



STEVE HECKERT

LEGENDARY STARS AND CARS NOW SET FOR MEXICAN 1000 RALLY

With just weeks to go before the green flag drops on the first ever NORRA Mexican 1000 rally, event organizers have confirmed that the upcoming event has attracted the support of some of off-road racing's most famous drivers and legendary race vehicles.

The three-day rally is scheduled to run September 16 from Mexicali, Baja, Mexico to the September 19th finish in La Paz, and represents the first-ever opportunity for vintage off-road vehicles and motorcycles (pre-1989) to compete in an organized off-road competition. NORRA has recently completed scouting the route, and shared with *Dirt Sports* that approximately 30 percent of the course is asphalt "transit" stages to be run at the speed

limit, and that most of the dirt portions are "fast, highly graded roads," news that certainly comes as welcome relief for those preparing vintage off-road machinery.

Just as we were going to press, NORRA announced that international racing legend Parnelli Jones, himself a two-time Mexican 1000 winner (1971 and 1972), will lead the rally driving his famous Chevy Blazer prerunner. Jones, who is reportedly preparing to run the entire Baja peninsula and back right from his Torrance, California headquarters, has asked Speed Unlimited's Ruben Azarte to join him on the excursion.

In addition to Jones, NORRA has confirmed the participation of dune-buggy inventor Bruce Meyers in a Meyers Manx, Bill Varnes in his just restored 1986 Mirage single seater and the long-time driving duo of Dave Westem and Randy Salmont, who will arrive in Baja piloting the famous "Time Rider" GMC Class 8. For those of you not familiar with off-road history, the Time Rider was once owned and raced by television and pop star Micheal Nesmith of Monkee's fame before Westem drove

it to Class 8 victory at his first SCORE Baja 1000 in 1987. The ever-enthusiastic Westem found his trusty steed in July and is having his crew undergo a frame-up restoration on Time Rider.

Other entries include a large, three-vehicle entry from Swift Motorsports for Ray Swift, former Ford Rough Rider John Swift and John Swift Jr. The family plans on racing their unique Stroppe-built Ford Edsel, the recently restored Vic Hickey-built Olds Banshee (once driven by actor James Garner) and a Funco two-seat buggy. Northern California's Steve Heckert, the most passionate collector of Burro buggies anywhere, will enter his restored #8 Burro-VW once raced in the 1968 Mexican 1000 by Les Choat. Heckert recently acquired the unique Volvo-powered Burro, formerly owned by the late Bob Sinclair, who once served as president of SAAB-Volvo's American operation.

Perhaps the most heartwarming entry, however, comes from the 1977 SCORE Baja 1000 overall winning team of Bud Feldkamp and Malcolm Smith. The pair will return with their highly beloved "Bel-Ray Bullet" single-seat Funco-VW for one more run down the peninsula they both so treasure. Feldkamp, owner of Southern California's Glen Helen Raceway, tragically lost nine of his family members in March in a Montana small plane crash. According to Feldkamp, returning to Baja with his former partner Smith is "just the thing I need right now." Amen.



MARTY FOLKA COLLECTION

Two-time race winner Parnelli Jones will return to Baja this September.



The Bel-Ray Bullet

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