



Scale Model Drag Racing

This time we sample the unbelievable 'bite' offered at the Whittier Raceway in La Habra, California

by Gene Husting

OUR MEET THIS MONTH was held at a track that has the most bite, or traction, of any drag strip we've run. It's located at Whittier Raceways, 1511 W. Whittier Blvd., La Habra, Calif. The track is owned by Major Ensley and his son Larry. Larry is an avid drag racer and the drag strip was the first track built along with a figure eight track. The other half of the building was used for general hobby supplies, but these have all been removed to make way for an ultra high speed road course with four straightaways; each of which is 40 feet long. The fast road courses and figure eights are very popular with most of the slot racers in this area.

Larry was determined to have one of the finest drag strips around and he really succeeded in this. The polished black Formica surface was laid on one inch thick plywood, which was placed on a sturdy leveled frame. The power comes from three 12-volt batteries; brand new for this meet. Brass tape .020-inch thick is laid down on either side of the slots. Naturally, the track has an accurate clock and win lights for both lanes. Now this could probably describe

many a drag strip, but Larry didn't stop here; he figured that if a polished grade of Formica gives better traction than regular Formica, then polishing the polished Formica should give better traction yet. And how right he was!! He took a mixture of toothpaste and cornstarch and rubbed out the strip from one end to the other. It now looks like Black marble. It's so smooth you can read the magazine articles on the wall in the reflections from the track. Needless to say after running on this strip most of the other strips around here will shortly be polished.

An indication of the fantastic bite showed up on the first race of the night as Chuck Blayney's '64 Fairlane stocker was pitted against Ted Wilson's '65 Chevy. Blayney's car moved less than a foot before it jumped out of the slot leaving Wilson the winner. Wilson then faced Bob Nord's '65 Dodge which won this class at the J & J meet. Nord is an old pro in this stocker class and is used to running at "Horsepower City" (J & J Slot Racing). But he was not used to running on a strip with this much bite, and his car also jumped out of the slot before it had a chance to move a foot, leaving Wilson stock class winner. After