

HIDDEN VALLEY DRAGSTRIP

2016 SEASON REVIEW



The 2016 Drag Racing Season at Hidden Valley Dragstrip was delayed slightly due to major Track Upgrades required to rectify a few irregularities that had developed over the previous seasons.

The current Hidden Valley Drag Racing Association (HVDRA) committee lead by their President, Scott MacLean sort out professional advice to work out the best course of action to repair the racing surface with minimal delay to the 2016 Calendar. This was done in a very timely manner and once the repairs were completed the awesome Hidden Valley Track crew restored the traction and the decision to delay the season slightly to get the job done was justified with personal best times being achieved right from the first round of the HVDRA Track Championship Series.



There were many stand out performances over the season including Todd Knight's return after a devastating tyre explosion last season. He went straight into the sixes at over 200 mph! The Knight Racing Team proved it was no fluke as they continued to run into the sixes at over 200mph at every Round besting with a 6.79 at over 330 km/h (205mph) and all this on just one nitrous kit ... Look out for big things from this team next season!

Another Racer that stepped it up big time was young Nathan Coles in his Funny Car getting oh so close to a 5 second pass with a 6.07 @ 235 mph in AA/FC trim showing plenty of promise for bigger and better things to come from this young racer.

The Bouchere Family are always great supporters of the HVDRA and it was great to see Jay stick his Altered well into the sevens besting with a great 7.188 at over 295 km/h (183 mph). Younger brother Chaise did an outstanding job in the Colosseum this season often completing two or more burnouts per night and still driving his Commodore to presentations afterwards... Oh, and taking out the season burnout championship along the way!

Perhaps the fairy tale story of the year goes to our FIFO racer Benny Phillips all the way from Portland on the South Coast of Victoria, who was consistent all season in Top Sportsman running every round and at the pointy end of the season, had to go one better than Grant Radcliffe to be Champion ... In the end Benny removed all doubt by taking the win at the Final Round and clinched the 2016 Top Sportsman Championship for this likable Victorian racer!!!

Another interesting development in the future of Drag Racing in the Top End was Peter Boscato running a PB 8.94@150 mph only to announce he is putting a "small" motor in the Ute to licence his kids in the car next season!

As stated earlier there were so many great runs over the season and this is just a small snippet of some of Personal Bests achieved over the season which augers well for the 2017 season!



2016 SEASON REVIEW Cont...



The stand out event for the season was once again Nitro Up North in July ...

The 2016 version of Nitro Up North rocked the Top End for a second time with astonishing performances in front of over 15,000 fans that came from all over the country to witness this outstanding event at Hidden Valley Dragstrip over the weekend ... Four of Australia's best Top Fuel Dragsters put down sixteen massive ground shaking passes with Damien Harris resetting the Hidden Valley Elapsed Time strip record with a stellar 4.581 second pass and rookie Top Fuel pilot Aaron Hambridge in the Lamattina Racing Top Fuel Dragster rocketing down the track with a Terminal Speed of 541.52 km/h (336.49 mph) which is not only

the fastest speed ever in the Top End but also the third fastest speed ever recorded over the quarter mile in the world! Gary Phillips in the Lucas Oil Studebaker came out on top of the quality Top Doorslammer field and Damian Muscat took home his first ever ANDRA Top Fuel Motorcycle Christmas Tree!

On top of this Hidden Valley hosted a Round of the ANDRA Summit Sportsman Series for the very first time which saw racers and crew from all over the country make the pilgrimage to the Top End. Every one was very impressed by the high standard of the facility and from all the smiles and positive comments from both the Competitors and Fans the Hidden Valley Round of the series is sure to build and be even bigger in the future.



In between all of this action we saw hundreds of eager Off Street entrants flocking to the Hidden Valley Street Meets over the season in their cars and motorcycles. It was very heartening to see so many new faces on the track and from the amount of fans on the spectator mound it shows the Off Street scene is alive and well in Darwin. Another new innovation this season was the introduction of running on Wednesday Nights which also proved very popular with the guys and girls both on the track and on the mound.



2016 SEASON REVIEW Cont...

Of course none of this or any event could happen without the hard working HVDRA Committee, Members and our volunteer Track Officials all working together. Events like this just don't happen, they take many hours of behind the scenes planning and a dedicated event crew to execute them in a professional manner time after time. The HVDRA prides itself in running all of its events in the same professional manner. This is due largely to the assistance from our dedicated volunteer Officials that come out and willingly give their time all season long. Also a big thank you goes out to all the Racers and Crew that stepped in to help out over the season when not racing. Running these events at a consistent high standard is not easy and it is this commitment and willingness to help that helps us maintain this standard. Thank you once again to you all, your assistance is and has been invaluable.

Many thanks also to NT Motorsports for their ongoing support and encouragement to help to make these events happen. It certainly gives the HVDRA confidence to continue to raise the bar knowing they have the ongoing support from the Northern Territory Government.

This season has been another milestone in the development and support of Drag Racing in the Top End and none of this could possible without the financial support of our valuable Sponsors. A huge thank you to our loyal Sponsors for their continued support and backing that is needed to make Drag Racing at Hidden Valley Dragstrip such a huge success.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DRAG RACING ASSOCIATION LTD



2016 SEASON REVIEW Cont...

2016 BRACKET CHAMPIONS

JUNIOR DRAGSTER	MADISON HARRIS
STREET CAR	BOB CZERNIAWSKI
STREET BIKE	STEVE REID
SUPER STREET	SHAUN BOYER
SUPER SEDAN / MODIFIED	ASHLEY SMITH
TOP SPORTSMAN	BENNY PHILLIPS
MODIFIED BIKE	MARK TATTINGHAM
BURNOUTS	CHAISE BOUCHERE

2016 BEST PRESENTED

JUNIOR DRAGSTER	MITCHELL SPERRER
STREET CAR	JUSTIN NECK
STREET BIKE	GARY RICHARDS
SUPER STREET	PAUL COOK
SUPER SEDAN / MODIFIED	DES GROVES
TOP SPORTSMAN	TODD KNIGHT
MODIFIED BIKE	HEATH COSTELLO
BURNOUTS	RHYS TREZISE

2016 SPECIAL AWARDS

HARD LUCK AWARD	TRAVIS HAGAN
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	ANDY NAPIER
ROOKIE DRIVER OF THE YEAR	MADISON HARRIS
ROOKIE RIDER OF THE YEAR	STEVE REID
KING OF THE VALLEY	MAT ABEL
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS	SHAUN BOYER

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORT OF DRAG RACING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY...

LIFE MEMBER	GLENN BULL
-------------	------------