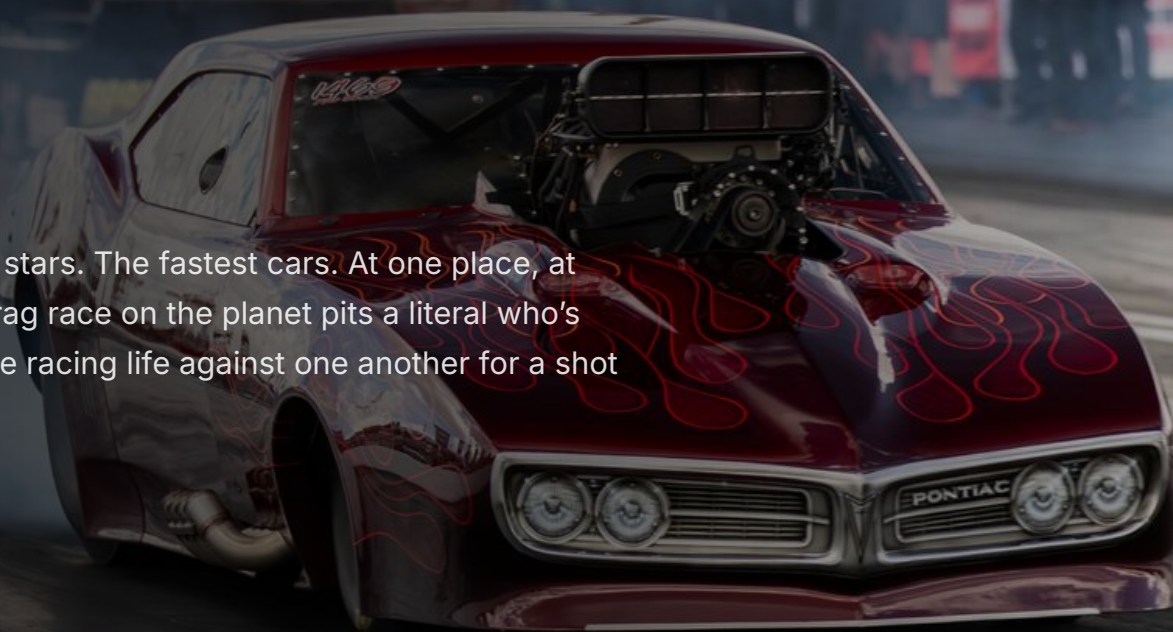


03 THE RACE

The biggest names. The brightest stars. The fastest cars. At one place, at one time. The most competitive drag race on the planet pits a literal who's who of drivers from all walks of the racing life against one another for a shot at immortality.



THE CHIP DRAW

Qualifying decides one thing at the World Series of Pro Mod. Whether you are in. What happens next is the part nobody forgets.

Once the field is set at 32, every driver makes the walk to center stage and draws a custom-made billet aluminum poker chip with a number engraved on the back. There is no ladder. There is no seeding. The No. 1 qualifier can draw the No. 2 qualifier and there is not a thing either of them can do about it.

When all the chips are drawn, race director Gavin Carter asks the two drivers holding the No. 16 chips to step forward. Then 15. Then 14, all the way down to the final pair holding the No. 1 chips.

Media, cameras, live stream viewers, fans and fellow racers get the reactions in real time. The roars. The groans. The two drivers turning to face each other for the cameras, knowing exactly what they just drew.

It is electric, and there is nothing else like it in drag racing.

The format descends directly from the first World Series of Pro Mod in 2017, when there was no qualifying at all: sixteen invited drivers, pairings drawn at random a month before the race on Wes Buck's weekly live show, and the scoreboards switched off for the week. The intent then is the intent now. Take away the information that lets teams manage a race, and make them run.



2026 | THE QUALIFIED FIELD, BRADENTON MOTORSPORTS PARK. PHOTO: LUKE NIEUWHOF

THE FORMAT

32-car qualified field

Maximum 64 total entries

Eighth-mile

No qualifying ladder. Pairings by chip draw.

Single elimination. Sudden death.

Seven runnings, seven different champions

THE THING THEY KEEP

A trophy goes on a shelf. A check gets deposited. A ring gets worn.

We have awarded a championship ring at the World Series of Pro Mod since the very first one, at Bandimere Speedway in 1971. **Mike Bowman still wears his.** There has been one every year since.

What we have not done is make enough of it. That changes here, because of something specific about how racers actually carry a win.

Ask a driver about the biggest race he ever won and he will tell you where the trophy is. Ask him about a ring and he will show it to you, because it is on his hand. It goes to the shop. It goes to the grocery store. It goes to his daughter's wedding. And eventually it goes to somebody in his family who never saw the race but understands exactly what it means.

That is the difference between a prize and an heirloom.

**YOU DO NOT GIVE IT BACK.
YOU DO NOT PUT IT AWAY.**

THE TROPHY TRAVELS. THE RING STAYS.



