

Rislone Engine Treatment Racing

Media relations

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Bertsch wins one for fallen team member in Edmonton

EDMONTON, Alb. – IHRA Pro Stock driver Bob Bertsch and his Rislone Engine Treatment backed team took an emotional win during this past weekend's CARS RV & Marine & Motorsport Rocky Mountain Nationals at Castrol Raceway just outside of Edmonton, Alb. The win came just a few weeks after Bertsch's close friend and crewmember John Weisler passed away at the previous IHRA event in Budds Creek, Md.

The win was bitter-sweet for Bertsch, of Willis, Mich. Bertsch was the only IHRA Pro Stock competitor that made the trek to Western Canada amid a boycott by the rest of the class. Bertsch cites they had their reasons, and he had his.

"We came out here to Edmonton for several reasons," said Bertsch. "Everyone else in the class knew we were coming. We lost my good friend John Weisler in Budds Creek, and his wife asked me to continue racing in his memory. It's what we needed to do as part of the healing process. Personally I needed to get back on the track. This is what we do; this is what we love. He loved this sport and this is what he would want us to do."

"We also came here to honor our commitment to Bob [Mermuys – President] and everyone at Rislone and Bar's Products," Bertsch continued. "We signed on to do the IHRA tour. Canada is a very important market to Rislone and Bar's Products. With the IHRA already dropping one Canada race, it made this event that much more important. Bob and everyone at Bar's Products was very supportive and gave me several options on what I could do, but we decided going to Edmonton was the right thing to do on a personal level and business level."

During Saturday evening's final qualifying session, Bertsch wheeled his 2008 Ford Mustang to a 6.541 second elapsed time at 213.16 mph, and honored Weisler's memory in the process.

"This weekend was pretty tough for me as a driver," commented Bertsch. "Friday was the first time in three years that John didn't spot me on the line. During the last session Saturday, I shut the motor off after my burnout for a moment of silence to honor John. It was a pretty emotional run and weekend."

Bertsch then soloed to victory with a 6.533 at 215.07 mph on Sunday.

"We really hate to get our first win like this, but the crowd support was just phenomenal, and kind of made up for it," cited Bertsch. "The fans were just great. That's why we come out here and put on a show; for the fans. IHRA gave us a lot of support when we lost John in Budds Creek. We're glad we could represent the Pro Stock class for IHRA to the great Canadian fans."

"We had a lot of reporters come by over the weekend asking about the boycott," added Bertsch. "We didn't want to talk about the politics of what's going on with Pro Stock right now. We had our reasons for coming, and that's why we came."

The next event for the Rislone Engine Treatment backed team will be Mopar Canadian Nationals, July 18-20, in Grand Bend, Ont.

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