



El Mirage July 16, 2006  
By Jim Snyder #82 Salty 'cuda

What great meets we have had so far this year! Good weather, fantastic courses, even a light breeze to keep us cool (in the shade)! The Lakers would like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest members, Al Eshenbaugh, Carl Cook and Mike Atwater. They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge into the club, along with a ton of enthusiasm, and best of all, race cars!

Carl purchased Don Labine's Big Block powered Firebird, #363, and has been adding his touches to the car. In May, Carl and Mike made their first Rookie Runs, and ran right on the money at 151 for Carl and 149mph for Mike. I was at patrol station #8 when Carl made his first pass, and I have to say he made a picture perfect run, smooth shifts, straight as an arrow, and the chute was out in the lights. When I asked him what he thought of his new ride, he said, "It was better than I dreamed it could be!" Don was at the meet to help Carl prep the car, and he said it was good to see #363 back on the lakebed. At the May meet, #363's clutch gave out in 2<sup>nd</sup> gear, deferring Carl's progress on his rookie orientation. In July, Carl made two more runs, with a best of 182 mph, this was with a new clutch and a new trans, a Doug Nash 5 speed! Get er done Carl!

I have to tell you a funny story; Carl was next to run for his first rookie pass, I was at position 8 pulling patrol duty and I could hear #363's Big Block come to life in the background on the FM station. Then over the CB or the FM I'm not sure, someone is yelling for the ambulance to beat it to the starting line. I thought holy crap what's happened to Carl???? Well it turned out to be a spectator with a case of heat stroke! What an initiation for Carl, he gets the signal to cut the engine, and spends the next 30 minutes enjoying an El Mirage sauna, in the drivers seat, with his fire suit on!

Al Eshenbaugh brought his clean #36 fuel street roadster to El Mirage from Phoenix to try out the lakebed for the first time in May. His car is powered by an injected 392 Hemi, with the bores sleeved to yield 366 cu.in., a "C" motor. The injection system uses a Gene Adams hot head intake manifold, and a custom scoop and throttle plate that makes for a sweet and clean looking setup. I was in his pits when they were warming up the hemi on 70% to the delight of all pitted near him! Al did some sorting out the first two meets, but in July he made two nice rookie passes, the best at 150! Look for Al and #36 at Bonneville!

John Iannucci brought his Super clean Sprint Car, XXO/VOT out from Las Vegas, to welcome in the '06 season with a couple of runs on the world's best dyno. The Jimmy 6

made so much horsepower that he couldn't get a bite on the lakebed surface on Saturday, but Sunday he turned a respectable 149mph. Look for John at Bonneville.

The Lakers celebrated the '05 season with a meeting at Wally Park's NRHA museum on April 23, where we presented John Iannucci with the "Fastest Laker in '05" trophy for his run at Bonneville Speed Week. John was able to get his Jimmy powered sprit car up to 120.264 mph despite a rough course, which made driving a tough deal. We closed up the museum at 5:00, and went to San Dimas, for dinner at Casa del Rey. A great time was had by all.

Well the Lakers are off to a great start for the '06 season! We can't wait for Bonneville!