237.09; Dan Stevenson - 6.293, 185.33; Chris Juliano - 6.551, 223.95; Chip King - 6.612, 158.76; Clint Satterfield - 6.768, 168.79; Jim Whiteley - 7.503, 131.11.

### PRO MOD CHAMPION

## BILL GLIDDEN

5.911-244.74 <b>RAHAIM (.064)</b>	5.903-246.44 <b>RAHAIM (.046)</b>	5.941-243.77 <b>V. SMITH (.045)</b>	5.887-244.43 <b>V. SMITH (.033)</b>
DISQ.-C/LINE <b>BELL (.057)</b>	5.895-246.71 <b>RAHAIM (.025)</b>	5.895-251.81 <b>GLIDDEN (.069)</b>	5.890-250.74 <b>BIEHLE (.052)</b>
5.977-245.54 <b>MATUSEK (.012)</b>	6.003-245.18 <b>MATUSEK (.044)</b>	5.891-250.37 <b>GLIDDEN (.058)</b>	5.946-243.72 <b>LATINO (.005)</b>
6.375-183.99 <b>ALBALOOSHI (.099)</b>	11.453-76.10 (FOUL) <b>RAHAIM (-.061)</b>	5.893-245.63 <b>GLIDDEN (.052)</b>	5.880-250.83 <b>GLIDDEN (.063)</b>
5.909-246.21 <b>R. SMITH (.080)</b>	5.953-247.34 <b>R. SMITH (.018)</b>	5.927-244.87 <b>JANIS (.039)</b>	6.767-225.71 <b>JANIS (.050)</b>
6.045-236.22 <b>KNOWLES (.167)</b>	9.570-96.70 <b>R. SMITH (.023)</b>	5.938-245.36 <b>JANIS (.030)</b>	7.043-222.95 <b>S. WHITELEY (.075)</b>
5.922-250.00 <b>COUGHLIN (.073)</b>	5.931-249.72 (FOUL) <b>COUGHLIN (-.001)</b>	5.978-242.45 <b>WINTERS (.054)</b>	5.947-245.32 <b>WINTERS (.074)</b>
6.592-212.43 <b>LITTLE (.364)</b>			6.035-244.78 <b>FARBER (.037)</b>

**LOW E.T.: 5.828 - RAHAIM**  
**TOP SPEED: 251.81 - GLIDDEN**