



The East Coast Gassers 2022 season kicked-off with a two day race at New England Dragway in Epping NH. The weather forecast for Saturday was ominous and despite the fact that it did not rain until 3:00PM the track chose to cancel. Sunday weather improved and the race was on!

Qualifying Results

Low Reaction Time	Jim Wheeler	0.000
Low ET	Mile Alessi	9.228
Top Speed	Mike Alessi	143.12

The day began with a 13 car field but there were driveline casualties in the second round of qualifying that reduced that number to 11. Don Fardie broke the transmission linkage and John Lang suffered a transmission failure.

Eliminations Round One:

Race One: After clicking-off that lightning fast .000 RT in qualifying Jim Wheeler started off eliminations with the bye. Using this as another time shot, Jim ran it “out the back door” with a 10.69 on his 10.77 dial.



Race Two: This one saw Tony “Brutally Handsome” Gentile up against Mike Alessi in the equally handsome 56 Vette. Tony did his best against the always tough Alessi cutting a .013 light and running 11.97 on a 11.90 index. Mike’s .041 light may not have been as good but his razor close 9.23 on his 9.22 dial was enough for the win.

Race Three: In this race of the Willys Rob Pompei and Bruce Deming went at in in two very beautiful Willys coupes. Rob took the win with a .042 RT and a 12.91 on a 12.75 dial. Bruce had a sleepy .281 RT then broke out running a 10.34 on his 10.43 dial.



Race Four: Ed Linus and Kyle Torres squared off in this one. Ed went .100 red while Kyle had a .145 RT and ran an 11.365 on his 11.35 dial for the win.



Race Five Race three pitted John Lang in the UFO-1 Fiat against Matt Bakas in the 55 Chevy. John ran an ultra close 10.322 on his 10.32 dial but went a heartbreaking .006 red. Matt had a good .085 light and ran an 11.23 on an 11.20 dial for the win.

Race Six: The final race of round one was Steve Tanzella vs. Don lord. This was a double breakout race with Don running 10.443 on a 10.47 and Steve running a 9.857 on his 9.90 dial. Steve went a heartbreaking .024 red handing so Don advanced.



Eliminations Round Two:

Race One: Jim Wheeler and Mike Alessi went at it in the first race of round two. Jim went .018 red handing the victory to Mike who ran a 9.218 on his 9.22 dial.

Race Two: Rob Pompei and Kyle Torres fought it out in this one. Kyle had the better light but broke out running 11.20 on an 11.35 index. Bob ran a 12.849 on his 12.75 dial for the win. This was a costly race for Kyle as he suffered a major driveline failure that shook the car hard on the high end. The damage included a broken driveshaft, cracked transmission, and a broken rear end. In addition, all that rotating carnage destroyed the fuel system as well.





Race Three: The final race of the round had Matt Bakas up against Don Lord. Matt was a bit sleepy with a .352 reaction and broke out running 11.16 on his 11.20 dial. Don was on his game with a .039 RT and a 10.50 on his 10.44 dial for the win.

Eliminations Round Three (Semi-Final):

Race One: Rob Pompei took on Mike Alessi in the first race of the semi final round. Mike lit the win light with a .220 RT and running a 9.235 on his 9.20 dial. Rob had a slower .532 RT and ran a 12.616 on his 12.75 dial.

Race Two: Don Lord had the bye and the opportunity to get some additional data. He cut a .096 light and ran an 11.768 on his 10.40 dial. An all state of Maine final is set!



Eliminations Round Four (Final): With Don's 40 Willys and Mike's 56 Vette on the line this was a gasser-classic. Don went a disappointing .033 red handing the win to Mike who ran a 9.245 on his 9.20 dial. Congratulations event winner Mike Alessi and runner-up Don Lord.





Mike Alessi - Top Eliminator/Event winner.





Don Lord - Runner up

Sportsmanship





Happy 80th birthday Don Lord

Some closing thoughts: Epping is a great track to race at and it is always enjoyable to reconnect with and race against our New England based club members. They are good guys and as evidenced by the final; excellent racers! I apologize for the delay in getting this newsletter out. I am fully recovered from Covid and I think I finally have a handle on the new software I am using (maybe...LOL.) Thanks to Diane Deming for the hundreds of photos she provided for this and every newsletter.

Ray

Please excuse and errors or omissions, they are purely accidental.

