South Texas Street Stock Shootout, round 1 @ I-37 Raceway at Newsome Motor Pak, 5/19/12
By J M Hallas

Pleasanton, Tx.,(May 19th, 2012) I-37 Raceway at Newsome Motor Park hosted round 1 of the Allgayer Inc., South Texas Street Stock Shootout on the ¼ mile, semi-banked clay oval. 36 drivers, representing the five tracks signed in for their chance to pick up the increased prize money, trophy and series bragging rights.

The Street Stocks qualified through 6 heats, taking the top 3 to the A-main, plus 2 B-mains transferring the top 3 finishers. The six heats race winners would run a time trial session with the fastest driver grabbing the pole, and the $100 pole award put up by Opiela Mechanical. Other bonus awards included a $100 hard charger award, for the driver improving the most positions, (2) $25 B-main winner bonuses, all sponsored by Opiela Mechanical and $100 bonus to the winner put up by Alamo Hot Rod.

Included in the night's action were the IMCA Modifieds and Southern Sportmods, Limited Late Models and Pure Stocks, running heats and features, with the Front Runners racing a feature only.

Jourdanton's Jones Joyous in Winners Circle

Defending series champion, and multi-time Street Stock track titlist, Wade Jones took home the victory in the 25 lap feature event. Jones was positioned to capitalize on the misfortune of Anthony Gordon in the waning laps. Jones, who led lap 1, gave way to Gordon on lap 2 who then pulled out to good margin and looked to be the runaway winner.

But Lady Luck can be unforgiving and bit Gordon as the laps wound down. Gordon, while dicing through traffic had the motor go flat allowing Jones to reel him in. Jones retook the point with two laps to and charged on to the win in the Opiela Mechanical, 74 Ranch Resort, SABFI, Mobil 1, Jeff's Rebuilders, Mission Race Engines, Camaro.

Gordon, with a sour motor, was able to hang on to second chased by Stephan Danielson. Coming from a B-main, AJ Dancer, who earned the hard charger award, worked his way up to fourth, with Brian Becka rounding out the top five.

Street Stocks

41 Wade Jones, 118 Anthony Gordon, 149 Stephan Danielson, 52 AJ Dancer, 9(53) Brian Becka, 31k Brian King, 00 Buster Dean, 3 Abraham Mares III, 88j Bobby Jack, 15 Tommy Casey, 141 Donny Horelka, 4 David McGuire, 77 Chris Shafer, 55 Lauren Chamberlain, 82

Richard Wells, 7 Justin Henley, 99 Frank Okruhlik, 40 Mike Lyon, 11 Shawn Kline, 04 Nathan Robbins, 18 Shawn Moore, 726 Robert Robbins, 35 Tony Blankenship, 93 Aaron Leddy

Street Stock heat winners; 41 Wade Jones, 149 Stephan Danielson, 40 Mike Lyon, 118 Anthony Gordon, 3 Abraham Mares III, 31k Brian King

Pole Time Trials; 41 Wade Jones, 18.32, 118 Anthony Gordon, 18.37, 149 Stephan Danielson, 19.05, 3 Abraham Mares III, 19.35, 40 Mike Lyon, 19.40, 31k Brian King, 19.83

Street Stock B-main winners; 52 AJ Dancer, 15 Tommy Casey

Pole award($100) Wade Jones, Hard Charger award($100) AJ Dancer

Chesler's Checkers First Ever in IMCA Modified

Newcomer to I-37 Raceway, Chuck Chesler held on for dear life as he captured his first IMCA victory at I-37. After several aborted starts, Chesler took the lead from Marlin Samford on lap 3. Defending track champ, Greg Dinsmore caught Chesler and was on his way by when yellow waved giving Chesler the spot back. Dinsmore kept the pressure on after the ensuing restart until he banged the wall and cut down a tire.

Jamie Campbell was next to take up the challenge after the restart, but was unable to keep pace with Chesler who inched away. 2010 track champ, Bill Pittaway got by Campbell for second, but never got close enough to mount a charge as Chesler in the Avon, Mission Race Engines, 'Hair'built Chassis motored to his inaugural IMCA win. Campbell held third over Darin Leonard and Tracy Fink.

"This is my first ever win in a Modified," exclaimed Chesler. "It's been a lot of hard work, lots of hours in the garage and lots of money. I thought I was going to win one once before, but got dumped head-on into the wall. I've been a bridesmaid several time and finished top five in a Modified and won in a Sportmod back up in Minnesota running at our local track in Princeton. Up there we raced under Wis-sota rules with a spec motor, so it's a little different with IMCA."

"We moved down here in 2009 after the local economy tanked and started putting this car together. We finally got it finished and have been trying to get it figured out. We've finally got it going in the right direction. This is one of the best cars I've ever had. A good friend of ours, Stan, helps us out a lot."

"I saw (Greg) Dinsmore once in turn 2," added the former motocross and shifter kart racer. "I tried pull away from him the best I could. It felt like the top was going away in turns 3-4, so I changed my line to the bottom. I thought those (fast) guys would be coming, but never saw anyone else after that."

“I’m just out there to have some fun and hopefully collect some more trophies. I’ve tried points racing before and that takes more time and money than I have to invest right now. We went through five motors and two cars one year trying for points.”

