

CALIFORNIA HOT ROD REUNION 2007

By Dan Brouillard

Record crowds treated themselves to nostalgia drag racing action at the California Hot Rod Reunion this past October at the Famoso Raceway near Bakersfield. The 16th Annual Automobile Club of Southern California Hot Rod Reunion was produced by the Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum and presented by Holley.

The drag racing portion of the event was full with over 300 racers competing in ten classes that consisted of Nostalgia Top Fuel Dragsters, Nostalgia Funny Cars, Junior Fuel A, Junior Fuel B, A/Fuel, A/Gas Eliminator, AA/Gas Supercharged, Nostalgia Eliminator, A/FX and the popular Exhibition class. Between classes and the occasional exploded engine cleanup, historic dragsters of all shapes and sizes took to the track for exhibition passes. However, there was so much more going on at the "something for everyone" reunion, it was hard to find enough time in three days to take it all in.

MEMORY LANE

With all the historic cars located behind the bleachers in the area called "Memory Lane," it's like an outdoor NHRA museum. On display were ol' time drag racers that ranged from meticulous restorations to faithful recreations to dusty barn-finds. Long lines of fans waited patiently to meet the legends that raced some of those quarter mile rockets; some of the big names with nicknames included: Tom "The Mongoose" McEwen, Don "The Snake" Prudhomme, "T.V. Tommy" Ivo, "Big Daddy" Don Garlits, Mousie Marcellus, and the event's Grand Marshal, Ed "The Ace" McCulloch.

There was an area set aside at the far end of the grandstands for the traditional style rods. Pre-'72 street rods, customs and muscle cars stretched between the vintage racers and the traditional rods. Then there was the large swap meet at the top end of the track and the vendor packed Reunion Midway.

TWILIGHT DELIGHT!

Friday night was set aside for the honoree reception and a mini-Cacklefest that took place at the Doubletree Inn.

OSR 14

Ashley Kerr & Dean
"Weiner" Goodridge.

