

Great Lakes Harley Shootout Season Opens

Story and photos by Colleen Swartz

I remember the thrill of running my '67 Mustang down the quarter mile at Great Lakes Dragaway more than 10 years ago. Warming up the tires, staging against the tree, anticipating the drop, screaming down the quarter mile and watching the board in anticipation of the times. It was a blast and I was lucky enough on May 26th to feel that excitement again at DaGrove.

The 2005 Great Lakes Dragaway racing season schedule now includes bi-weekly Thursday night bike drags being billed as "Harley Shootout". This is a new effort from Randy Henning and Bruce Vollecht at Great Lakes Dragaway. Despite dire predictions of rain again, the third of ten Shootouts of the 2005 season opened to a dry track with enthusiastic racers and spectators at 5:00PM.

I was pleasantly surprised by the nice turn out of not only Harley enthusiasts but also motorcycle enthusiasts in general. Drag bikes, stock Harleys, classic Hondas, sport bikes, old and new all ran the track. The management at DaGrove has added a nice bar behind the grandstands and Broadway Bob was busy setting up his newest addition to DaGrove, "Bob's Gift Emporium" where you can purchase anything from a retired set of used Smurf drinking glasses to new, in the box, scale models of classic cars and bikes. Vendors were set up to add a "swap meet" atmosphere and food and beverages were available.



The Harley Shootout is designed to provide an environment for motorcycle enthusiasts, and motorcycle racers for experienced and beginners alike. They offer 2 classes of racing, the money class and the trophy class. Racing down



Orloff from Salem, WI in Fourth.

Carlos Laracuente provided the now traditional closing burnout in Torque Alley. All present vowed a return to challenge the race winners at the next Harley Shootout event on June 23rd, they want to see you there! Mention this article from Free Rider's Press and Great Lakes Dragaway will have something for you!

The Big Harley Shootout weekend is August 26, 27, 28th. Check their website www.harleyshootout.com for details and updates on the Shootout events. Also on the website, under the photo gallery, and see the cool trophies hand made and welded out of motorcycle parts, made by Kendall Polster, www.weldguy.com. See you at DaGrove!

Colleen
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the track at GLD may at first appear difficult or dangerous but no more so than accelerating on an expressway ramp with merging traffic

The final results found Carlos Laracuente of Lakeshore Harley-Davidson in Libertyville, IL, first place in trophy class, with Jake Ringelsletter from Sun Prairie, WI, taking second. The Money class was won by Eugene Wagner fom Deerfield, WI. With Donny Vanden Noven from Beloit, WI in second, followed by Renny Biesboer from Oconomowoc, WI in third and Wes



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