

SAND DRAG SCENE



2015 Avenal Sand Drags Fall Nationals



BY TOM BRAY

The 2015 Avenal Sand Drags Fall Nationals in Avenal, CA took place under warm and sunny mid-October conditions for Central California. The track was hooked up as usual, leading to great competition in each category. Let's take a look at the action.

Top Alcohol

The Top Alcohol class featured the two finalists from the previous weekend's race in Victorville, back at it again. In Victorville, it was Gary Mink taking a hole shot final round win over Jake Morton 2.51 to 2.46. Both of these racers were certainly ready to get after it in Avenal. Morton had the win on his mind as he piloted the converter-equipped Morton Racing ride to the top qualifying spot with a Q1 2.47/135MPH blast. Multi-time class



ABOVE, Leon Wilmot turned on plenty of win lights and earned himself runner-up finishes in two classes. **RIGHT,** Chris Adamson earned a huge win in the Gambler class with his gorgeous Bounty Hunter Jeep built by Larry Minor. Mike Williams Sr. (below) put his White Lightning Jeep in the winner's circle running 3.8-sec.

champion Mink could only run a best of 2.54 through the three qualifying sessions. On top of that, Morton outran the champ in all three sessions. When is the last time anybody has run quicker than Mink in every session?

This led to the Sunday noon time showdown. Both racers were ready for battle as the teams pulled them to the line. Morton let go of the transbrake on time with a .044 to .077 starting line edge, but unfortunately the rear end broke immediately on the Morton Racing ride. This allowed Mink to basically run uncontested for the win recording a 2.52/139MPH in the process. Congrats to the Mink team on back-to-back weekend wins in

the Top Alcohol class, and a huge attaboy to the Morton team for putting up a great effort at both events as well.

Top Eliminator

The Top Eliminator field had five tough entries vying for the win in Avenal. The previous weekend's TE winner, Paul Taylor, had the Outta Control Dragster ready for action. Paul would run a best of 2.976 in qualifying, but it would only be good enough for the #2 spot on the ladder as Jim Rossi in the Bad Toy ran a 2.962 to lead the pack. Behind those two would be Ron d'Artenay (3.05), Marc Whitmore (3.22), and Adam Ross (3.26). Unfortunately for the Ross Racing team, the rear-engine Funny Jeep would be unable to make the call



for round one leaving a four car TE field. The upset of the weekend would occur right off the bat in round one as top qualifier Jim Rossi's Bad Toy faced off with Marc Whitmore in the Whitmore Speed & Custom Blown Altered. When the tree dropped, both Rossi and Whitmore left before green but Rossi's red was worse handling Whitmore the win. Marc had been fighting clutch issues all weekend and recorded a 3.37 on this pass. Up next would be the all-dragster battle between Outta Control of Taylor and Red Warrior of d'Artenay. This one was decided on the starting line as Paul Taylor took a healthy starting line edge and held on for a 2.99 to 3.02 victory. This set up a final round between Taylor's Dragster and Whitmore's Altered. Whitmore was ready to battle in this one as he cut a stellar .028 RT to Taylor's .124, but it would be the ultra consistent Taylor ride getting the job done with another 2.99 for the win. Congratulations to the Taylor Racing team