



HOT WEEKEND ACTION!



The Del Mar AutoCross track was packed all weekend long with both racers as well as spectators mingling through the pits and getting up close and personal with the competing cars. Most drivers were from California, but there were a handful who traveled to sunny San Diego to compete in the action. More than 100 drivers took to the track, and with five classes to race in the action was hot all weekend.

More than 10 drivers made up the PRO class field and all were gunning for the win. Scott Fraser continued his tear of these early-season events in Bruce Cambern's 427 Cobra and took the class win with a dominating 51.900 fast lap. Behind Fraser was Eric Sheeley in the '65 Daytona coming in at 53.196. Mike Maier claimed the number three spot with a 53.902 driving the maroon '72 Corvette, while Greg Thurmond and Chris Smith rounded out the top five coming in with fast times of 54.090 and 54.333.

The Street Machine action was equally hot, with most of the "hitters" staying in the 53- and 54-second range. Wes Drelleshak gave the Sheeley '65 Daytona all he had but would settle for a second-place finish with a best time of 53.848 behind David Carroll's winning 53.292 in his LS-powered '75 Datsun 280Z. Todd Vierra's '61 Corvette slid into the number three spot at 54.588, Rick Jung finished fourth at 54.775 in his '68 Corvette, and Mike Cuthbertsen rounded out the top five in his '68 Camaro at 54.896.

Del Mar has treated Wes Drelleshak well in the past and it continued this year. In addition to finishing second in the Street Machine class, Drelleshak claimed the Truck class win driving a '62 Ford Ranchero to a winning lap of 54.153. Mike Sullivan's '65 El Camino and Bill Kinsman's '72 Bronco were close behind, coming in at 56.995 and 57.599, respectively. Dennis Russell was uncontested in the Hot Rod



The short wheelbase and big LS power in David Carroll's '75 Datsun 280Z was a necessity in claiming the Street Machine win as well as the big CPP Duel in Del Mar shootout victory!

INSORS



class and claimed the win in his '33 Ford, stopping the clocks in 59.892-seconds.

Classic Performance Products sponsored the Duel in Del Mar on Saturday evening for the 16 quickest cars on the grounds, regardless of class. The field was compiled of nine PRO class drivers, six from the Street Machine class and one fast Truck. After the first round, seven of the eight advanced racers were PROs, while David Carroll was the lone Street Machine racer left and was ready and able to take on the challenge.

Carroll advanced to the final four after defeating Evan Dalley's Nova by over 2-seconds in the second round and was faced against Eric Sheeley in the '65 Daytona for round three. On the other half of the ladder, Scott Fraser was steamrolling his way through the field with low 52-second lap times. In the semifinals, Fraser would square up with Mike Maier, who beat Richard Trujillo and Greg Thurmond in the previous rounds.

As fate would have it, Fraser's winning streak came to an end in the semifinals when a clipped cone added two seconds to his lap time. Maier advanced to the final with his best time of the weekend of 53.349 to Fraser's penalized 54.124. The other half of the ladder set up Eric Sheeley and David Carroll, who were both clipping off low-53-second laps all weekend and were qualified number two and three. Unfortunately for Sheeley and the Daytona, engine woes in round two prevented him from squaring off with Carroll in the semifinals, opening the door for Carroll to advance into the final round uncontested.

That set the final round as number three qualifier David Carroll vs. number four qualifier Mike Maier, both NorCal Bay Area guys. Carroll took the track first and clipped off his quickest lap of the weekend, a 52.984 which was a second quicker than Maier's qualifying time. Maier had the car and talent to also knock a few tenths off his best time of 53.349, but a pesky 2-second cone penalty toward the end of his run ended the weekend for him. Mike idled through the timing blocks at 55.739 seconds, taking a 57.739 as his final round time with the added penalty.

The late models flooded the pits on Sunday, where the cars and trucks all raced together. The Sheeley gang claimed 1, 2 and 3 with Richard Trujillo winning on Sunday in an LS-powered 2002 Porsche with a best time of 54.072. Drelleshak drove the same Porsche to a best time of 54.186 to take the number two spot, while Eric Sheeley pushed a 2018 Camaro around the cones in 54.485 seconds to finish third. Matt Alcalá took his 2002 Corvette through the cones in 54.827-seconds to claim the number four spot, while George Reiss rounded out the top five with a 56.675 in a 2018 Camaro.

The racing was tight, the action was hot, and competition was fierce, but most importantly everyone had a great time - from the spectators who filled the stands, cruised the pits and lined the fence 10-deep, to the racers going hard at it on the track while mingling with each other between runs.



Chris Smith was a welcome face in Del Mar, as he usually sits this event out since it's so far away from his Indiana home. With the debut of the new second-gen Track 1 Camaro a month prior, Smith was taking every opportunity possible to get the car on track and sorted out. A fifth-place finish for the weekend wasn't too bad for a car we've only seen twice.



Richard Trujillo placed his '69 Mustang sixth in the Street Machine standings, which was good enough for a number 12 qualifying spot in the shootout. Trujillo bowed out in the opening round of the shootout but redeemed himself with an All American Sunday win the following day in this LS-powered 2002 Porsche.



IN THE PITS



Car owner Mike Ansell and Mike Maier go over potential between-round changes to the 1972 Corvette that Maier took to a CPP Duel in Del Mar runner up finish.



Eric Sheeley double checks tire pressure in "Bacon" before Wes Drelleshak rolled out for a Truck class lap.



Rick Jung earned himself a hefty penalty during his opening-round matchup with Eric Sheeley after wiping out three cones in the fourth turn.



Mike Cuthbertsen - 1968 Camaro - 54.896



The Daytona from the Sheeley collection was on a tear over the weekend, with Eric racing to a second-place PRO class finish in it, Wes Drelleshak claiming second in Street Machine, and Eric making it to the final four of the CPP Duel in Del Mar.



Scott Fraser keeps telling us how much he's looking forward to fall Scottsdale and the Duel in the Desert. He has his sights locked in on redemption and that 2018 Auto-Crosser of the Year title with Bruce Cambren's 427 Cobra!

Dennis Russell keeps gathering Hot Rod class trophies in Del Mar with his '33 Ford.



Mike Maier – 1972 Corvette – 53.349



Winners

PRO Class



Scott Fraser – San Jose, CA – '66 427 Cobra

STREET MACHINE Class & CPP SHOOTOUT Winner



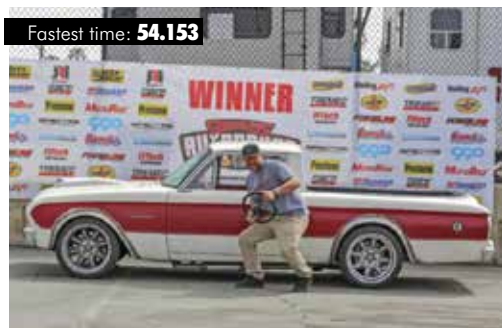
David Carroll – Hot Springs, AR – '75 Datsun 280Z

CPP SHOOTOUT Runner Up



Mike Maier – Livermore, CA – '72 Corvette

TRUCK Class



Wes Drelleshak – Vista, CA – '62 Ford Ranchero

HOT ROD Class



Dennis Russell – El Cajon, CA – '33 Ford

ALL AMERICAN SUNDAY Winner



Richard Trujillo – Oceanside, CA – '02 Porsche