

2009 NORC Report, Mad Dog

Written by Administrator

Monday, 18 May 2009 20:18 - Last Updated Sunday, 16 August 2009 20:46

Sorry we missed you Dan and everyone else (Jason, Laurie, Larry, Rich, Dave, Scott & other veterans) who didn't make it but wanted to go. We worked our best to ensure we made up for all you AWOL slackers...it wasn't easy but someone had to do it. ;-]>

116 Entries and 1 Pantera. The best was having JB, Pete, Joe, John, and Ed all came up to Ely to play or I mean support the team and prepare the Pantera to run Sunday and this weekend again reminded me why Ely is the best place to both hang and celebrate before and after the race on Sunday. It really is allot more about being in Ely and Vegas with your friends and fellow racers (even the one's with Vipers and Vettes) then it is running the course. Okay running the Pantera at 100 mph or even 150 to 180 mph on a 2-lane road is also blast but its not why I keep going back. It is the people.

We all ended up at the Four 7's Motel and there we found the the Vikings (Bjoern Flesland & Inger Johannssen) from Norway who were arm wresling Corvette and Viper owners in the parking lot....they also had the second fastest car and team in their 105 Mph Class in their big Mercedes 450 SEL 6.9 and they were as you would expect the most serious party animals in town once you got Bjoern to understand why our DMV licensing system is so simple. ;-]> The Vikings are great and look like they all once again had a ball in Ely and Vegas including adding their 6.9 decal to the back of ItBWild. ;-]>

I averaged 151.89 MPH. We started a little late after some cattle broke out of a gate and temps were up to 85-90 by the time I reached the finish line and over a 106F by the time the Unlimited drivers started....

Through the straights before and after the road woop-de-do's at miles 58 thru 65 and after the Narrows at mile 71 I was running at 155-160 mph UNTIL I saw Steve Waldman's Viper in my rear view mirror.

Steve and the Viper obviously was on the hunt. When I saw him I punched it to 175-180 mph for about 5 minutes until he disappeared from view. He obviously forgot he was following me and must have dreamed he was chasing Dan in September! ;-]>

The 381ci Cleveland stroker ran great (thanks Russ Fulps)The engine temps at the finish line were 180F on water and 210F on oil in spite of the hot weather . Not that it probably mattered I was running Valvaline VR1 Race Oil. A big thanks to Mike Trusty and Dick Drenske who made sure the IR-EFI also ran flawlessly again. And to JB, AJ and the Pope and everyone else who continued to poke me with sticks getting ready to go.

It was Mike Borders who was driving the cup car that went off road at 200+ mph. Luckily he did not roll over when he went off road. The other incident was Richard "Lucky" Hille in the Unlimited division Camaro who has to be the luckest man alive losing a tire at 220+ Mph. A year ago his cockpit filled with steam after his mech oil gauge line blew or fell off (he forgot to tighten it) the back of the gauge and his cockpit was completely obscured by hot steam. He somehow stopped the Camaro on a sweeper turn completely blind in his cockpit. And again a year later he was once again able to safely stop the Camaro in what could have been a catastrophic accident.

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Veteran Tom Ciancitto running his '37 Ford F1 Pickup was running the fastest in the Unlimited group at 182 mph average UNTIL he broke...not sure what happened to Tom because he left early. Charlie Friend running his wild Corvair from hell won the Unlimited group with a 163 mph average.

Far from being the fastest speeds Charlie has run I think Ralph Nader would roll over in his grave if he saw how well Charlie 're-developed' the Corvair....it is a completely re-engineered race car on a tube frame chassis.

A big thanks to the team and all of you who wrote or called this weekend. I couldn't pick up messages until today but still grinning from ear to ear from the 6 day road trip. I hope a few will make it in September. The rumor about JB and I bidding on a TPR 4-door garage and shop with a small house is true....We will be able to report more about the TPR house in coming weeks.

Mad Dawg Antenucci

Team Pantera Racing

The 1st & still the only vintage race team in open road racing