



MEET THE TOP RACERS OF HEADS UP OUTLAW DRAGSTER COMPETITION; THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN OHIO

OUTLAW 660

By Dragway 42
Photos by PMJ Photography and
NW Photography



While heads up outlaw competition in Ohio has remained steady over the years in terms of participation and attendance, it has battled dormant periods during its existence. Participation has risen over the last two years to reflect a rebound for this class, particularly at Dragway 42, and motorsports fans have started to flock to the track to experience the speed firsthand.

Dragway 42 is owned by Ron & Mary Anne Matcham and operated by track managers Gary & Gari Harper. It is in its 61st season (after a 3-year hiatus) and in its 2nd year after reopening. It features a 1/4 mile drag strip built between two lush grassy hills. The track hosts a diverse range of drag racing competition, one of the highlights being the KB Trailer Sales Outlaw 660 Heads Up Series.



A pair of outlaw dragsters prepare to launch off the starting line at Dragway 42 in West Salem, OH during an Outlaw 660 race.

THERE'S PLENTY OF BUSINESS OUT HERE
"I'm a firm believer that there's plenty of business out here to continue to grow the Outlaw 660 program," says Chad Wright, Race Coordinator at Dragway 42. "As we keep building, competitors have continued to come back out, and we're also attracting new racers who have never been to Dragway 42. It's pretty exciting to see."

"Our marketing partners and racers support a lot of the track and the fans make it come full circle," says Wright, who offers an average of \$10,000 in purse money per Outlaw 660 event. "We really didn't know what to expect when we first started this program and we're more excited than ever to keep going."

Roughly 600-3,000 fans attend monthly Outlaw 660 events as spectators, a number that fluctuates based on factors including weather, time of year and other events scheduled in the local area. Admission is usually \$10 or \$15 for adults and free for kids (12-under).

BEST KEPT SECRET

The outlaw dragster class might be Ohio's best kept secret, despite boasting all of the features that makes drag racing so popular — blazing speed, roaring engines, vivid paint schemes and an array of dragsters powered by nitrous, blowers or prochargers. Dragway 42 sets the stage for the KB Trailer Sales outlaw dragster competitors to push the limits, bolster competition, and excite the fans.

“The support and effort from our outlaw dragster drivers have surpassed my expectations. These teams are capable of racing anywhere in the country and they choose to compete with us...and they continue to set performance records...that’s pretty special if you ask me,” says Wright.

There are 5 drivers at the core of the Outlaw 660 program:

- Bryan Keller
- Paul Molnar
- Tony Mancini
- Keith McLennan
- Mike Knott

Bryan Keller of KB Trailer Sales plays an essential role in the success of the Outlaw 660 series, by contributing his support both as the primary marketing partner for the series as well as

a racer. After 3 straight final appearances this year, Keller and team were finally able to put their KB Trailer Sales outlaw dragster in the winner circle over Labor Day weekend. After a very tough 3 rounds, Keller just edged out Tony Mancini in the final; Keller with a 3.760 and Mancini with a 3.761.

Paul Molnar started racing in 1983 right out of high school. Teaming up with one of his very good friends and partner David Quesenberry, they really cut their teeth in heads up racing running the Friday Night Chaos series in a 1948 fiat where they won multiple events. In 1999 they purchased a new funny car chassis from Bruce Maitland Race Cars with the intention of racing IHRA Funny Car. The week the car was finished, IHRA canceled the Funny Car class. The team raced Asphalt Wars at Thompson Raceway Park for a few years, but to become more competitive purchased a Spitzer Dragster in 2011. They ultimately won more Asphalt Wars races than any other team, and to top it off, won the open body championship in dramatic fashion against one of their good friends Bryan Keller. Their car is also one of the fastest in the country running 3.60 @204mph at Virginia Motorsports Park. They continue to set records at numerous tracks including Dragway 42, which is now their home track. Molnar played an important role during the creation of the Outlaw 660 series, and says, "The inception of Outlaw 660 at Dragway 42 has given heads up racers like myself an amazing place to do what we love!

Tony Mancini with tuner Aaron Sipple is a powerful combination and they consistently qualify in the top of the field.

Mancini's ETs improve with each Outlaw 660 race and have ultimately lead to the most exciting final round (Labor Day race) the series has seen to date! Look for him to continue to push the envelope!

