

JUNE 2011 UPDATE

Raining pounds in May

Another update to keep you abreast of developments and all the things happening next month - July. We'll start with the end of May. It may have been raining 'cats and dogs' outside during finals day at the Main Event held at Santa Pod Raceway on May 30th, but inside the Team West-Tec marquee it was raining twenty-pound notes as new Top Fuel dragster team F&A Racing handed over a second donation for our restoration. This time it was £500.00 and following on from their original £1000.00, it makes F&A Racing the largest individual financial supporter of the Allard Chrysler restoration project apart from insurance company Performance Direct.



L-R Neil Williams (F&A), Finola Andrews (F&A), Chris Andrews (F&A), me and Stuart Bradbury (ACAG and U S Automotive) [photo; Keith Lee Images]

Chris Andrews said,

"We are really happy to support the ACAG team and their dedication to restoring Europe's first dragster. And we pledge more funds in the future. The ACAG's dedication and enthusiasm for this important task needs to be rewarded by all those involved in our sport. It is so rare to have the first of a kind in original condition and we are looking forward to the day when we can fire up our own car and Sydney Allard's 1961 Allard Chrysler at the same event".

When I first prepared a list of potential supporters of our project I must admit that a Top Fuel Dragster team was not heading the names of those most likely to be interested. My thoughts were that they would have more than enough problems sorting out the financing of their own activities.

The contact from F&A came out of the blue and, to be honest, at first I didn't believe it and thought it a bit of a wind-up. But I soon found out how serious they were. As well as seeing it as a good business proposal attractive to their own potential sponsors as part of an overall package, I think this support comes very much from the heart and I thank them sincerely. With projects like ours it sometimes gets quite depressing as far as raising funds – particularly in such a tough economic climate. Donations like this really give a lift.

Sydney Allard in a Comic strip.

Since the last Update in May, Colin Warnes of the Allard Register in the USA has sent through details of a little bit of goldust – a comic published in the USA during 1965 showing (in true comic style) the visit of Dante Duce and Mooneyes to the UK in 1963 when he raced Sydney in the Allard Chrysler.

The comic was called 'Drag Strip Hotrodders' and it does take lots of liberties with the story line and the colour of the cars; but it is great fun. How many British dragsters do you know were featured in an American comic strip? The full comic strip is now posted on www.allardchrysler.org under downloads and this is just one page from the story.

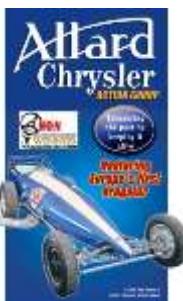


New Allard Artshirts

Because we only produce ACAG shirts to order, as promised in the last Update we can now offer ACAG T-shirts featuring a range of Allard paintings on the front plus a page from that recently discovered comic or Gordon Bruce's fantastic schematic drawing of the car. The original ACAG shirt design is still available and the new Artshirt leaflet copy is shown below. I have now posted this on the www.allardchrysler.org merchandise page.

ALLARDART - SHIRTS

Range of T-shirts featuring paintings and other artistic interpretations of the Allard Chrysler dragster on the shirt fronts with project sponsor logos on the back



Original



Shirt backs



Tommy Vågen



Paul Whitehouse 1



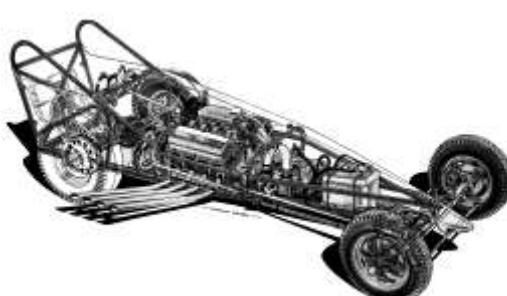
Paul Whitehouse 2



Stuart Taylor



Pedro Keenan



Gordon Bruce



American Comic

July Tour of Northampton

As already announced, the Allard Chrysler dragster will be taken out of the museum during the Hot Rod Drive-In held at Beaulieu over June 18/19 and (weather permitting) be displayed out in the open next to the main entrance of the restaurant. Myself, Syd McDonald, Chris Eames and John Hunt will be on hand to give everyone the latest news about the restoration along with the opportunity to support the project with donations or buying ACAG goodies, so drop by and say hello.

