

HIT FOR SIX

NOT even the temperamental British weather could dampen spirits as the Mopar EuroNationals rolled into Avon Park Raceway for round six. With a weekend attendance up 30 percent on last year and hundreds of muscle machines to choose from, the Nats once again had something to suit everyone's taste.

Cars from all the major manufacturers of the muscle car era were represented, with examples from Belgium, Holland, Germany, The Channel Islands and France, proving this event generates a healthy interest throughout mainland Europe.

As with other years, the quality of vehicles on display was outstanding; five factory Hemi cars, a 440 six-barrel Superbird from Jersey, Six Pack E-bodies and convertibles, Road Runners, Coronets, Satellites and Chargers, rubbed shoulders with

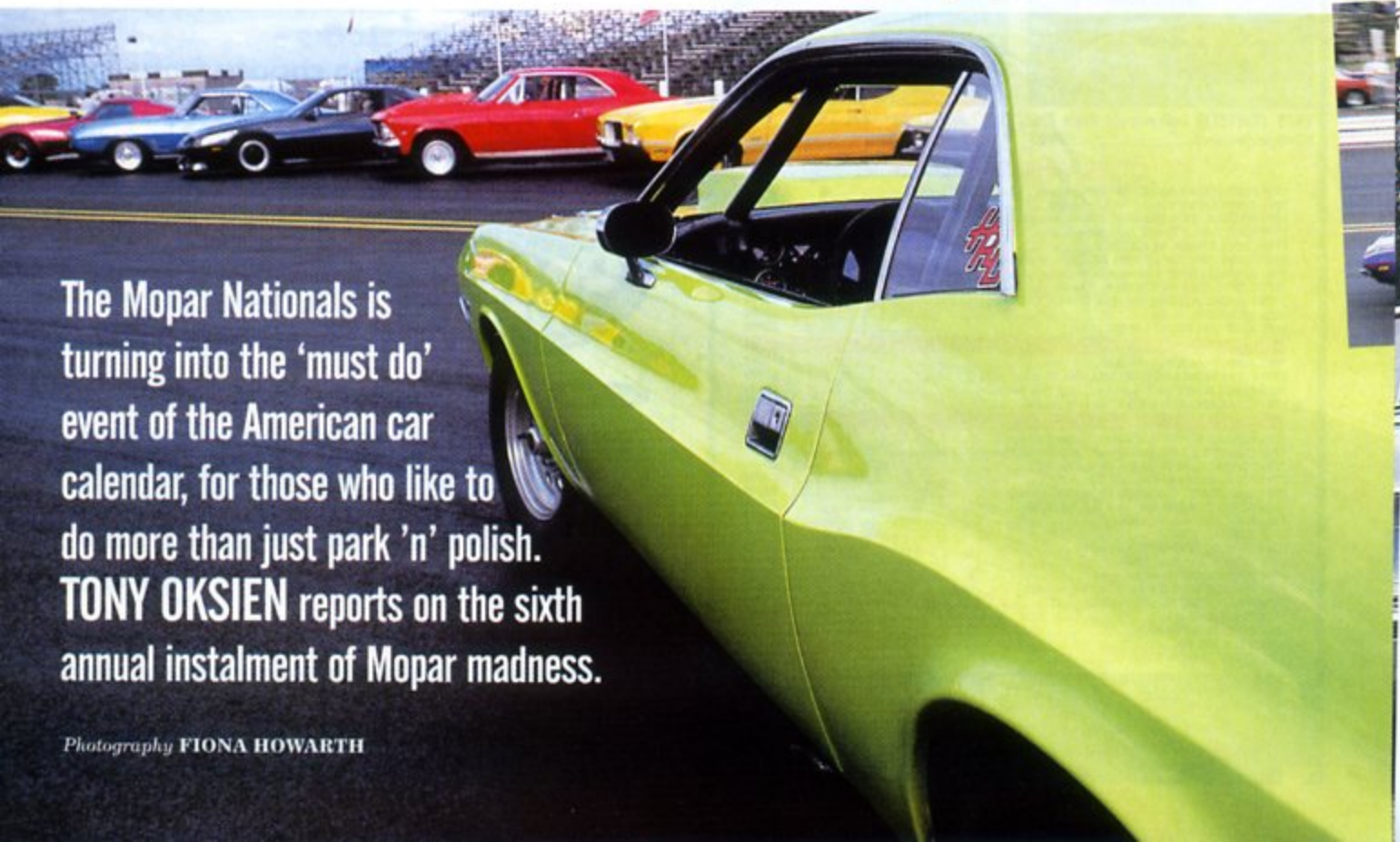


RIGHT: HATS OFF TO THE THE FRENCH CONNECTION, WHO DROVE THEIR CARS ACROSS THE CHANNEL AND RACED THEM ALL WEEKEND. SACRE BLEU!



