

Words Used In Hot Rod Racing



A Bone: Model A Ford.

Back Off: Reduce or slacken speed or power.

Bad News: Dragster that performs well thus "bad news the competition."

Big Bangers: Cars with engines of large cylinder displacement.

Big Wienie: Winning driver in drag races.

Bite: Traction of tires on the racing strip.

Blow: Failure of the Engine.

Boondocks: Off the Course. "He headed for the boondocks."

Boots: Tires.

Bore: Diameter of an engine's cylinders.

Broke: Washed out of a drag meet because of vehicle failure. Out of competition.

Carry the Wheel: Doing a wheel stand (Wheelie)

Christmas Tree: Drag strip starting light.

Cornering: Good cornering is when the car holds the road firmly without swaying or leaning noticeably.

Cutoff Point: The physical location on the track, before each corner, where the driver takes his foot off the throttle and puts it hard on the brakes; subject to the adjustment according to brake performance and intensity of competition.

Deuce: A 1932 ideal stock car for converting into a street dragster.

Dicing: (British) Close, exciting and highly competitive driving.

Drag or Dragging: A race to get to the fastest possible speed per hour over a quarter mile distance.

D-Ring: To pull ring (or handle) for opening the safety chute the at the end of the drag run.

Drop the Hammer: To engage the clutch very rapidly at the start of the race.

Elapsed Time: The total time it takes to drive the quarter mile. Given in seconds and fractions of seconds.

Eliminated: Out of the meet; beaten.

Flat Out: Full speed; straining to reach the maximum possible speed.

Foul: To leave the starting line before getting the green light and so getting the red "foul" light.

Four On the Floor: Stick shift for transmission with four forward gears.

Full Bore: Full speed; Wide open throttle.

Goodies: Fancy body ornaments on a customized car.

Gran Turismo: (Italian) Closed two seat coupe designed for rapid, comfortable touring with good performance and handling.

Grease Monkey: Garage or auto shop employee who does unskilled work. Good apprenticeship for a would-be mechanic.

Hack: A hot rod.

Hairpin: Acute corner on road racing circuit.

Handier: Drag race driver.

Hauler: Extremely fast car.

Honker: Extremely fast car.

Hot Dog: (1) Said to be main diet of drag fraternity; (2) to show off; (3) a winning driver.

Hot Shoe: A fast capable driver.

Injected: Engine with fuel injection.

Juice: Fuel specifically blended for race cars.

Lunched an Engine: An engine completely destroyed or failing completely during a race.

Match Race: Race in which winner must take two out of three drag runs (or three out of five).

Mickey Mouse Circuit: Small, winding, race circuit

Moon: Hubcap.

Nerf Car: Bumper.

Off the Line: Actual start of the race.

Pace Car: Vehicle used to pace race cars at flying start.

Pinstriping: Painting narrow stripes at handles and other parts of cars, body.

Pipes: Fancy exhaust system.

Rollbar: Bar firmly installed on racing vehicles to protect driver in case the car rolls over.

Screamer: A hot rod.

Shaving: Removing body trim preliminary to customizing.

Sleeper: Car with more horsepower and getaway than would expect by just glancing at it.

Slick: Oversized tire for better traction; usually wide and flattened where it contacts the road surface.

Stand On It: (1) To step all the way down on the throttle pedal. (2) To race aggressively.

Stock Car: A drag racing class.

Top: Top Eliminator.

Zoomies: Exhaust headers on a dragster that sweeps upward, thus directing smoke and heat away from vehicle and driver.