But July will see the dragster away from the museum for a full two weeks. It will first appear at the Dragstalgia Event held at Santa Pod Raceway over July 16/17 where it will be on static display with Commuter and others. Among those down to man the display are myself, Syd McDonald and Stu Bradbury.

The following Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday it will be at the Northampton Chrysler dealership Westaway Motors at Moulton Park. This is an important development that will hopefully impress the Fiat Group that now owns Chrysler. During most days at the dealership ACAG personnel will be on hand to talk about the car and they will include myself, Stuart Bradbury and Liz Rowland (aka Liz Burn in the 1970s/80s). If you live in the area watch the local press for details.



Westaway Motors Chrysler Jeep dealership in Northampton (source; *Westaway Motors*)

Derek Westaway said,

"We are proud to host such an iconic Chrysler vehicle during its tour in Northamptonshire and we thank the National Motor Museum and the ACAG for entrusting it to our care. The Chrysler Jeep brand is very much about heritage and tradition so sharing our showroom with such a historically important drag racing and sprinting machine is most fitting. A particular honour is that this is

the first time the car has appeared at a Chrysler dealership anywhere in the world and we look forward to welcoming all those interested to see it close up".

The car then moves on to the Allard Owners Club stand at the Silverstone Classic July 23/24. Sydney would have been 100 had he lived so this is a special year and we are proud to have the car displayed along with the sports cars made by Sydney back in the day. As we have drawn closer to completing the restoration of the dragster, the Allard Owners Club has become an increasingly important source of information and parts so it is nice to say thank you in this way. Myself and Stu Bradbury are down to man the stand at the moment.

July 26/27/28 will see the car back at Westaway Motors in Northampton with Stu and me before being escorted with a Guard of Honour of Mopar Classics back to Santa Pod for the Mopar Euro Nationals on July 29, remaining there for the weekend.

For some time I have been working with Mopar Muscle Association UK (MMAUK) Chairman Ivor Hawkins with the idea of the car appearing at a MMAUK supported event and circumstances have enabled this to happen at this year's Mopar Euro Nationals. Myself and Stu Bradbury have our names down to man the stand.

Ivor Hawkins said,

"I'm really pleased that the Allard Chrysler dragster is able to join us. I think this is one of the most important Mopar restorations taking place at the moment and hopefully its appearance at the Mopar Euro Nationals will enable the ACAG to raise more funds to help complete the work required to take it to 'cacklefest' capability".

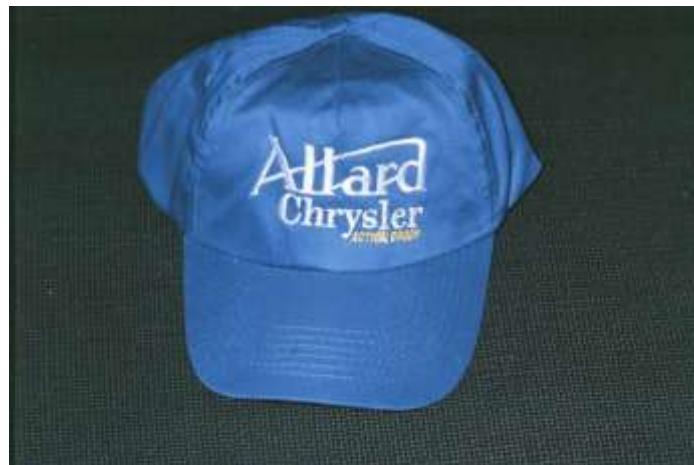
Volunteers needed

This foray into Northamptonshire will need the support of ACAG members each time it is displayed. We need people to talk about the project, sell ACAG merchandise and get donations. At the moment, apart from Dragstalgia it is mainly down to Stu and me and as I live in Sidmouth it will mean me staying in the Northamptonshire area for two weeks. Furthermore, if someone in the area can help with transport between the venues that could be useful to back up Santa Pod's kind offer in this area.

So please contact me if you are able to be on the Northamptonshire ACAG team at Dragstalgia, Silverstone or Westaway Motors so that I can arrange passes etc. brian@allardchrysler.org or Tel 01395 579733. It will also be nice for me to get back to Sidmouth to wash some shirts or I'll start to smell a bit.

ACAG cap

Finally Syd McDonald has found a UK supplier of ACAG caps. One size fits all and they are available from the ACAG website merchandise page for £12.00 plus postage.



Note to Editors

This Update is also available as a Word File with pics attached as jpg files. Contact brian@allardchrysler.org for further details and specify Word version required.