

## Multi-Media Friday Issue XLIV, February 19, 2016

*Lime Rock Park's wintertime once-per-week interweb heads-up for all you Automotive Ethernauts out there. It's not rocket surgery...*

### Nothing But Net

When the NHRA a few years ago changed its “quarter-mile” to 1,000 feet (versus 1,320), MMF and many others thought, “Really?” Yes, really. The cars in the fastest pro classes – Top Fuel, Funny Car and Pro Stock – were simply getting too fast, thanks to huge advances in clutches and tires. The NHRA looked at asking each strip to add a football field’s length of shutdown/run-off room, but many tracks had neither the money nor the real estate to make that happen. So they “bought” the extra 300 feet by shortening the runs. As it turns out, the fans didn’t really care all that much – but many drivers certainly did. Here’s one recent example of the value of shorter “quarter miles.”



A bit more detail can be found in [this Jalopnik story](#)-----

### Hindsight is Always 2/20 – or is it 40/40?

In many forms of sports car racing, a carmaker has to build and sell x-number of “street” versions in order to make the race version legal for a championship (it’s called “homologation”). In the 1960s, Ford had to sell road versions of the now-iconic GT40 in order to race them at Le Mans. Which Ford desperately wanted to do. Well, *Henry* Ford did, because he was majorly pissed off at Enzo Ferrari, who at the last minute yanked a deal off the table whereby Ford Motor Company was going to buy Ferrari. So Henry, in full red mist revenge mode, contracted Eric Broadley (founder of Lola Cars) to build a Ferrari killer, the now-iconic Ford GT40 Mk I. Ford of course had to sell some street versions... and they could hardly give them away. (One, but not the only reason: The sticker price for a street GT40 was \$16,000 – about \$112,000 today.) Read Hemmings excellent story on one particular GT40’s fate through Ford’s “Mk I Promotion and Disposal Program.” This particular car, by the way, is now headed to the Amelia Island auction block. Should garner more than \$3 million...



[Click image for Hemmings story](#)

### Let Us Tell You the Tales About Sabine and Simon...

Yes, a “Hoover” has wheels and a motor... but this isn’t about a vacuum cleaner. It’s about a wicked-fast woman German race car driver who, a few years ago, bet *Top Gear*’s now-excommunicated Jeremy Clarkson that she could lap the Nurburgring faster in a diesel Ford Transit work van than Clarkson did in a high-performance diesel Jaguar. It’s a two-part video – after the first one, just wait for the second to load-up – that also provides terrific background on England’s workhorse utility vehicle, the Ford Transit...



Oh, the juicy ironic part? It was [just announced](#) that our wicked-fast woman German race car driver will be one of the hosts for the new *Top Gear*.

Here’s the best part; you have GOT to watch our wicked-fast woman German race car driver’s onboard camera in a GT3-style race at the Nurburgring – in the wet. The person who posted the video wrote, “She’s a psychopath!” Maybe yes, maybe no... regardless, she is uncommonly good. [Click here to watch](#) 8 brilliant minutes of her simply schooling everyone...

### Simon Sez

Now, watch the director of the [Lime Rock Drivers Club](#) school his competitors in a race two weeks ago at Sebring International. Great stuff. [Click here](#).

### West Side Stories

Do you know who – and in what car – won the very, very, very first race at Lime Rock Park? (No, this isn’t another MMF contest; we lost our, um, shirt on the last one. Congratulations to the 522 people who knew what that crazy Jeepster-thingy was in MMF Issue XLI.) Ted Sprigg, racing an Alfa Romeo Giulietta on Sunday morning, April 28, 1957, won that now-historic race. One of the stories as to how and why Alfa named one of its sports cars Giulietta is, well, *Shakespearian*. Hint: Giulietta is Italian for Juliet. And the company is Alfa ROMEO. So, whadya think? Try this Jalopnik story on for size...



Click image for story

**Fair Warning:** You can never un-see this next video. Just sayin'...



Until next Friday, we remain...  
Lime Rock's Automotive Ethernauts



[@limerockpark](https://www.instagram.com/limerockpark)  
[www.limerock.com](http://www.limerock.com)