

NSDRA / NHRA NATIONALS

Brainerd, Mn

August 12 to 16, 2009

The time had rolled in fast and furious as the Top Eight Race Teams were invited to again attend one of the premier racing events in snowmobile racing at the NHRA Nationals in Brainerd, MN. NSDRA brings the top 8 asphalt competitors to Brainerd as a result of the summer competition across the USA and Canada to compete for the National Asphalt Champion! The three Qualifiers were held from May to July in Norwalk, Ohio; Joliet, Illinois; and Columbus, Ohio. Qualifying at Brainerd is held on Friday and Saturday, with eliminations on Sunday.

This race brings a whole new flare to all the NHRA Pro Race Teams at Race number 16 of the 24 race series. Brainerd has what is called the “Zoo” that is full of partying race fans and the addition of the snowmobile races for exhibition that most of them claim we are pure nuts to hang on by two hands out in the open air and run mid 8 second passes at 150 mph! Tony Schumacher of the US Army car will confirm this time after time.

Bray Racing was invited to represent NSDRA at the BIR Fan Fest. Racers from across the country display their race cars and sleds in order to promote the National Event. It is also an effort to raise funding for the Brainerd Community Action Group which provides funding to many of the non-profit groups in the Brainerd Area. Bray Racing is proud to be part of this event and represent NSDRA for the past 3 years, along with raising money for a great cause in supporting the local charities.

The Race Teams rolled in on Wednesday and Thursday to find their parking spot and go through Tech and get credentials for the race. This is a time to get set up and check out all the Pro Race Teams and neat vendors selling all the products that racers need.

The Qualifying sessions at the Brainerd Nationals started out with some of the most hottest and humid weather that Minnesota experienced for the summer with temps in the low to mid 90's and humidity at 70 to 80%. Saturday morning proved to be the best time to qualify for the weekend and that afternoon was followed by a lot of rain, so much that the Coopers from New York now had lakeshore property in Minnesota and under their race trailer.

The “Z00” was visited by many of the NSDRA racers and crew on Friday and Saturday Night. Bill Bichteman of Bichteman racing had such a blast in the “Zoo” that he was out there on both nights. Cheryl Wirbel and the McBurney Ladies had way too much fun on Saturday Night, but made it back to camp early. This experience can be overwhelming with the Party Camps set up for the whole weekend and many different themes for all. The Rickshaw Races had Zach Davis and other teams competing for who could cut a good light and take the 100 foot dash with Rickshaw and passenger to the stripe first! Live bands, cold beverages, and fireworks added to the excitement of the evening.

NSDRA had two qualifying rounds on Friday and only one on Saturday due to the rain. Going into Sunday eliminations the qualifying order was as follows:

Low ET Edwin Wirbel 8.603 Top Speed Ron Bray 147.42 mph

1. Edwin Wirbel 8.603
2. Adam Fricke 8.675
3. Mike Larson 8.705
4. Ron Bray 8.707
5. Zach Davis 8.719
6. Chris Smith 8.850
7. Scott Hagen 8.976
8. James Cooper 8.979

This Final Qualifying order was one of the tightest and most competitive that NSDRA had seen at a National Event. The top five racers were qualified within eleven hundredths of a second, or just the blink of an eye between them. All eight competitors were qualified under nine seconds and the stage was set!

It was time for Sunday Eliminations and after raining off and on all morning and early afternoon, NHRA was able to start racing the Pros at about 2PM (CST) and the Pro Stock Snowmobiles went to eliminations around 7PM. As our start time kept getting later and later, we had thought that we may have to stay and finish the race on Monday. So after a lot of waiting around the guys had some itchy throttle fingers and were ready to race. Thanks to the awesome staff and crew at Brainerd they were able to finish all the races on Sunday.

Racing action was fast and furious as all three rounds happened in less than ninety minutes:

Round one of Eliminations

Edwin Wirbel vs James Cooper	Win Edwin Wirbel
Ron Bray vs Zach Davis	Win Ron Bray
Adam Fricke vs Scott Hagen	Win Adam Fricke
Mike Larson vs Chris Smith	Win Mike Larson

Round two of Eliminations

Edwin Wirbel vs Ron Bray	Win Edwin Wirbel 8.46
Adam Fricke vs Mike Larson	Win Adam Fricke 8.49

Round three of Eliminations

Edwin Wirbel vs Adam Fricke	Win Edwin Wirbel
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Congratulations to Team Louie Bilt and Edwin Wirbel for another Great Win at the NHRA Nationals !!!!!

We want to thank all our sponsors this year, but especially a special thanks to ProLine Performance, The Crank Shop, Wahl Brothers, Bellman Oil Company, and Competition Race Fuel for your continued support! Additional support and donations were received from the Jamie Bellman Family, Mike Larson Family, McBurney Racing, and Bray Racing. Thanks also to all the drivers and race teams, along with the families and everyone who supports the NSDRA/NHRA competition.