WHAT IT SAYS

A World Series of Pro Mod ring records the things that cannot be taken back. The year. The venue. The driver's name. It marks membership in a group that, after ten years and seven runnings, still numbers seven people.

Every professional sport that has built genuine mythology has an object at the center of it. Golf has a jacket. Hockey has a cup. Football has a ring, and no player who owns one has ever needed to explain why it matters.

Pro Modified has had one since 2017. What is changing is how seriously we treat it.

THE COMPANY IT PUTS YOU IN

Nobody has won the World Series of Pro Mod twice. Seven runnings, seven champions, no repeats. Whoever wins at Texas Motorplex on March 7, 2027 becomes the eighth name in a decade, and the first to be handed one of these in the house that Billy Meyer built.

The list is short by design, and it gets harder to join every year.



2026 | AARON STANFIELD, MINUTES AFTER STEVE KING HANDED HIM THE TRAVELING TROPHY.
PHOTO: LUKE NIEUWHOF

THE RING

Awarded to - champion of the World Series of Pro Mod

First awarded - 2017, Bandimere Speedway

Awarded every year since

2027 ring - redesigned for the move to Texas Motorplex

Metal, stones, weight - to be announced

PRO MOD'S STANLEY CUP

Every champion of the three Bandimere years was presented with a championship belt on the starting line. When the race came back in Florida it needed a new object, and it got one.

After Steve King won the 2025 event driving his car, team owner Gene Pilot commissioned a traveling trophy for the race. Each champion's name is engraved on it. Each champion keeps it for the year between runnings. And then, in the winner's circle, the outgoing champion hands it to the new one in person.

The only people who have ever touched it are the seven who earned it.

At Bradenton in 2026, Steve King presented the trophy to Aaron Stanfield.

“Steve let me know to soak it in and enjoy the moment, because that’s one of the bigger moments you can achieve and they’re hard to get. It’s cool for someone to be able to pass it on.”

AARON STANFIELD - 2026 CHAMPION

Unless Stanfield becomes the first repeat winner in the history of the race, he hands it to somebody else at Texas Motorplex in March 2027.

THE TRAVELING TROPHY

Commissioned by - team owner Gene Pilot, after the 2025 event

Modeled on - hockey's Stanley Cup

Each champion's name is added to the trophy

The champion keeps it for one year

The outgoing champion presents it to the new one



PILOT'S OTHER TROPHIES

Gene Pilot did not stop at one. He ordered five exact replicas of King's trophy and surprised the crew with them at the PDRA season opener a month later.

“Gene has preached and preached to run this team with a family atmosphere. He knows it takes a whole team, so he makes sure everyone gets a piece of the pie.”

STEVE KING - 2025 CHAMPION



3.3 THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

MAKING IT RAIN

The winning car is pushed under the Winner's Circle banner. The crew climbs onto it. Champagne goes up. And then several thousand prop hundred-dollar bills go into the air over the whole thing and come down slowly across the roof, the hood, the trophy and every person standing there. It is unapologetically theatrical, and that is the point.

2024 | DEREK WARD'S WINNER'S CIRCLE, BRADENTON MOTORSPORTS PARK. PHOTO: LUKE NIEUWHOF

THE RETURN ROAD

The ritual nobody planned happens before any of that. When the winning car comes back up the return road, the other teams come out of their pits to meet it.

“Every team - Scotty Cannon, Bubba Greene, the Tutterows - was out there as we rolled through, giving us high-fives and congratulating us. That was the highlight of my racing career.”

STEVE KING - 2025 CHAMPION

For the champion, the moment usually arrives before the result has landed.

“It was an unbelievable feeling,” Derek Ward said of 2024. “We took off and I didn't see the orange car at all. I was very happy, screaming in my helmet.”

Steve King had to ask. “I went through the finish line and I'm like, ‘Who won? Who won?’ Then I hear the guys on the radio start hollering.”



THE HANDSHAKE ON THE RETURN ROAD. PHOTO: SCOTT WITTY

SIX FIGURES, AND A RULE

When Drag Illustrated announced the World Series of Pro Mod in February 2017, the biggest Pro Modified races in America paid between seven and ten thousand dollars to win. The World Series opened at \$100,000, winner take all.

“This was absolutely unheard of,” Wes Buck said.

The purse has been as high as \$150,000. The rule since the beginning is simple: this race pays six figures. It has never paid less and it never will.

What is changing for 2027 is how the money is distributed. Winner-take-all did exactly what it was designed to do in the early years, which was to make the stakes impossible to ignore. The race has outgrown the need for it. Round money and qualifying money now spread a meaningful portion of the purse across the field, so a team that tows to Ennis, makes the show and wins two rounds goes home having been taken care of.

There is a reason that matters more than another zero on the winner's check.

RACERS DO NOT ENTER THIS EVENT FOR THE PAYDAY

They enter it because seven people have ever won it and nobody has done it twice.



2024 | THE TEAMS COME OUT TO MEET THE WINNING CAR. PHOTO: LUKE NIEUWHOF