



**B**onneville Speedweek cancelled again so there goes one of my favourite weeks of the year. Higher than normal rainfall washed silt from the surrounding mountains onto the salt. Subsequent rain has not given the resulting mud a chance to dry out and another layer of salt has grown on top making a mud sandwich. Not the safest surface to race on, so the organisers, Southern California Timing Association have decided not to run the event..... bumper.

The SCTA gave as much warning as possible so as to stop overseas racers and spectators from making a trip to Bonneville to look at nothing but salt and hear nothing but silence.

I am not aware of any Aussie race car teams affected, but some of our guys racing bikes have already shipped their bikes, and at least two New Zealand teams have their cars in L.A. waiting to race.

One of the teams that is waiting in LA is headed up by Steve Williams. These guys took some Aussie records at 200mph plus in 2013. We got to know them while they were in Australia and I am sure they will still have a ball in the USA.

My first thoughts were maybe I can take in a few days of racing at El Mirage but latest reports show it is also under water. Mother Nature will eventually give us back our race

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track, but it may not be until next season.

Speaking of Kiwis this month I would like to tell you about Mark Love and Dave Rosewarne, two guys from Christchurch New Zealand. After watching "Under the Radar" (a film made by Vicki and myself about Bonneville Speedweek) they decided to make their first trip to Lake Gairdner, the home of Australia's DLRA Speedweek, in 2010 to check out the Aussie salt for themselves.

On their return to Christchurch they decided to go flat-out on finishing a car for the salt. Dave who runs Christchurch Speed Shop had imported a 1992 Camaro from Japan but he was finding it difficult to register so it was decided to turn it into a salt lake racer.

The car has been built with a one piece front from a Pontiac that is easily removed to allow for quick engine swaps as they both want to run their own motor and gearbox combos. The guys also run separate classes - Mark

runs AA gas with a 572 ci Big Block Ford and Dave runs B gas with a small block stroker 427 ci Chev. Both motors are hooked up to 5 speed Tremec gearboxes.

In 2013 Mark bumped the Australian AA Gas record up to 259 mph. This year Mark had a blowout at 200+ mph and drove off the track. Dave ran a 208 mph pass on a 179 mph record but didn't get the record because the speeds were not recorded due to wind assist.

In 2016 the guys are planning a return to Lake Gairdner after playing with the aerodynamics on the nose of the car. They hope to push up the AA gas record and take the B gas record.

Speedweek is on February 29 to March 6th 2016 at Lake Gairdner South Australia.

See you at the salt.

**Norm Hardinge**



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