

IHBA Lakefest Top Fuel Hydro

Firebird International Raceway • April 25-27, 2008



Hot Licks Racing: The Bullet • by GERALD Laney, "Right Side Engine," New Braunfels TX
Photos: Randall Bohl Photography - www.randallbohl.com

The season opener went well for Hot Licks Racing's Bullet Top Fuel Hydro gang. The crew serviced the boat flawlessly in record time, Jarrett Silvey did an outstanding job of driving all weekend, and the boat went from A to B every pass, on Mr. Dennis (Hoot) Gibson's tuneup. This resulted in putting the last two reigning world champions on the trailer and giving the team the win.

Hot Licks was paired with Speed Sports for the first round of qualifying and gave the huge crowd their money's worth with a great side-by-side pass. Jarrett was on his game with a .056 reaction to John Haas' very respectable .106 reaction time. The boat was a little lazy out of the lights, but Dennis' new big-end tuneup ran clean and dry through the lights with a 4.934 e.t. @ 242.54 mph, the top mile-per-hour of the event.

Sunday morning greeted the team with wind and the not-so-pleasant knowledge that they had to race Eddie Knox's beautiful new Problem Child. The air had taken a turn for the worse, so Hoot got out his small wrenches and made some big changes during the warmup. Jarrett left them at the tree, with a fantastic .044 reaction time. Problem Child suffered from some new boat handling blues, forcing driver Kevin Burgess to lift off the throttle after a couple of hundred feet. Jarrett had lined the bullet up at an angle on the rope, counting on the wind to blow him straight when he closed the lid. But the wind laid down, leaving Jarrett a poor lane lineup. During the pass, the boat was drifting toward the center lane buoy, when he got the news over the radio that P.C. was done. He shut it down avoiding possible disqualification. The boat still ran a 5.03 e.t. @ 209.70 mph with Jarrett pulling the chutes and shutting it down at 900 feet.

The finals were going to be a dog fight: The Bullet and the current world champions, The Speed Sport Special. The air got even worse, setting the stage for a tuners' battle. Jarrett left with a .134 reaction time advantage over John Haas. At half track, he was still pulling away. Adding to the excitement for the crowd, the boat burned a couple of pistons at 1000 feet, pushing a bunch of oil out and lighting it on fire. Jarrett drove it all the way out the big end, trailing a 20 foot ball of fire for his first Top Fuel Hydro win, running 4.988 @ 225mph against Speed Sports' 5.069 @ 231.30mph.

Hoot won the tuners' battle against Hall of Fame member "Famous" Amos Satterlee. Hot Licks Racing left with the little man (the winner's trophy) as well as the points lead going into the Nitro Nationals at Red Bluff, California. A great weekend. ■



The Tire Pros 10th Annual Monster Truck Nationals and Jet Jam

Firebird International Raceway • April 26-27, 2008

Jet Jam: Invader Jet Dragster • by Curt Eierdam, Driver, Chandler AZ
Photos: Randall Bohl Photography - www.randallbohl.com

Jet Jam, during the Monster Truck Nationals, presented four of the quickest jet dragsters on the west coast: Bob Goettel's G Metal, Tony Franco's Terminal Velocity, Al Arriaga's Blu-By-U and the Invader (photo, upper right). Saturday night's first round paired the Invader against G Metal. The Invader put on a huge fire show, then both cars entered the staging beams on a slippery surface. Bob was unable to hold it and launched early. The Invader launched a split second later, but got the win. Doc Brophy, driving Blu-By-U, squared off against Terminal Velocity next. Doc was out to a quick lead, but a glitch in the afterburner allowed Tony to streak past for the win. Sunday brought clear, warm weather. First up were the Invader and Blu-By-U. The Invader launched hard and ran a 5.70 e.t. at 287mph. Franco and Goettel faced each other next. Bob's car auto-lighted and was again off before the tree, with Tony chasing after him for the win. For the final round, it was Tony versus the Invader with two wins each. The pair blasted heat and flame for the crowd, then rolled into the beams. Even trying to be careful, the Invader still slid almost four feet past the beams. Tony was handed the win, but the Invader gave fast pursuit, almost catching her at the traps. Tony was the weekend victor, running 3-0. ■

