



# A STAND-OUT

E V E N T

**Tommy Cable Adds To His Spring Fling  
Lore With Another Big Win**

WORDS/PHOTOS JOHN DiBARTOLOMEO



Coming off a very successful Spring Fling Million in Las Vegas two weeks prior, the Fling brand made the trip east to GALOT Motorsports Park in North Carolina for the third straight year. And the success followed the brand to the state most known for its NASCAR heritage, although on this very weekend, almost 400 of the best bracket racers in the country braved the pre-entry system in early February in order to beat all others for a chance to race at the Spring Fling in GALOT.

Co-promoters Peter Biondo and Kyle Seipel this year chose to limit the field of entries to only 385 as a means to allow for a better Spring Fling experience. The pre-entry system opened up online on February 5th at noon time and within eight minutes, all 385 spots were filled, which speaks volumes for the power of the brand.

The story has been told numerous times before but it bears repeating as to how close the Spring Fling brand came to not succeeding. "As we were taking down the banners after that first race in 2010," said Seipel, "Peter and I looked

at each other and said 'we might never need these banners again.' We had 170 cars and were extremely in the red financially. But we received so much

support from the racing community that we chose to go on and it's been quite a ride ever since."

Now three years at Galot, seven years



Two years ago, Paul Warwick used his Nova door car to score the win in the Super Tuesday Dragster Shootout. This year, Warwick continued his Shootout expertise with a win in the Door Car Shootout sponsored by Hoosier Tires.

## BOXSCORE

**K&N Spring Fling**  
presented by Optima Batteries

**GALOT Motorsports Park, Dunn, North Carolina**

**American Race Cars/Race Tech Dragster Shootout**

**W-Nick Folk, Durand, IL**

**R/U-John Labbous, Whitehouse Station, TN**

**FST Wednesday**

**W-Gary Williams, Bradenton, FL**

**R/U-John Tolisano, Jupiter, FL**

**JEGS Thursday**

**W-David Wright, Titusville, FL**

**R/U-Gary Williams, Bradenton, FL**

**Hoosier Door Car Shootout**

**W-Paul Warwick, Lumberton, NC**

**R/U-Kurt Harrington, Muncie, IN**

**Strange Engineering Friday**

**W-Tommy Cable, Nugaesville, MD**

**R/U-Bobby Mouat, Tyty, GA**



**Wiseco Saturday**

**SPLIT-Shane Maddox, Piedmont, SC**

**Will Holloman, Four Oaks, NC**

**Reaction Time Challenge Winners**

**Mark Seigel \$100**

**Doug Foley Jr \$100**

**Daren Lotts \$100**

**Chuck Flanagan \$100**

**Brodix Best Package Runoff**

**W-Kent Hanley, Raleigh, NC**



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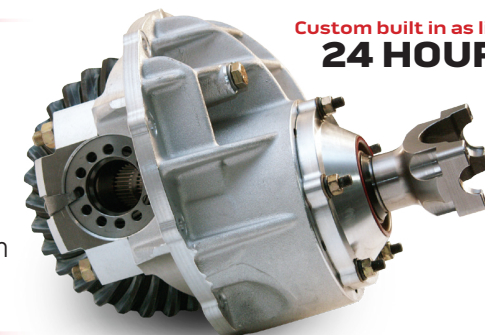
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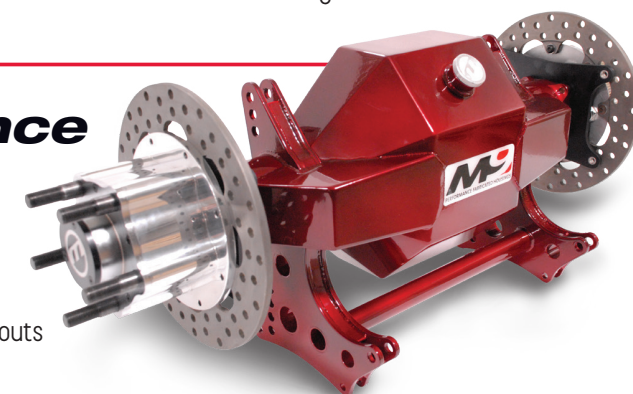
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Since the first Spring Fling event in 2010, door cars have been run separate from dragsters until the ladder round of 16, a fact which has increased the door car entries at big dollar bracket races.



Dragsters still make up a number of winner's circles but there are a fair amount of door car racers who have done some damage in eliminations.



