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TOM *the* **Mongoose**
MCEWEN
1937 - 2018

The Mongoose logo, featuring a stylized orange and black mongoose character with its mouth open, showing sharp teeth. The character is positioned to the left of the text "Mongoose".

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

One of the most famous things about Summit Racing Equipment Motorsports Park is their \$1-a-pound ice cream. Not only do they have their \$1 ice cream, but each of the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals winners also receives a unique billet ice cream scoop for their trophy. Starting with 14 pounds of stainless steel and brass, it takes Todd Shaw nearly seven hours to construct each trophy.

Quickly changing weather during both days of Norwalk qualifying challenged all of the E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series presented by J&A Service competitors. On Friday, the Pro Mods were held to one qualifying session late in the day. That session was a split session with 19 cars running before the rain hit and then the final 10 running after the rain moved on.

Saturday saw more rain and reduced qualifying again as the Pro Mods got only one more session. Pop-up showers hindered qualifying throughout the day with the diligent track crew drying the track a total of five times as rain continuously moved through.

Because of all the rain, the Pro Mods actually ran their first round of eliminations early Sunday morning. **Mike Castellana** made what many feel was the run of the year to date when he recorded the fourth-quickest supercharger-powered NHRA Pro Mod elapsed time with a run of



Pete Farber

5.699 seconds. For the record, the weather conditions at that early hour were 2,455 feet of adjusted altitude, 84 percent humidity, 69 degrees of air temperature, and 84 degrees of track temperature. In the second round, which was held in the very early afternoon, Castellana lost a close race to Jeremy Ray when his 5.792-second elapsed time was barely eclipsed by Ray's 5.774-second run.

Sidnei Frigo, last year's Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals Pro Mod winner, had a thoroughly forgettable weekend in Norwalk. Frigo's best elapsed time of 8.411 seconds put him a surprising 27th of 28 drivers on the final qualifying sheet. The NHRA Pro Mod Series will now take a two-month summer break before returning to action in Indy over Labor Day weekend. There's no doubt that Frigo can't wait for that event. Interestingly, Frigo's new '69 Camaro, which he debuted earlier this year, features working brake lights.

Someone who had a great

weekend in Norwalk was **Pete Farber**. With his engine builder and supercharger supplier, Al Billes, in the house, Farber qualified his '69 Dodge Daytona 15th with a 5.885-second elapsed time. On race day, he drove all the way to the final four for his best NHRA finish of the season. Additionally, Farber had a .009-second reaction time in the second round and a .010-second reaction time in the third round to complete a great weekend of racing.

Hats off to the small but dedicated crew of **Doug Winters**. Winters grazed the wall at the last event in Bristol with his '69 Chevelle, but his crew repaired the

car quickly. Winters' Chevelle is one of only two that are currently competing on the NHRA tour. Canada's Eric Latino has the other, and despite their best efforts, both racers failed to make the show in Norwalk.

For the second week in a row, **Eric Dillard** was driving the '68 Pontiac Firebird of **Shane Molinari**. This car was the defending winner of the Norwalk event, and with it, Dillard qualified a strong sixth with a 5.799-second e.t. In an extremely close first-round race, Ray was able to prevail when his holed-shot-aided 5.776-second e.t. defeated Dillard's 5.744 run. Molinari is expected to return to the wheel of his car at the next event.

With seven of the 12 NHRA Pro Mod Series races now finished for 2018, it's not too soon to start thinking about the season-long points chase. **Rickie Smith** defeated **Mike Janis** in a titanic second-round battle between the Nos. 1 and 2 drivers in the points standings. When Smith went on to win the Norwalk event, he gathered enough points to take back the points lead from Janis. **NHRA**



Erica Enders

PRO MOD

1. Rick Hord, Belle Isle, Fla. ('16 Corvette) 5.754, 254.76
2. Mike Castellana, Oyster Bay, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) 5.766, 252.14
3. Jose Gonzalez, Ball Ground, Ga. ('17 Camaro) 5.772, 254.28
4. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('18 Camaro) 5.790, 249.16
5. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) 5.793, 246.53
6. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('18 Camaro) 5.795, 251.49
7. Eric Dillard, Bell Ground, Ga. ('68 Firebird) 5.799, 254.38
8. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('18 Camaro) 5.812, 245.14
9. Harry Hruska, Hebron, Ind. ('14 Camaro) 5.818, 250.55
10. Jeremy Ray, Lugoff, S.C. ('63 Corvette) 5.819, 246.08
11. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) 5.824, 245.90
12. Khalid alBalooshi, Ajman, United Arab Emirates ('18 Camaro) 5.827, 248.07
13. Dan Stevenson, Bolingbrook, Ill. ('16 Camaro) 5.837, 253.04
14. Pete Farber, Gardner, Mass. ('69 Daytona) 5.851, 243.72
15. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('18 Camaro) 5.859, 249.58
16. Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('67 Mustang) 5.866, 252.14

ALTERNATES: Steve Jackson - 5.867, 245.72; Jeffery Barker - 5.882, 253.09; Steve Matusek - 5.886, 247.43; Jim Whiteley - 5.891, 244.96; Erica Enders - 5.904, 250.04; Brandon Snider - 5.915, 243.33; Eric Latino - 5.916, 247.34; Doug Winters - 6.015, 241.37; Chuck Little - 6.085, 241.37; Clint Satterfield - 6.103, 243.85; Bob Rahaim - 6.939, 141.73; Sidnei Frigo - 8.411, 110.13; Chip King - 10.166, 88.20.

