

## The 4th Annual Chevrolet Performance Nationals

Story / Photos: Phillip Prichard, MSA

The 4th Annual Chevrolet Performance Nationals were held at Atlanta Dragway on 29-31 May. The event awed spectators with multiple classes of drag racing, car shows on both Saturday and Sunday, an Autocross driving course, an automotive parts Swap Meet, a Manufacturer's Midway, and Jet Dragster Exhibitions.

Friday was a Test & Tune day; Saturday had a full slate of events plus a

Burnout Contest with Rod Rodriguez of Banks County winning; Sunday had Class Eliminations; a Car Show, Autocross and the Jet Dragsters Exhibition.

In the JE Pistons Drag Radial Class, Sonnie Pongnois of Philadelphia in his 2007 Corvette captured the championship. Joe Dedona of Staten Island, NY in 2003 Vette was the runner up. Dedona was the #1 Qualifier, and had the low E.T. of 4.914 and a top speed of 152.71.

In the Holley EFI Real Street Class, Jessie Coulter of Smith Grove, KY in 1991 Camaro was the winner. George Farkough of Brooklyn, NY in his 2010 Camaro was the runner up and the #1 Qualifier with an E.T. of 7.857 and a top speed of 176.80.

In the SDPC Chevrolet Performance Stock Class, Glenn Pushis of Leo, IN in his 2013 Camaro was the winner. Ronnie Hackelton of Flazen, AR in his 2013 Camaro was the runner up and the #1 Qualifier with a low E.T. of 10.496 and a top speed of 127.01.

In the LME Street King Class, Al Corda of Elk Wound, WI in his 2000 Firebird was the winner. Al Corda is a unique individual. He was in a winner in the 1971 U.S. Nationals and owns a drag strip in Wisconsin. The Runner-up was an unusual LS Powered 2001 Mustang of Dwayne Camp of Bremen, GA. Camp was the #1 Qualifier with an E.T. of 10.261.

In the PROFORM Rumble Class, Rob



Farley of Old Bridge, NJ in his 1998 Corvette Pace Car was the winner. Nicholas Massengale of Petal, MS in his 2001 Camaro was the runner-up. Massengale was the #1 Qualifier with an E.T. of 12.052.

In the Bracket 1 Class, Jeremy Hancock of Commerce, GA defeated his friend, Robby Brown in their dragsters. Hancock had an E.T. of 4.689. In the semi-finals of this class Jeremy Hancock had his wife, Ashley in her dragster in the opposite lane but he emerged victorious. Jeremy is the 2014 Atlanta Dragway Super Pro champion.

In the Bracket 2 Class, a pair of 69 Camaros was up, Justen West of Dunn, NC

was the winner with an E.T. of 7.923.

In the Bracket 3 Class, Matt Wilhelm of Commerce, GA in his 2004 Chevy Duromax Pickup was the winner. His E.T. was 16.805.

A tip of the hat goes to the track crew of Atlanta Dragway, they provided a great racing surfaces all weekend and on Sunday with rain pending, they sped up the Class Eliminations getting all classes finished prior to the weather's arrival.

A contract was signed during the weekend with Atlanta Dragway for three additional years of the Chevrolet Performance Nationals.

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## Hayes perfect in MotoAmerica VIR Superbike

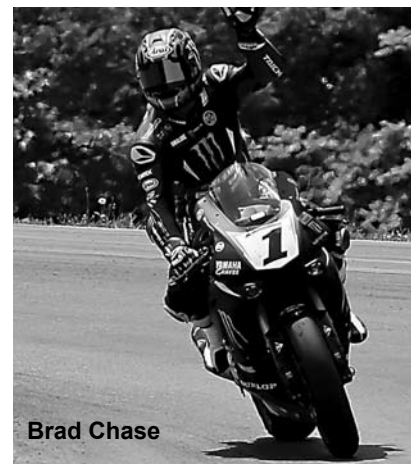
In a word, Josh Hayes was perfect at VIRginia International Raceway today. The Monster Energy/Graves Motorsports Yamaha rider chalking up two dominating Superbike wins during round three of the 2015 MotoAmerica AMA/FIM North American Road Racing Championship. At day's end, the four-time AMA Superbike

Champion had won the 50th and 51st Superbike races of his stellar career.

Starting from pole position, Hayes had his head down from the get-go in both races, storming away from the field to win the red-flag interrupted race one over his teammate Cameron Beaubier by 3.2 seconds. In race two, the gap was even bigger, with Hayes turning quicker laps to beat Yoshimura Suzuki's Roger Hayden by 13.368 seconds. In race one, Hayes' best lap was as a 1:24.994. In race two, he did a 1:24.895 on the 2.25-mile North Course.

With Beaubier splitting second- and third-place finishes with Hayden, the Californian managed to keep his championship points lead intact and he leaves Virginia with a 16-point lead over his teammate Hayes, 131-115. Hayden's young teammate Jake Lew is still third in the title chase with his fifth- and fourth-place finishes on the day, with Hayden jumping to fourth with 68 points after his two podiums.

"I thought it was possible," Hayes said when asked if he came into VIR thinking



Brad Chase

he could have such a dominant weekend. "This is a racetrack that has been very good to me. I've always enjoyed racing here. I've gotten some good results here. I guess it just suits me well to the style that I ride with. I have a lot of fun riding around here."

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