



High & Mighty

WEST CENTRAL DIVISION NEWS



3720 Arrowhead Ave., Suite 103, Independence, MO

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

West Central Division tracks get facelifts

As the 2002 racing season comes to a close, member tracks in the West Central Division have already started preparing for the 2003 season. Interstate Dragways and Brainerd Int'l Raceway have each made significant improvements to their racing surfaces.



Interstate Dragways track owners Les Feist, Ron Johnson, and Clyde Fredrickson on the newly resurfaced starting line of Interstate Dragways

Paving of the Interstate race surface and shutdown area was completed Monday, Oct. 28; some paving work in the staging lanes and pit roads remains. New concrete guardwalls are now being poured, and the owners hope to have this completed before leaving for Pomona. A new control tower will also be completed before next season.



Brainerd Int'l Raceway resurfacing project

Track and grounds improvements scheduled for 2002 at Brainerd Int'l Raceway include a newly poured concrete launchpad to the 660-foot mark with the remaining track resurfaced in asphalt, an expansion of the racer pit and camping areas, widening of and resurfacing of roadways, an upgrade of the public address system, construction of 50 new RV camping sites complete with running water and power, bathroom upgrades, and construction of a lighted softball field and two volleyball courts.

DIVISION 5 ANNOUNCES PARTIAL 2003 LUCAS OIL DRAG RACING SERIES SCHEDULE

The West Central Division office has announced the dates for five of the six Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series divisional events for the 2003 racing season.

May 2-4, 2003
June 6-8, 2003
June 20-22, 2003
Aug. 8-10, 2003
Sept. 5-7, 2003

Heartland Park Topeka
Brainerd Int'l Raceway
Bandimere Speedway
Nebraska Motorplex
Tri-State Raceway
This series will have six events.

Topeka, Kan.
Brainerd, Minn.
Denver, Colo.
Scribner, Neb.
Earlville, Iowa





Congratulations to Steve Swenson, the 2002 KD Kanopy Super Shootout champion. Swenson clinched the title by qualifying for this exciting race within a race at the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series divisional event at Tri-State Raceway. He completed the series points chase with 168 points to Michael Miller's 138. Swenson will receive a championship coat, Wally trophy, 2003 Gold Card, and a \$500 KD Kanopy gift certificate at the 2002 West Central Division Awards Ceremony in January. Miller will receive a \$250 gift certificate from KD Kanopy. Congratulations on a great season!

West Central Division team set for Pomona; Team Brainerd is tops

The four winners of the 2002 West Central Division Summit Racing Series Finals are preparing to head for Pomona to compete in the NHRA Summit Racing Series National Championship held in conjunction with the Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA Finals and hope to keep the High & Mighty streak alive. Representing this year's team will be Eric Anderson of Eau Claire, Wis., in Super Pro; Doug Heinrichs of Dyersville, Iowa, in Pro; Brent Kopejtko of Pierce, Neb., in Sportsman; and Leslie Benbo of Winger,

Minn., will have one of two snowmobiles (sleds) competing in Motorcycle.

Our congratulations also go to Lacey Rowe of Mid-America Dragway in Arkansas City, Kan. Rowe defeated Tyler Bonham in the final round of High School eliminator to take home the 2002 High School championship. In addition to taking home a Wally trophy, she received this year's West Central Division Summit Racing Series Finals scholarship.

The Race of Champions event was postponed until Sunday morning, and each competitor received one time trial before eliminations began. Delray Dykstra of Litchville, N.D., beat Eric Anderson in the final, and Mike Voss of Maplewood, Minn., defeated Tracy Helmholtz for the Race of Champions Bike title. Team Brainerd Int'l Raceway avenged last year's second-place finish this year with the overall win and 51 points.

During the West Central Division Summit Racing Series Finals, the 2002 Jr. Drag Racing League division champions were crowned. Shaley Epperson of Silver Lake, Kan., is the 8-9-year-old champion; Lauren Thomas of Marshall, Mo., is our 10-12-year-old champion; and Bobby Polson of Derby, Kan., is this year's 13-17-year-old champion. Congratulations to all of our winners.

Race of Champions

Car

W: Delray Dykstra
R/U: Eric Anderson

Bike

W: Mike Voss
R/U: Tracy Helmholtz



Groundbreaking ceremonies held for Mid-America Motorplex dragstrip

NHRA President Tom Compton was among the dignitaries at Mid-America Motorplex Oct. 9 in Pacific Junction, Iowa, for the groundbreaking for an NHRA dragstrip addition to the popular year-old facility.

