

MARCH/APRIL - VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

"WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS"

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
AMERICAN  
AUTOSPORTS  
PRODUCTIONS



# TIRE TRACKS



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FFW S/O  
RECORDS!**

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209.58MPH!**

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"HUGE"**



**Car Show-  
"MASSIVE"**

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- GK Finally Gets It!
- Cale Works!
- Photos from O-Town!

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*Look on page 5 & 6  
Hope we get to see you  
when we race in Ohio*



BY **AMP PERFORMANCE**

## Tire Tracks

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# Before The Starting Line

By Bill Alexander, President,  
American Autosports Productions

Those of you that were at the FFW Spring Break Shoot Out at the Orlando Speed World Dragway, our 2006 season opener, will know that the 2006 FFW season is off to a great start. Mother Nature truly smiled on us

with just about perfect weather all weekend, we had a great turn out of cars, with some great competition, and a really huge spectator count. As always, it was really great to see all of you

again after winter. It is always interesting to see all of our FFW family at the first event of the year. Often times there are some very interesting changes, like Joe DaSilva's son Matthew competing in Street Renegade in Joe's old Pro car! Thank all of you that were there for participating and special congratulations to all of our winners!

FFW and Ford Racing Performance Parts, our new Ultra Stang class sponsor, have teamed to bring you "The John Force Mustang Shootout". This unique program is geared especially for

the 2005 and 2006 Mustangs. It is aimed at getting the owners of '05 & '06 Mustangs involved with Ford performance and drag racing. Here's how it will work. Ford customers who purchase one of FRPP's new Mustang Power Packs (M-2005-FR1/FR1A, M-2006-FR1) and/or Drag Packs (M-2005-FR2/FR2A, M-2006-FR2/FR2A) will receive a free certificate to participate in FFW's True Street Class at one of the FFW events in 2006. Special prizes will be awarded to those John Force Mustang T/S Shootout participants that post the best reaction time through the weekend. This should be a whole lot of fun and a great opportunity to get involved with FFW and drag racing through FRPP. For additional information, please go the FRPP web site, [www.FordRacingParts.com](http://www.FordRacingParts.com), for more information, complete details, and to sign up!

I'm sure that just about everyone that

participates in FFW has seen the 1940 Mercury, "Leftoverod", that Paul and Barbara Rankin race in Mod Comp. They are really some wonderful folks to talk to and to be around. They have been around FFW for several years and last season they campaigned the mighty Merc the

entire schedule. The Rankins finished fourth in the final 2005 World Championship standings in the tough MC (formally Open Comp) division and though Paul isn't a new comer to drag racing, he was a new comer to the FFW points

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program and received the Cecil Stewart Memorial Newcomer of The Year Award at the FFW World Championship Awards banquet. I thought that many of you that live outside of

Florida, and outside of the Orlando area would be interested in the following article that was printed in the Orlando Sentinel newspaper on Paul and Barbara. The following is reprinted

with the permission of the Orlando Sentinel.



I didn't drive fast. I never was into that.

When we got married 26 years ago, we decided to support each other in everything. And we have done everything together whether it's working or playing. It took him five years to talk me into racing.

If you stay under a certain speed, you can have a passenger during a race. So I started riding with him. A race is 15 seconds long. It's over before you even know what's happening.

It really keeps your mind active. Another 73-year old guy is going to be sitting on the sofa watching TV. Paul has to bend and stretch his body to work on the car. It keeps him limber.

I first raced alone in 2002 and upset a lot of the fellas. There are not many women racing. We race at Orlando Speed World and during the Fun Ford Weekend. You race, you come home, you wash clothes, you pay bills and you're off racing again.

Barbara Rankin, 65

Drag racing keeps me young because it requires a clear head and physical dexterity. I built a 1940 Mercury named Leftoverod - the engine, transmission, everything. The car and towing rig need periodic maintenance that can be performed at home. So I am busy between races as well as during a race.

I enjoy the competition, especially winning a race with someone a third my age. I think the best reason for staying young is the constant search for ways to make a race car consistent. Drag racing is a sport that gives me the opportunity to learn something new at every race.

I started racing 55 years ago as a kid. I never could race a whole lot until after I retired. Then I spent time building the car. It took about five years.

I started racing a bunch in 1996. It's so interesting because your opponents are everywhere from a 16-year-old to a middle-aged person.

My wife supports and helps me pursue my hobby. We do everything together including our trips down the dragstrip.

Paul Rankin, 73

What a great couple.

We are having a problem at the events, a problem that just about every track and sanctioning body is experiencing. That problem is the number of unauthorized, non competition vehicles in the pit area and the improper use of such vehicles. I want to ask for your help in this matter because if this situation isn't brought under control and soon we will be faced with some drastic consequences. Our track insurers have informed me that in the past few years the claims for non-racing incidents has way out distanced the claims relating to any on track incidents. Fortunately, FFW hasn't experienced any such claims and I want to keep it that way. Believe me, the last thing that we want is for the insurance companies coming up with rules and regulations regarding the use of pit vehicles. Please from here on out let's not have anyone

with out a valid state driver's license driving any carts, pit bikes, four wheelers and so forth. Also, if there isn't a seat on whatever vehicle you're using, don't ride on it, and stay off the handlebars. Please keep the children out of the pit area with skateboards, razors, roller blades, etc. Every track that we go to has a posted off track speed limit, typically 10 MPH, please stay within that posted limit. If you have any doubts about what is correct, take a look at how the Pro teams handle their pit vehicles. And please, let's all be courteous toward our fellow racers with regard to the use of your pit vehicles. I think that if we work together on this we can keep the situation under control, otherwise we're gonna have a lot of folks getting into much better physical condition, because you may find yourselves walking.

In the September / October issue of Tire Tracks, the article on page 16 regarding the

results from the Bristol and Topeka events, Mrs. Judy Slaton's name was misspelled, I apologize for the error and any inconvenience this oversight may have caused.

Be sure to check out the new line of 2006 merchandise that is available at the FFW eStore as well as at the FFW trailer at the events. Cheryl has some really neat new items for '06. Check it out.

Please don't hesitate to call 225-664-0996 or email, info@FunFordEvents.com, us at the office if you have any questions regarding your membership, points, or anything else related to your participation in FFW.

God Bless all of you, our great country, and the troops that protect and support us!

Remember, if there were no Champions, there would be no Challengers!

Bill