

SoCal Pro Gas Association Elapsed Times

Newsletter by Bob Johnson

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May 2007



*Kato-Torres Jr win K&N Filters-Perma-Coil Inserts-
sponsored Las Vegas Pro Gas National races—
Ventura moves into series Points Lead*



Paul Schmitz Photos

Roger Kato Wins K&N Filters Pro Gas Nationals at Las Vegas

By Bob Johnson Las Vegas Motor
Speedway Las Vegas, Nev. April 7, 2007
Photos by Paul Schmitz & Bob Johnson

Roger Kato took home over \$2,000.00 for his victory in the K & N Filters Pro Gas Nationals at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway during Easter weekend spring break. Kato defeated '04 series champion Greg Ventura in the final round.

Mike Blodgett Sr., the 2005 series champion, was the top qualifier with his '27 Brogie Ford Roadster, Wes Anderson was second driving Ron Marcum's Nova, Kato was third, and Val Torres Jr. was fourth with his Pontiac.

North Las Vegas racer Kato took home the big prize money in the K & N Filters-sponsored third event of the season by defeating Randy Balough's Corvette in round one, he got a competition single in the second round as Anthony Galati couldn't make the call, and he got a bye in round three. In the quarterfinals he defeated Super Gas standout Rick Beckstrom's '03 Grand Am, and in the semifinal he beat Rick Gunther 9.904 (.027 reaction time) to a losing 9.881 (.029 r.t.).

On the other side of the ladder, Greg Ventura went to his second Pro Gas final of the season—and the series points lead—as he drove his '66 Nova to the final by beating Johnny Matassa, Max Tafoya, Don Kruse, and Jim Gallatin before running a 9.919 (.022 r.t.) to deny Wes Anderson the opportunity to go to his second final of the season, as he lost with a too quick 8.894 (.026 r.t.).

In the final round Kato's '04 Cavalier got a .015 to .034 advantage off the starting line, and held on to win the K & N Filters event title with a 9.927, 160.50 to Ventura's runner-up effort of 9.933, 150.38.



Special Thanks to
K & N Filters
for sponsoring the 2007
Southern California
Pro Gas Nationals
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Torres Jr. stops John Phlegar in Perma-Coil Inserts Pro Gas Fox Hunt final

By Bob Johnson Las Vegas, Nev.
April 8, 2007--Photos by Paul Schmitz

Val Torres Jr. won the Perma-Coil Inserts Pro Gas Fox Hunt at Las Vegas with a final round win over Las Vegas racer John Phlegar at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Greg Martin was the top qualifier with his



Chevy Lumina, with Joe Galati, Mike Ferderer, Val Torres Jr., and Matt Treadway rounding off the top five qualifiers.

The Perma-Coil Inserts-sponsored event third round opened with Brad Pierce defeating Doug Sedmak, Torres Jr. beat Danny Petrillo, Mike Blodgett Sr. used a .008 reaction time and 9.908 to stop Mike Boner, Kato continued his winning with a 9.913 win over Gary Cooke, losing with a 9.913 and .003 red light, and in a battle of early model Corvette's, Las Vegas racer John Phlegar defeated Ernie McCallister.

Pierce and Kato had a tough race to open the quarterfinals, as Pierce got the win with his Corvette at 9.881, with a .007 reaction time as Kato's winning weekend came to an end with a too quick 9.875 after clicking a perfect reaction time. Torres Jr. defeated Blodgett Sr. 9.923 to a 9.872, and Phlegar got a bye. Phlegar ran a

9.900 with a .025 reaction time to go to the finals as Pierce lost with a 9.890 (.015 r.t.) and Torres Jr. got a bye into the money round.

The Torres Construction Pontiac Firebird of 2006 NHRA



Winternationals Super Gas champion Torres Jr. picked up his first series win since last summer as he ran a final round winning 9.928, 154.55 (.014 r.t.) as Phlegar lost with a 9.892, 141.88 (.080 r.t.). Phlegar had his plate full on Easter Sunday, as he also finished runner-up in the 'Strips Electronic Bracket.

With four of the ten Pro Gas races in the books, Ventura has the points lead with 2516 points, Wes Anderson is second with 2243, and Rick Gunther is third with 2148.

The remaining top ten include: Val Torres Jr. (1932); Pete Bothe, (1925); Roger Kato, (1921); Tony Fuller, (1913); Gary Cooke, (1903); Mike Boner, (1821); and Brad Pierce, (1716).

The fifth and sixth events on the SoCal Pro Gas Assoc., schedule will be at Auto Club Raceway at Bakersfield on June 9 & 10.