Koffel's Place truly represents Dragway 42's past and present. The Koffel family was present opening day with the "Flintstone Flyer" and now the family is still racing at the "new" Dragway 42 with the "Lake Erie Monster" outlaw dragster.

They feature a different Mopar engine combination from the



Tony Mancini



Paul Molnar



Bryan Keller



Mike Knott



Keith McLennan
(Lake Erie Monster)

usual Hemi, with a B-1 Headed Wedge engine. Koffel's Place designed and produce the B-1 Heads, so the primary goal of the "Lake Erie Monster" dragster is to showcase and test various combinations of that engine so they can best advise their customers.

After 65 years of active racing involvement, national and internationally, Koffel's Place and the Koffel family still enjoy the camaraderie and spirit of the Outlaw 660 Series. "Dragway 42 has historically been a fun and friendly place to race," says Koffel.

Together, driver of 8 years, Keith McLennan and Scott Koffel (the monster trainer), have won multiple championships, records and races. They'd like to send out a big thank you to their faithful crew members, the McLennan, Ooten, Rady, Welch, and Sansom families, and "Gal Friday's," Gay, Pat, Sandy & Cindy.

"A big shout-out to the Matcham's and Dragway 42 crew, for all the work that has gone into the Outlaw 660 Series. A final thank you to Mom & Pop Koffel...whose job it is to dispense money and criticism and who started it all 60 plus years ago!!" - Koffel

Mike Knott is fairly new to the outlaw dragster scene and wheels a 2008 Spitzer TD powered by 471 ci. Brad Anderson Hemi built by Fowler Engines, with sponsor Born Implement.

Knott has made multiple semi final appearances the first year out with the car and clicked off a best (to date) pass of 3.83 @194 after only 10 full 1/8th mile hits in the car. Prior to battling gremlins this year, he posted a 5.92 @232 at the Norwalk divisional (first into the 5's on their new track surface) on an aborted run due to engine failure.

Knott somehow managed to get the motor back together within 3 days of receiving much needed parts, then raced the Outlaw 660 event over Labor Day only to discover more problems.

"The issue has finally been traced down and corrected, so I am very excited to see how the car will perform at the end of September with everything working like it should (for the first time in this combination's life)," says Knott.

When asked why he chooses to race the Outlaw 660 series, Knott says, "It's about the people running next to you. You're hard

pressed to find this kind of camaraderie anywhere else. The track is on point, the program is ran extremely well, and most importantly we get to go fast. We're extremely blessed to have this going for us so close to home.

I am absolutely pumped for the final event of the year and very much looking forward to the future of this program. Once we get this car figured out, it will undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned with."

Catch these racers in action during the last Outlaw 660 Pro Mod & Outlaw Dragster event on Sat., September 29. Gates open @8am with qualifying @12pm and eliminations @3pm.

MEET THE FIELD

It takes more than 5 to complete a Quick 8 and Dragway 42 has welcomed many talented racers to the outlaw dragster field over the last 2 years:

- Robert Pickens
- Dan Norris
- Nick Willis
- Craig Addis
- Michael Scheel
- Antinora Family Racing
- Robert Frigon
- Dan Leech

and several others!

Find photos and event wrap ups at <https://www.dragway42.com/outlaw-660/results/>.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

"The environment alone contributes to the success of the facility. The track is beautiful and it's only going to get better. The surface of the track is near perfect and Gary Harper does an outstanding job with track prep.

Our job now is to continue to expose Dragway 42 to more people. Attracting a new generation of drag racers is crucial to the sport's success, but we can also use our environment to offer programs off-track, attracting an entirely new group of customers to our facility, and we have the team in place to do it," says Wright.

Dragway 42 was named IHRA Division 3 Track of the Year and claimed the IHRA Division 3 (North Stars) Summit Team Finals Championship at Keystone Raceway Park over the Sep 21-23, 2018 weekend

If you'd like to learn more or if you are interested in partnering with Dragway 42 and the Outlaw 660 program, please contact Chad Wright, Race Coordinator at chadwdragway42@gmail.com or by phone 330.942.6557.

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A group of racers from a variety of classes celebrate the reopening and 60th year of Dragway 42. (2017)