

BERTSCH BACK FROM MARDI GRAS, LOOKING FORWARD TO ROCKINGHAM

Veteran driver Bob Bertsch and his Rislone Pro-Stock team returned from the IHRA Mardi Gras Nationals in Baton Rouge, LA last week after a tough trip through the south. It has the team looking forward to IHRA's next event, an April visit to North Carolina's, Rockingham Dragway, for the 39th annual Spring Nationals.

Bertsch and his Rislone team departed for Louisiana early, with plans to test their completely-overhauled 2009 Pro-Stock Mustang before heading into Baton Rouge. "We tried to test at Valdosta (Georgia) but that didn't work out for us at all. So we made plans to head from there to a track in Louisiana that some fellow racers had rented out for testing, and as luck would have it we weren't able to actually put rubber to the track until Tuesday," said Bertsch. By the end of Tuesday's test session, Bertsch showed why he truly is a veteran by making the only complete pass of the day with his Rislone Mustang. "It was just one of those days where the track wasn't cooperating," said Bertsch. "We definitely had a bit of luck in our back pocket to have made it down the track at all. The following day a few other teams made it down, but everyone's times were way off the pace."

With a frustrating handful of test passes behind them, Bertsch and co. headed into Baton Rouge not knowing what to expect. "State Capitol Raceway is a really "unique" facility, it definitely has a lot of history," explained Bertsch. "What concerned us the most was the condition of the racing surface and the fact that this year's kickoff event for the IHRA was held about three weeks sooner than normal, so we knew the atmospheric conditions would definitely play a role in things, more so than normal."

As it would turn out, the first IHRA event at State Capitol Raceway would not see favorable track conditions until late Saturday. "We struggled a bit in qualifying, and I was definitely a bit sleepy on the line come Sunday. Just one of the snags you run into coming out of the off-season and not getting a lot of time to make solid test runs." So are Bertsch and the Rislone team disappointed with their trek into Cajun territory? "I wouldn't say we are happy with the trip, but we aren't all that disappointed either. We replaced/rebuilt just about everything in the car last season; from 4 links to shocks and struts, we even completely re-wired the car. So to be able to work a lot of those little bugs out was definitely a plus. Needless to say, our team is ready to take this Rislone Mustang into Rockingham here in a few weeks with winning as our #1 goal!"

The flagship Rislone product is Rislone Engine Treatment. America's best-selling engine treatment has been enhancing automobile engine performance for more than 85 years. Rislone Engine Treatment reduces friction & wear, quiets noisy lifters & valves, and removes & prevents sludge build-up. New Rislone products include: Rislone Compression Repair with Ring Seal, Rislone Oil Stabilizer with Engine Treatment, Rislone Transmission Stabilizer with Stop Slip and Rislone Power Steering Stabilizer with Stop Leak. Find out more at www.Rislone.com