The new dragstrip is expected to open in March 2003 as an eighth-mile facility with the goal of expanding to a quarter-mile in the near future. Former NHRA Division 7 Director Brian Stichel will serve as dragstrip manager. A kart course and jet-ski course also are being planned.

The ceremony marked the return of NHRA drag racing to the Omaha/Council Bluffs area, where racers once competed at Offutt Air Force Base in drag racing's formative years.

Among the other dignitaries in attendance were NHRA Division 5 Director Rob Park; Funny Car racer and lifelong Iowan Tommy Johnson Jr.; and Pacific Junction Mayor James Lovely.

"We are very excited to have Mid-America Motorplex onboard in Division 5," said Park. "It will be a great addition that will provide many racing opportunities for the region."

"It is our intention to run E.T. programs, Jr. Drag Racing League programs, High School programs, and Street Racing programs on a weekly basis," said General Manager Aaron Johnson. "We will work hard to ensure that this is a facility that people want to come to for racing and entertainment."

Mid-America Motorplex is a multi-use national-level recreational driving facility designed to handle race cars, street cars, motorcycles, and police cars. It currently maintains a 2.23-mile road course designed by world-renowned designer Alan Wilson that has become a much sought-after venue by many of the nation's top motorsports organizations. The facility is located 20 minutes south of the Omaha/Council Bluffs area off Interstate 29. The track's website is located at www.midamericamotorplex.com.



Pictured at the Mid-America Motorplex dragstrip groundbreaking are, from left, NHRA Division 5 Director Rob Park, NHRA President Tom Compton, Motorplex General Manager Aaron Johnson, track owner Mark Tincher, and dragstrip manager Brian Stichel.

Team Brainerd Int'l Raceway

Super Pro	Pro	Sportsman	Bike/Sled
Butch Belair	Rick Beaulieu	Brad Heintzman	Allen Coffland
Mike Campbell	Ken Drevnick	Dan Hyttsten	Toby Giese
Greg Grundman	Lee Dugdale	Robert Ingman	David Taylor
John Helmin	Dave Engler	Brad Mickle	Mike Voss **
Wally Higby	Charlie Giddings	Joe Moulzolf	
Brian Johnson	Jim Knebel	Kevin Rolph	
Dave Koehnen	Dennis Remer	Jaime Turcotte	
Tim Lowe	Steve Roehrs	Neil Webster	
Ronnie Luberda	Matt Sother		
Troy Luberda	Eric Zimmerman		
Derek Martin			
Chuck Roycraft			
Joe Schmall	** ROC -		
Dave Ulhorn	Bike winner		

Summit Racing Series ET Finals

Best Appearing Car Award
Charlie Taylor – Dyersville, Iowa

Best Appearing Crew Award
Chris Sonterre – Oakdale, Minn.

Best Engineered Award
Roger Houston – Lakewood, Colo.

Best Appearing Bike Award
Toby Giese – Big Lake, Minn.

Special Awards

Wyoming Ethanol National Open makes Nebraska Motorplex its final stop

The 2002 Wyoming Ethanol National Open Series came to an end with a venue change to Nebraska Motorplex in Scribner, Neb. Despite cool temperatures, competitors came in search of national event grading points. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dan Schwartzkopf and Wyoming Ethanol, as well as Minnesota Corn Processors, for sponsoring the National Open and Top Comp Series this year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Top Comp	Stk/SS Combo	Super Comp	Super Gas	Super Street	Super Pro	Pro	Jr. Dragster
W: Mitch McGowan RU: Jerry Tilson	W: Jack Peterson RU: Tom Meyer	W: Steve Swenson RU: Grant Pederson	W: Charles Rose RU: Donald Friis	W: Greg Gilligan RU: Troy Bevinaton	W: Steve Domingues RU: Rod Pickens	W: Teresa Brodbeck RU: Joe Petersen	W: Justin Moerer RU: Allen Grav



2003 National Event Entry Request Form

Please check the events you wish to attend below.

