



DRAGWAY RETROSPECT

by "Onondaga Dewey" Ketner

Old School Racers Rock and Rule

This is one of a series of columns to appear in the newspaper periodically. The author, Dewey Ketner, is a recognized expert on the subject of drag racing.

DRAG RACING RETROSPECT: Another "Need-for-Speed" Good Guy

The owner of this 1993 Ford F-150 White Lightning, Robert (Bob) Moon of Ann Arbor, had an uncle that built him a three-speed, single-cylinder engine motor bike when he was about 10 years old.

Bob was a country boy and tore up the gravel roads near Ionia where he lived on a farm with his parents and three siblings.

At age 14, he was at Onondaga Dragway, located between Jackson and Lansing. Fascinated by Art Afrons' jet dragster, his uncle's Cadillac-powered 1932 Ford 5-Window Coupe and Blown Chev Dragster, his need for speed was growing by massive leaps and lengthy bounds.

Bob mentioned it would be a real thrill to "ride" the jet on a 1/4 blast down the dragstrip. Sooo, arrangements were made to tie the body belly down on top of the jet, run ropes around the engine to secure the ride, complete with blood red jacket and helmet.

The "Voice of Drag Racing," Jon Lundberg, called Afrons to bring his jet to the starting line. As he approached, Jon hyped, loudly and very excitedly, "Some idiot is going to ride the jet, roped on top."

The spectators (and uninformed dragway employees) and racers went crazy, standing on top of their cars to witness this daredevil show.

Art positioned the jet at the starting line, revved the 45,000-pound-thrust engine, tickled the afterburner control, and ZOOOM – six seconds and 175 mph with topside rider on board. Wow! Such excitement! Wild spectators and so much noise, with 5,000 spectators screaming, horns blowing, unmuffled cars jazzing their engines, and all while Jon Lundberg was keeping the hype way up there!

A dragway official followed the jet to the far end of the dragway,

took the "rider" off and turned the pickup around to go back down the strip the wrong way.

The 14-year-old put on the red jacket and helmet, rode hanging out the passenger window waving his hat to the crowd.

Five thousand gave the "rider" a thunderous round of applause on the return trip to the start line.

Update from 1962 to 2008, Robert Moon found a 1993 F-150 Ford White Lightning pickup not being driven.

Over a three-year period, he personally has completely rebuilt this rare p/up into a picture-perfect-looking show vehicle – a restoration of every part and piece, nut and bolt. Custom painted the Ford original red color, this is one beautiful truck at every corner.

Of course, all of the mechanics have been upgraded. The E & S engine – a 408 Stroker V8 from Clawson, Mich. – proudly produced 480 horsepower through the electronic programmable transmission, sporting a custom 29-pound converter while being regulated through a Mass air fuel system, all to propel you forward at breakneck speeds, smoking those big Toyota tires.

The entire vehicle was lowered two-and-a-half inches for a road-hugging appeal to the eyes. It is a powerful, screaming fun vehicle to drive or ride in that catches the eye and heart of everyone, especially his old Uncle Dewey.

Robert Moon, you have taken your "Need for Speed" to a beautiful, very functional level.

Congratulations on a great rehab program of one of Ford's great pickups. (It's just a little bit quicker and nicer than my 1932 Ford pickup that was my Jackson hot rod shop "go for" vehicle.

Look forward to seeing your White Lightning on the Onondaga Dragway cement when they have an open house to the public before opening for the drag racing season.

BURN them hides!

Onondaga Dewey

More next week on the progress on Onondaga Dragway.

SAA Names New Board Members

The Society of Automotive Analysts (SAA) elected Michelle Krebs, Mary Michno and Prabhat "PK" Rastogi as new members to its 2013-14 board of directors.

The new members were approved at the recent Automotive Outlook Conference held in Detroit. Krebs, a senior analyst and editor-at-large for Edmunds.com, was named SAA Board vice president. Michno, senior director, OEM Account Management, Agero, and Rastogi, manager, Automotive Worldwide Marketing, ArcelorMittal USA, are now on the SAA board of directors.

"We welcome the additions of Michelle Krebs, Mary Michno and PK Rastogi to our board. These new members continue SAA's trend of attracting high-caliber automotive professionals who are committed to help SAA continue to evolve and provide additional value to our members," said SAA President Anthony Pratt in a news release.

"SAA Board of Directors now consists of industry professionals representing various disciplines, which range from suppliers to automakers to data providers.