IMCA Modifieds

49 Chuck Chesler, 37 Bill Pittaway, 29 Jamie Campbell, 26 Darin Leonard, 24 Tracy Fink, 16 Carson Bednarz, 37b Donald Banker, 31c Marlin Samford, 5t Tommy Warner, 141 Rob Sanderson, 8g Greg Dinsmore, 53x Matt Fox, 21 Jason Borlace, 721 Doug Cameron

IMCA Modified heat winners; 37 Bill Pittaway, 8g Greg Dinsmore

Jennings Jammin’ in Sportmod Scramble

JJ Jennings(Corpus Christi) snagged his fourth win of the season making a late run in the 20-lap feature. Allen Torres got out front early as the pack scrambled for positions. Just past halfway A. Torres gave up the lead to Robbie Minten, while Jennings was working forward from his mid-pack starting spot.

Jennings, in the G&M Oilfield Services, Bud Light, WFI Waste Management, CB’s Race Engines, Western Flyer Chassis, ran down R. Minten and got the spot with three to go. From there, Jennings put some distance on R. Minten as he ran on to the checkers. R. Minten held on to second with Robert Williams making a last lap pass on A. Torres for third and defending champ, Johnny Torres coming home fifth.

IMCA Southern Sportmods

26g JJ Jennings, 4r Robbie Minten, 02 Robert Williams, 94 Allen Torres, 66 Johnny Torres, 57 Jason Kelly, 37 Cody Leonard, 22t Tommy Grimes, 118 Anthony Gordon, 18 Larry Jernigan, 14t Talon Minten, 174 Mickey Helms, 58 Hunter Flanagan, 51 Greg Rohmer, 84k Patrick Kelly, 2g Greg Lackey, 11 Tom Grothues, 60 Pat Lyon, 2r Michael Hernandez

IMCA SSM heat winners; 118 Anthony Gordon, 02 Robert Williams, 37 Cody Leonard

Crawley Capture Limited Late Model Loot

San Antonio’s Craig Crawley took home the Limited Late Model hardware going flag to flag for the victory in the 15-lapper. Crawley, driving the Odie Racing, Marteens Body Shop, Edmar Stickers & Graphix, Duffin Race Engines car, had multi-time track champion, Gary Hunter on his tail throughout the race, until he inched away at the end. Coming back from a crash that saw

him miss some track time, Trey Votion finished third ahead of Andrew Hesler and former champ, Richard Bartosh.

Limited Late Models

6 Craig Crawley, 14 Gary Hunter, 99 Trey Votion, 1x Andrew Hesler, 7 Richard Bartosh, 13 Howie Marcx, 13s Jason Smith, 3 Abraham Mares, 42 Ron Sprayue, 48 Greg Dinsmore---DNS

Limited Late Model heat winners; 6 Craig Crawley, 13 Howie Marcx

Hilla Hauls in Pure Stock Payday

Let's get ready to rumble. It was one of the best door to door, paint swappin', bumper bangin' features this year in the Pure Stocks. Who'd have thought it would be two of I-37's lady racers putting on the show and it wasn't for parking space at the mall. Brandy Ramzinski grabbed the early lead in the 17-car, 20-lap main event. Former champ, Janel Hilla(Pleasanton) closed in and took over the lead on lap 5.

As the duo played a high speed game of bumper tag, trading some paint along the way, Ramzinski was able to get back by Hilla for the top spot on lap 8. Not to be outdone, Hilla fought back by on lap 13 and was able drive off to the victory in the Riley Welding, Johnny's Paint & Body, Mission Racing, Sunset Beach, Alamo Bolt & Screw, Engineered Explosive Services, Chevy.

It was hugs instead of handshakes in the Winners Circle as the two congratulated each other on the hard fought battle that left all the men in their dust. Ramzinski's brother, Jarrett Payton made his way to third, while Ryan Doyon and Devin Adler rounded out the top five.

Pure Stocks

7x Janel Hilla, 88 Brandy Ramzinski, 9s Jarrett Payton, 5 Ryan Doyon, 117 Devin Adler, 13 Cameron Smith, 95 Jerry Jones, 83 Kary Scott, 10c Karaline Campbell, 33 Merida Major, 15 William Cavender, 66 Adam Torres, 57 Ben Frankie, 48 Cody Stacey, 33c Charles Earnhardt III, 14 Trey Heald, 49(6p) Jeremy Hernandez

Pure Stock heat winners; 5 Ryan Doyon, 7x Janel Hilla, 88 Brandy Ramzinski

Gaither Gathers Front Runner Feature

Dillon Gaither(Floresville) added another win to his young career taking home the trophy in the Front Runner feature. Gaither worked his way around Hailee Marcx for the lead on lap 2, then held off Landon Sowder after a restart to pull away for the win in the 1st Choice House Leveling, Earnhardt & Sons Automotive, Ray's Auto & Truck sales, The Used Car Factory, TJ Hopper, Rohmer Racing, Tiburon.

Front Runners

5 Dillon Gaither, 08 Landon Sowder, 113 Hailee Marcx, 66c Cindy Snyder, 13 Zach Jackson, 98e Will Holder, 82 Ashley Schul, 57 Trevor Bettis