The Mopar Nationals is turning into the 'must do' event of the American car calendar, for those who like to do more than just park 'n' polish. **TONY OKSIEN** reports on the sixth annual instalment of Mopar madness.

Photography **FIONA HOWARTH**





Dusters, Barracudas, Darts and two Demons (one of which came from Holland).

Oh, I forgot to mention the totally original '70 T/A Challenger with a mere 25,000 miles on its odometer, and the biggest field of early 'Nostalgia' Mopars, and the drop-dead gorgeous '73 'export' Cuda

complete with four-speed. Then there were the Buicks, Camaros, Chevelles, Mustangs, Oldsmobiles and Firebirds too. This really was Muscle Car Heaven, as though time had stood still and we were back in the Sixties or Seventies.

For the first time *Classic American's* Car of the Year round visited the show and

the judges picked a worthy winner in Jem Warner's immaculate 440cu.in. '69 Dodge Charger R/T, which also scooped Best of Show, the runner-up being Richard Ward's '70 426cu.in. Hemi Dodge Challenger R/T.

A wonderful Event Guide, giving full information on the show, could be had free of charge on parting with your entrance money. The EuroNats continues to grow, and attracted a record amount of sponsors this year (including *Classic American's*), making the event unique on the show calendar.

The race cars were equally outstanding; the C&S Racing Dart, piloted by Paul Marston, did constant battle with the Billadeu family who turned out in force, Scott in the '67 Wedge-O-Matic and Dave driving the '70 G.T.X., winning the King of Street crown with an 11.18 sec run, and not forgetting their dad, Jean, in his fresh '70 Satellite – the ultimate racing family!

The Strip wars were augmented again this year with the self-styled Surrey Muscle Club, whose members race hard, play hard and loved the Nats.

However, those loveable folks from across the Channel, the French Connection, gave the Surrey boys a tough time, as Laurent Arnaud from Bargny, south of Paris, completed a blistering 9.98 seconds run in his sublime, 500cu.in. Keith Black-prepped Challenger, driven to and from the Nats – a round trip of 400 miles – grabbing the Fastest Mopar of the weekend accolade.

Not to be outdone, Surrey Muscle's Roger Luty took the Burn-Out King title in his '71 Olds 442. In fact, the burn-out contest surpassed all the other years, as 8 cars smoked their rear tyres for 30 seconds each. Under the watchful eye of Fastalk's Martin Bennet, who gauged the crowd's reaction, a shoot-out was deemed to be necessary, as Luty had drawn with Foxy of the French Connection, a repeat of last year.

First the 'Cuda rolled into contention, Foxy blipping the loud pedal until the tyres exploded on their rims. Next, the 442 sprung to life and Luty also popped the tyres, but he seemed to keep going. As the car dug into the tarmac, setting it on fire, the crowd roared its approval and the decision went to the Olds.

So the Euro Nats has come and gone again, a weekend of mayhem mixed with muscle and more Mopars you could ever imagine possible outside the U.S.A. Can't wait for the Millennium Mopar Meet next year!



ABOVE: THE BURN-OUT COMPETITION PROVED EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR THIS YEAR

CENTRE: THE RECIPE FOR A PERFECT WEEKEND: NON-STOP CLASSIC MUSCLE CAR DRAGS

MOPAR EURONATS WINNERS 1999

TOP TEN

- 1972 DODGE DEMON Jos Meyer, Holland.
- 1969 DODGE CHARGER Roger Bannister
- 1973 PLYMOUTH DUSTER Steve Bainbridge
- 1968 DODGE CORONET Dean Bailey
- 1970 DODGE CORONET Chris Bowden
- 1968 PLYMOUTH ROAD RUNNER Larry Ward
- 1973 DODGE CHARGER Garry Bradshaw
- 1972 PLYMOUTH CUD A Foxy French Connection
- 1966 BUICK RIVIERA Bruce Renfrew

MOST ORIGINAL MOPAR

- 1973 PLYMOUTH CUD A Stuart Keen

WINGED WARRIORS USA

- 1969 HEMI CHARGER R/T Vince Donald

ULTIMATE EURO MOPAR

- 1965 PLYMOUTH BELVEDERE Mojo

PARTICIPANTS CHOICE

- 1970 CHALLENGER Laurent Arnaud FRANCE

LAURENT ARNAUD & '70 CHALLENGER



FASTEST MOPAR

- 1970 CHALLENGER Laurent Arnaud (9.98 secs at 135 mph)

SPECIAL AWARD

- SURREY MUSCLE CLUB

BEST OF SHOW

- 1969 DODGE CHARGER R/T Jem Warner

RUNNER UP

- 1970 HEMI DODGE CHALLENGER R/T Richard Ward

KING OF STREET

- 1970 GTX Dave Billadeu (11.18 secs at 129 mph)