Special Thanks to
Bob Duncan and
Perma-Coil Inserts
for sponsoring the
**2007 Perma-Coil Pro
Gas Fox Hunt**
at Las Vegas Motor Speedway

So Cal Pro Gas Points

(As of April 9, 2007)

POS	DRIVER	#1	#2	#3	#4	Total
1	<i>VENTURA, GREG</i>	904	508	804	300	2516
2	ANDERSON, WES	400	818	718	307	2243
3	GUNTHER, RICK	414	719	715	300	2148
4	TORRES, VAL JR.	601	0	413	918	1932
5	BOTHE, PETE	1005	920	0	0	1925
6	KATO, ROGER	400	0	919	602	1921
7	FULLER, TONY	400	703	410	400	1913
8	COOKE, GARY	400	501	501	501	1903
9	BONER, MIKE	505	513	300	503	1821
10	PIERCE, BRAD	313	400	300	703	1716
11	GALATI, ANTHONY	300	410	400	400	1510
12	JOHNSON, LOREEN	400	401	400	300	1501
13	KERSEY, RANDY	601	300	300	300	1501
14	BALOUGH, TRAVIS	308	300	408	401	1417
15	SEDMAK, DOUG	300	300	302	504	1406
16	MARTIN, GREG	601	0	311	416	1328
17	BLODGETT, MIKE SR	300	0	416	602	1318
18	HEREM, RYAN	412	0	501	400	1313
19	ISRAEL, JIM	401	300	309	300	1310
20	GRUESER, TOM	400	602	300	0	1302
21	COLLEASURE, HOLLIS	307	300	300	309	1216
22	CAMPA, VICENTE	300	300	300	311	1211
23	PHLEGAR, JOHN	0	0	400	809	1209
24	BECKSTROM, RICK	300	0	602	304	1206
25	BERESFORD, DANIEL	803	400	0	0	1203
26	COAPSTICK, DAVE	300	300	300	300	1200
27	MATASSA, JOHN	403	413	307	0	1123
28	HESTER, RUSS	300	0	505	306	1111
29	CORDEIRO, RAY	500	606	0	0	1106
30	NEWMAN, WAYNE	702	400	0	0	1102
31	SILVIA, J WAYNE	601	501	0	0	1102
32	GALLATIN, JIM	0	0	605	400	1005
33	TORRES, VAL	702	0	300	0	1002
34	MCALLISTER, JERRY	0	0	501	501	1002

Pro Gas Shootout Points

Pos	DRIVER	TOTAL
1	<i>GUNTHER, RICK</i>	42
2	ANDERSON, WES	36
3	MARTIN, GREG	27
4	TORRES, VAL JR.	26
5	MATASSA, JOHN	23
6	FERDERER, MIKE	20
7	BONER, MIKE	19
8	COMSTOCK, KAREN	17
9	BALOUGH, TRAVIS	17
10	KONDROTAS, FRED	16
11	COLLEASURE, HOLLIS	16
12	BLODGETT, MIKE SR.	16



Smooth Showing! Congratulations, Randy Balough and Joe Roubicek, for your victories at the Las Vegas NHRA-Lucas Oil divisional event. Randy defeated another SoCal racer, Brad Pierce in the Super Gas final, while Joe beat Del Cox Jr. in the Toop Dragster final. Team Smooth will sponsor of the upcoming Famoso Pro Gas Race

Next Race:

June 9-10, 2007

at Bakersfield

Sponsored by:

Chuck's Automotive

Team Smooth

Adopt-A-Church

Gary's Garnish....by Gary Cooke

First I want to thank all the racers and families that showed up for our Easter weekend races. We had 49 cars on Saturday and 37 cars on Sunday. I think everyone had a great time and the races were very well run by the great staff at **The Strip**. In the Driver's meeting on Sunday, it was unanimous that everyone wanted to race at the Strip again next year. We will try our best not to have it on Easter though!

Speaking of Easter, I want to express a very special thanks to some individuals that I personally saw helping the Easter bunny on Sunday Morning. That was **Mary Blodgett, Patti Beckstrom and Doug McIntyre**. Also special thanks to **Patti, Sherry Jones, Loreen Johnson, Donnie Munesato of Zyoxx Wheels and Smitty Smith of Edelbrock** for donating some great stuff for the Easter Egg hunt on Sunday. We had 8 kids show up for the hunt and believe me; they took home a pile of cool stuff.

I would also like to thanks **Robert Aiello** of **Emerald Pacific Mortgage** in Santa Ana California for his generous donation of \$100 to help pay for the Easter Egg Hunt. That was really nice of Robert and totally unexpected. Thanks again Robert!