If there was an Ironman of the Fling events, it would have to be John Labbous Jr. who has made six final round appearances over the past ten years of Fling events with four wins.



Hot on Labbous' tails for Ironman honors is Galot Friday's \$50K winner, Tommy Cable, who now has four Fling trophies of his own.

in Las Vegas and nine years at Bristol Dragway, the Fling brand stands out as one of the premier bracket races in the country. If there was only one big dollar bracket race in the country a person could enter, more times than known, it's a Fling event.

This year, Galot offered one \$50,000-to-win race on Friday book-ended by a \$15,000 Wednesday Warm-Up race followed by two \$20,000 races on Thursday and Saturday, with Sunday reserved as a make-up or travel day. A limited field of racers on Tuesday competed in the Super Tuesday Dragster Shootout with both the winner and runner-up receiving a new dragster from either American Race Cars or Race Tech, with the winner receiving choice. Nick Folk took out perennial Fling winner John Labbous for the win, taking home the American dragster while Labbous "settled" for the Race Tech.



Super Stock racer Kent Hanley showed up with a delay box in his racer scoring the Brodix Best Package Award of the weekend, going home with a set of the company's SR20 cylinder heads.



On an off-weekend from his Pro Stock career, Jeg Coughlin; a former Fling winner himself; showed up to do battle along with his wife Samantha.



The crowd on the starting line got bigger and bigger as the rounds wound down with everyone wanting to see who the big winners were.



A group of 25 randomly selected racers competed in the Spring Fling Reaction Time Challenge with only four: Mark Siegel, Doug Foley Jr., Daren Lotts and Chuck Flanagan; garnering .00X reaction times earning them \$100 each.

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**LEFT:** GALOT Motorsports Park track manager Dana Strickland thanked both the Spring Fling staff and all the racers for the tremendous support they have shown over the now three years of the event.

**RIGHT:** Second generation racer John Tolisano (left) obviously learned his lessons well from his father John Sr. (right), a former NHRA national event champ. The younger Tolisano earned himself a runner-up in FST Wednesday's \$15K final.



Since the Fling brand began in 2010, door cars and dragsters have been separated from running each other until the ladder round. Due partially to that, the rise of door cars has been growing with roughly 40-percent of the GALOT field made up of those with doors and windows. A Thursday night Door Car Shootout sponsored by Hoosier Tires rewarded Paul Warwick with \$10,000 for his win over Kurt Harrington. It appears as if Warwick should only enter Shootout races as two years ago he defeated all in the Super Tuesday American Race Cars/Race Tech Dragster Shootout, winning himself a dragster.

Ironman honors of the Fling brand over the years has to fall to John Labrous Jr. with four wins and two runner-ups in addition to a Hoosier Tires Door Car Shootout win. But hot on his heels with now four wins of his own in addition to two runner-ups is Tommy Cable who scored his fourth Fling trophy at GALOT with his win in Strange Engineering Friday's \$50K final. Of course though, Mother Nature had something to say about Friday's eliminations which had to be completed on Saturday, of which Mother Nature still had a hand.

On Saturday, with severe weather to the west, racers were made aware all day of the need to rush to complete both Friday's and Saturday's races. As it turned

out, Friday's race was completed early, allowing Saturday's Wiseco-sponsored race to begin. With darkening skies later in eliminations, officials worked diligent-



Friday night's Impact Racer Appreciation Party entertained both young and old alike with food, music, a magic show, face painting and prizes.

ly to keep the track in great condition between rounds. As the final two racers, Shane Maddox and Will Holloman suited up for the \$20,000-to-win final, rain began to fall. Two good friends and both decided it better to simply split the purse with Maddox taking home the "big facsimile check," while Holloman took home the Fling trophy. Each winner also receives a special Sparco winner's fire jacket and in a class move, officials decided to award both racers one.

After the event, GALOT Track Manager Dana Strickland said, "We are so happy to have the Spring Fling here. All the racers are so tough and the entire event is run so smooth. Thank you to all who came, congratulations to all the champs, and we hope to see you all again next year."

"Our sincere thanks goes out to all the racers for supporting our event at GALOT," said co-promoter Kyle Seipel, "and we look forward to seeing each of you in Bristol in September for the Fall Fling 500K, where we're looking forward to awarding one racer \$500,000 for his or her win in the Friday main event." ■



In a unique to the Fling final round, Mother Nature intervened for Wiseco Saturday's final round and good friends Shane Maddox (left) and Will Holloman (right) shared the final round honors, splitting the purse between themselves.

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