"This makeup well represents our diversified membership that looks to the SAA to provide ongoing access to key automotive insights from a wide range of perspectives."

Other SAA officers on the board of directors are:

- President – Anthony Pratt, director of Forecasting, Americas, for Polk;

- Secretary – J Ferron, director, Automotive News PACE Awards;
- Treasurer – Paul Wheeler, regional senior manager, North American Sales and Business Development, TI Automotive – Powertrain Systems.

Other members of the SAA Board of Directors are: Adam Bernard, associate director, Competitor Intelligence, General Motors; Chris Brower, director of Operations, Stage 2 Innovations LLC; Jamie Butters, Transportation team leader, Bloomberg LP; Michael Hedge, president and CEO, Hedge & Company Inc.; John Love, president, Event Management Corp.; Michael Robinet, managing director, IHS Automotive Consulting; Mel Stephens, senior vice president, Communications, Facilities and Investor Relations, Lear Corporation; and Gary Bundshuh, account manager, DENSO International America.

Laurie Harbour, president, Harbour Results, Inc., will continue to serve as the SAA chairperson; and Marjorie Sorge, executive director, Detroit Regional News Hub, will serve as the SAA's first-ever Board Member Emeritus.

Silverado is New from 'Hood to Hitch'

When Chevrolet on April 1 announced its initial pricing, performance data, and EPA fuel efficiency estimates for the 2014 Silverado 1500, company officials said they were "raising the bar" in the light-duty pickup segment.

Manufacturer's suggested retail prices for the new 2014 Silverado regular cab will start at \$24,585, including a \$995 destination freight charge, the same base price as the 2013 model. For that price, the 2014 Silverado regular cab, which starts production this summer, will include a number of major improvements.

Chevrolet officials said the 2014 comes with a more powerful, more efficient EcoTec3 engine, as well as a six-speed automatic transmission and a stronger, quieter cab with an all-new interior. The Silverado will also feature four-wheel disc brakes with Duraflex rotors and a new bed with standard box rail protectors and CornerStep bumper.

The base starting prices for the Silverado crew cab, the first model to launch later this spring, and for the new double cab Silverado, which replaces the extended cab, also will be the same as for corresponding '13 models.

Buyers of all 2014 Silverados also will receive a standard scheduled maintenance program for two years or 24,000 miles, whichever comes first. Up to four maintenance visits are included in the price of the vehicle, each one of which includes a regularly scheduled oil change, oil filter replacement, tire rotation and multi-point vehicle inspection, based on the schedule in the vehicle owner's manual.

"The 2014 Silverado is new from hood to hitch," said Alan Batey, vice president, U.S. Sales and Service. "When you combine the innovative features of the new Silverado with base pricing



2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500

equivalent to 2013 models and standard scheduled maintenance, Silverado becomes a great choice for pickup customers, helping them save money when they buy – and when they drive."

The 2014 Silverado launches later this spring with crew cab models equipped with the all-new 5.3-liter EcoTec3 V8, which is expected to power three out of four Silverado 1500s.

Chevrolet also announced EPA estimates of 23 mpg highway for 2wd models, and 22 mpg highway for 4x4 models, better than any V8 competitor, say Chevrolet officials, and beating the EPA estimates for the 2013 Ford EcoBoost turbocharged V6 for both 2wd and 4x4 models.

Silverado's 5.3-liter EcoTec3 V8 is SAE-certified at 355 horsepower and 383 lb.-ft. of torque, with more than 300 lb.-ft. of torque available from 2,000 to 5,600 rpm and is designed for responsive performance under a broad range of real-world conditions.

"Silverado's available 5.3-liter EcoTec3 V8 gives customers the best of both worlds," said Jeff Luke, executive chief engineer for Silverado. "Customers get the

proven power and dependability of a V8 truck engine, with better fuel economy than a leading competitor's smaller turbocharged V6.

"EcoTec3 builds on 58 years of V8 experience and trillions of real-world miles. The 2014 Silverado will give customers class-leading V8 fuel efficiency and the peace of mind that comes with a proven V8 design, a combination no competitor can match."

The 2014 Silverado and its 5.3-liter EcoTec3 engine, double cab 2WD models are equipped with the available max towing package, available later this year, and will have towing ratings of up to 11,500 pounds, more than any light-duty pickup currently on the market, according to Chevrolet officials.

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