Event	Date	Requested	Category
K&N Filters Winternationals Pomona, California	February 6-9 TAD, TAFC		
Checker Schuck's Kragen Nationals Phoenix, Arizona	February 20-23 PSB, SS Class, STK Class, SST		
Mac Tools NHRA Gatornationals Gainesville, Florida	March 13-16 PSB, TAD, TAFC, SS Class, STK Class		
NHRA SummitRacing.com Nationals Las Vegas, Nevada	April 3-6 TAD, TAFC, STK Class		
O'Reilly Spring Nationals Baytown, Texas	April 10-13 TAD, TAFC, SS Class, STK Class, SST		
Mac Tools Thunder Valley NHRA Nationals Bristol, Tennessee	April 25-27 SS Class, STK Class, SST		
Summit Racing Equipment Southern Nationals Commerce, Georgia	May 1-4 PSB, TAD, TAFC, STK Class, SST		
NHRA Matco Tools SuperNationals Englishtown, New Jersey	May 15-18 PSB, TAD, TAFC, SS Class, SST		
O'Reilly Summer Nationals Topeka, Kansas	May 22-25 TAD, TAFC, STK Class, SST		
Chicagoland NHRA Nationals Chicago, Illinois	May 29-June 1 PSB, SS Class, SST		
Pontiac Excitement NHRA Nationals Columbus, Ohio	June 12-15 PSB, TAD, TAFC		
Sears Craftsman NHRA Nationals Madison, Illinois	June 27-29 PSB		
Mile-High NHRA Nationals Denver, Colorado	July 18-20 PSB, SS Class, STK Class, SST		
NHRA Northwest Nationals Seattle, Washington	July 25-27 TAD, TAFC, SST		
Fram-Autolite NHRA Nationals Sonoma, California	August 1-3 PSB, TAD, TAFC		
Rugged Liner NHRA Nationals Brainerd, Minnesota	August 14-17 PSB, TAD, TAFC, SS Class, STK Class		
Mac Tools U.S. Nationals Indianapolis, Indiana	August 27-September 1 PSB, TAD, TAFC, SS Class, STK Class		
Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals Reading, Pennsylvania	September 11-14 PSB, TAD, TAFC, STK Class		
O'Reilly Midsouth Nationals Millington, Tennessee	September 18-21 PSB, SS Class		
Route 66 NHRA Nationals Chicago, Illinois	September 25-28 TAD, TAFC, SST		
O'Reilly Fall Nationals Dallas, Texas	October 9-12 TAD, TAFC, SS Class, STK Class, SST		
ACDelco Las Vegas Nationals Las Vegas, Nevada	October 23-26 PSB, SS Class, SST		
Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA Finals Pomona, California	November 6-9 PSB, TAD, TAFC		

Complete all blanks or form will be returned.

IMPORTANT
No entries will be sent to anyone who has not attended at least one LODRS Divisional Event or Divisional Special Series.



NHRA Membership # _____

Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Check here if competitor is a minor.

Address _____

Check here if new address.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Category & Number _____

Exp. Date _____

If you need multiple entries (max. two) you must request an entry in every category you want to compete in. Please check here and list other categories & numbers.

Please list all categories/numbers you have used in competition so we may check your credits.

List all NHRA LODRS divisional events (points races) that you ran in 2002. Category & Number

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Divisional Special Series (Must have category and number) Category & Number

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

PLEASE ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS PROCESSING TIME

Please do not request entry forms for events that you do not intend to run! Schedule/sponsors subject to change.

NATIONAL EVENT ENTRY DEADLINE IS GENERALLY ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE EVENT DATE

Please mail completed form to:
NHRA Division 5
3720 Arrowhead Ave., Ste. 103
Independence, MO 64057
816-795-8055 / Fax 816-795-0515

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

GRADE: 2000 _____ 2001 _____ 2002 _____ 2003 _____



2002 West Central Division

Awards Banquet

January 11, 2003 • Overland Park Marriott Hotel • Overland Park, Kansas

- NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Champions
- NHRA Summit Racing Series Finals Champions
- Kerker Sportsman Motorcycle Champion
- Jeg's Allstars
- NHRA Castrol GTX Jr. Drag Racing League Champions
- KD Kanopy Super Shootout Champion
- Special Awards and more!

Special Room Rates: \$78.00 per night

Call: (913) 451-8000

Room reservations must be made prior to January 3, 2003.

Be sure to mention NHRA to receive the special rate.

No Host Cocktail Hour - 6 p.m. • Dinner - 7 p.m.

Awards Ceremony - 8 p.m.

TO RESERVE A TABLE, TICKET ORDERS MUST BE PURCHASED IN BLOCKS OF TEN (ONE NAME ONLY)



\$35 Banquet Ticket Order Form January 11, 2003 \$35

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover _____ ticket(s).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____

TICKET DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 29, 2002. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Return Ticket Orders to:

NHRA - West Central Division • 3720 Arrowhead Ave., Ste. 103 • Independence, MO 64057

\$35 NO REFUNDS \$35
NO TELEPHONE TICKET ORDERS



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