Congratulations **Roger** for winning the **K&N Filters Pro Gas Nationals** on Saturday this past weekend at **The Strip**. **Roger**, a former So Cal Pro Gas racer from the Orange County International Raceway days, did a great job in 6 rounds of eliminations and took home over \$2000 dollars in cash and contingency money. **Greg Ventura**, as in the first race of the season, secured another Runner Up position in Saturday's race and in doing so, is leading the points for 2007 after 4 races.

Congratulations to **Val Jr.** for winning the **Perma-Coil Pro Gas Fox Hunt** on Sunday. **Val**, no stranger to the So Cal Pro Gas final rounds or **Perma-Coil Racing**, also did a fabulous job to take home his share of the \$5000 prize money for the weekend. For the Runner Up position, we have a new comer to So Cal Pro Gas, **John Phlegar**. Congratulations to **John** and I can bet we will see more of him in future So Cal Pro Gas Races.

Number 1 Qualifiers for the races were **Mike Blodgett Sr.** in the **K&N Pro Gas Nationals** and **Greg Martin** in the **Perma-Coil Pro Gas Fox Hunt**. The #1 Qualifier Plaques were sponsored by **Ryan** and **Travis Broguiere** of **BMS Auto**

Detailing for the **K&N** race and **Jim Sowards** for the **Perma-Coil** race.

We took in \$358 on Saturday and \$474 on Sunday in the 50/50 raffles. Some how or another, the Easter Bunny was watching over the **Jones's** this weekend as **Mel** took home the \$179 on Saturday and his wife **Sherry** took home the \$237 on Sunday. Not a bad gamble for the **Jones** family. However, the huge prize for the weekend, donated by **Chris Lamb** and **Matco Tools** was the **Matco Tools Master Pit Cart**. That was won by non other than **Audry Israel**. **Audry** says she now has **Jim** on his hands and knees begging her to let him use 'her' tool chest! A special thanks to **Chris Lamb** for his generosity. That was a great prize. Oh, and thanks to **Greg Martin** for hauling **Audry's** tool chest home for her!

Well, once again our race preceded another NHRA National Event. And again, many of our So Cal Pro Gas racers made it through many rounds of competition in the 141 car Super Gas field at the Summit Racing.com Nationals. Congratulations to **Robert Naber** for his runner up finish. Other So Cal Pro Gas notables in the later rounds were **Jeff Agaloff, Dave Zewe, Jerry Denton, Ryan Herem, Randy Balough, PJ Giacalone, Randy Fabbro, Rick Beckstrom and Greg Ventura**. **Jeff** now leads the points for the 2007 Powerade Super Gas Championship! Keep up those great finishes **Jeff, Cheri and Kyle!**

One last Thank You has to go out to **Kyle Anderson, Wes Anderson's** son, who with a little help from his grandma **Mary Ann**, did a fabulous job of registering all the racers, selling T-shirts and raffle tickets and most of all, hanging over 40 **K&N Filters, Meziere Enterprises** and **Edelbrock** banners all around the raceway facility. Great job **Kyle!**

That's all for this issue. Hope to see you in Bakersfield at our next So Cal Pro Gas race the second weekend in June sponsored by **Chuck's Automotive and Team Smooth**.

Cookester

PS If anyone knows the girl who won the \$100 savings bond in the Easter Egg Hunt, please have her or her mom get in touch with me.

Thanks

Pro Gas Scoreboard

Race	Date	Location	Winner	Runner-up	#1 Qualifier	Event Sponsor
1	Feb 3	Fontana	Pete Bothe	Greg Ventura	Fred Kondrotas	Harris Family Motorsports
2	Feb 4	Fontana	Pete Bothe	Wes Anderson	Rick Gunther	Wayne & Dave's Automotive/Silvia Construction/Mike's Transmission
3	Apr 7	Las Vegas	Roger Kato	Greg Ventura	Mike Blodgett Sr.	K & N Filters
4	Apr 8	Las Vegas	Val Torres Jr.	John Phlegar	Greg Martin	Perma-Coil
5	June 9	Bakersfield				Chuck's Automotive
6	June 10	Bakersfield				Team Smooth/Adopt-a-Church
7	July 14	Fontana				
8	July 15	Fontana				
9	Aug 18	Fontana				Meziere Enterprises
10	Aug 19	Fontana				

Special Award Sponsors

Date	Winner Trophy	#1 Qualifier	#2 Qualifier	#3 Qualifier	#5 Qualifier	#10 Qualifier
Feb 3	Blodgett Family	Extreme Compaction	Pizazz Racing	Bonaco Line	Brown's Trans.	B&B Electric
Feb 4	Blodgett Family	Jim Sowards	B & B Electric	Bonaco Line	Brown's Trans.	B&B Electric



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