

COUNTS GO DRAG RACING BY BOB MYERS



It would not be a complete rodding year without at least one club session at the Sturgis Dragway and this year was no exception. It was a beautiful fall day when fourteen members of the club met in Black Hawk to cruise together to the one eighth mile strip in Sturgis. Some of the Counts were really serious this year as at least two cars were on trailers in full race trim while most guys drove their cars in their typical street trim. Larry Johnson would have to be deemed the favorite to win this year after a runner up finish at Pierre and a win in this same event two years ago. Steve Kroger brought out his blown hemi coupe and was hungry for a win. Bob Myers had his newly completed Willys coupe and was eager to get some passes under his belt and be competitive. Merle McCoy had his Malibu all tuned up tight with two four barrels carbs and a sly grin. Dwight Burch had his big block Chevelle, Rush Elliot's '37 Chevy truck looked impressive early on and he brought a sleeper in the form of his grandson, Russell, in a big block FE Ford powered short bed pickup. Ford pickup up trucks were popular this year as Bob Rohrbach had his red and white mid-sixties short box with a four speed trans, and Travis Blasius had his Dodge truck which is Mopar powered.



President Tom had his Mopar slant engine powered Chevy coupe and he looked ready to race from the start. A special note about Bob Dunfee, then president elect, he brought an early Mopar and taught his son how to stage and drive, I believe the younger Dunfee cut better lights than Dad. Rounding out the Counts was Al Smith with his really cool '63 Buick complete with a nail head engine. Al always brings cool stuff...one year he brought a bone stock '41 Plymouth sedan and last year brought his diesel big rig. Casey Barrett was there with his serious looking trailered Firebird. Probably the most unique drag car was driven by Jason Pate when he time trialed his mom's Porsche Boxster. The hero of the day had to be Duwayne Marquette when he set up the shelters for shade and delivered the fried chicken.



After inspection it was game on for time trials and all the guys put on helmets, tightened seat belts, and lined them up. Time trials went off without a hitch and the Sturgis crew always treats us like we are really royalty. All the guys got their cars dialed in for ET eliminations and we settled in for fried chicken and salads compliments of Steve Kroger, Duwayne Marquette, and the lovely wives.

Soon the call came to line up the cars for elimination, but it wasn't to be as the timing equipment failed and after a several hour delay we decided to pack it in until next year. That's right; we are going to have to wait until Spring to see who is really the King of the Hill. Here are some pictures from time trials which were totally enjoyable and a ton of fun. See ya at the drags in May of next year.





Counts Fund Raiser Success By Bob Myers

Recently eleven of the toughest Counts went to Black Hawk at 6:00 am on a Saturday to meet for breakfast at Candy Marquette's café. This group had a plan in mind and before the finish of the wettest, coldest day of the fall had elapsed, the hardy group had raised \$500 for the new clubhouse building fund. How did they do that you might ask? Well, it seems that a local Black Hawk resident needed a large machinery tent erected and it was a perfect opportunity for Count's community spirit and fund raising for the club. The tent measured 45'x14'x14' so it was no small task



Earlier the previous day Bob Mallow, Duwayne Marquette, and Bob Myers erected the steel skeleton structure and then on Saturday the ten man crew did the hard work of stretching the industrial material over the frame and then adjusting and securing the entire rigging. The guys did a great job and finished before 1:000 p.m. By this time the crew was hungry so it was back to our favorite café and meeting place for some warm lunch.

The crew consisted of Skip Abell, who brought his tow grandsons Travis and Austin, Steve Kroger, Duwayne Marquette, Dan Duncan, Denny Vollmer, Glen Schild, Gary Kreun, Rush Elliot, Merle McCoy, Bob Mallow, and yours truly Bob Myers. I really appreciate the help, guys.

As an update, the tent has endured three different days with high winds and as I type this we are having our first blizzard of the year. Although it is too cold and windy to go out, I

can see out my snowy window that the tent is still standing....GOOD WORK COUNTS
CAR CLUB!

