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# 2008 Nor-Cal Diesel Rally

## J&H Performance Rocks Redding with Annual Diesel Gathering

BY CHRIS NEPRASCH  
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS NEPRASCH

When J&H Performance announces the date for its annual Nor-Cal Diesel Rally, the buzz on message boards and through word of mouth sends West Coast-based drag racers and pullers from California to Washington into a frenzy. Hotels get booked and vacation time is requested months in advance to ensure it won't be missed. Frankly, we didn't get the hype. That was, until we made our maiden voyage up to Redding, California, to experience the 2008 event firsthand.

On paper, the Nor-Cal Diesel Rally looks like a typical event. There is bracket racing, dyno competition and sled pulling, which isn't anything out of the ordinary. The meat and potatoes though is the FASS Tough Truck Challenge, a combination of all three with each truck required to wear the same trim during the entire day. If you're on the strip and run slicks, good luck trying to pull a sled

with no tread. Likewise, good luck trying to turn a decent ET with ultra-knobby tires. If you break during one portion of the competition, better get it fixed before the next one starts or you lose the points. Although it's a marathon day, the excitement is worth it.

To add to the drama, for 2008 J&H also put up a \$1,500 bounty for anybody who could beat last year's winner, Nick D'Amico, which nobody was able to accomplish. Nick took top honors in the sled pull with his 284.4-foot effort, was the quickest in the quarter-mile running an 11.33, and finished third in the dyno during an 859.1-hp pull. Robert Evens finished second in his 2004 Dodge, making 840.2 fuel-only horsepower on the dyno, laying down a 12.25 pass on the strip and yanking the sled 265.6 feet. Rounding out the top

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Victor Sileira spins the wheels in his '95 Dodge to the tune of 628.3 hp. He finished fifth in the FASS Tough Truck Challenge.



Tired of always being a spectator while her boyfriend raced, Cecilly Grant decided to enter her first-ever event. The rookie finished second in bracket racing and fifth in the Powder Puff Super Street class.



Riding his second-place finish in the sled pull and 701-hp dyno pull, John Esteves finished third overall in the FASS Tough Truck Challenge.



Not only did Robert Evens finish second in the Tough Truck competition, the veteran who lost his arm in the war also took time to raise money for other disabled veterans.

finishers was John Esteves in third place, giving Duramax power two of the top three spots.

J&H made an effort to get everyone involved — including the ladies — with two female-only pulling classes consisting of eight women hooking up to the sled. Leading the pack was first-time sled puller Margo Reed, wife of Dynamite Diesel owner Lenny Reed, with her pull of 295.9 feet ending with a quick douse from a fire extinguisher under the hood of the Dynamite Diesel race truck. Michelle Ashlock's 266.5-foot pull was enough to convincingly win the Powder Puff Super Street category.

Along with the action on the dyno, strip and dirt, J&H had a packed midway with manufacturers like FASS Fuel Systems and BD Diesel answering tech questions and familiarizing the curious with their product lines. On the more serious side, outside of the fun and games J&H also spent the day raising money for Stephan Surtees, a local boy diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer with all donations going directly to Stephan and his family.

If you missed this year's Nor-Cal Diesel Rally or have yet to experience one for yourself, check [www.jandhperformance.com](http://www.jandhperformance.com) to stay up-to-date on event information.

## FASS Tough Truck Challenge Results

### Event Results:

PARTICIPANT	DYNO	DRAG	SLED
Nick D'Amico	859.1	11.33	284.4
Robert Evens	840.2	12.25	265.6
John Esteves	701	12.83	272.7
Joe Higuera	789.3	11.79	207.4
Victor Sileira	628.3	11.62	205.2
Russ Wullenwaber	464.6	13.02	222.2
Howard Harter	488.5	13.63	212.7
Cole Dow	479.6	13.19	211.6
John Filomeo	395.3	15.39	239
Albert Mendes	550.3	14.41	159.3
Jeremy Matz	379.5	14.42	215
James Howe	394	15.0	99.1
Jeremy Rumczikas	270.8	16.21	214.3
Duke Cramp	373.1	15.41	142.2
Angela Ulloth	365.3	14.71	0.3
Michael Neuharth	261.8	17.39	185.3
Kim Miner	322.9	17.87	155.3
Erik Roberts	293.3	17.52	125.6
Chris Werner	1142.39	14.35	
Adam Ross	773.8	23.13	
Richard Brown	1019.61		
Rick Chambers	359.6		
George Reves	331.4		



There wasn't a burnout competition but you wouldn't know it by looking at this Dodge's pre-race tire warming.



Gray skies cleared up providing triple-digit heat, but not before they showered the freshly detailed Show-n-Shine contestants.



Coming prepared with two coolers and 30 pounds of nitrous makes for an interesting day at the track.



FASS Fuel Systems was one of several manufacturers available to answer questions about their product lines. FASS also brought along a fancy display to show the benefits of its systems.



The guys at MLM Motorsports provided the sled and gave everyone the ins and outs of proper pulling etiquette prior to the competition.

## Dyno Results

### Outlaw Class

1st	Adam Winslet	1060.2
2nd	Paul Baars	649.0
3rd	Bob Mutch	596.9
4th	Justin Wood	531.3
5th	Tom Collins	426.9

### Dyno Results

#### Class #2

1st	Nick Clay	611.3
2nd	Phil Rennick	581.0
3rd	Cliff Wilson	577.0
4th	Les Szmidt	575.0
5th	Brett Hendrix	549.2
6th	Chris Smith	479.4
7th	Dan Dreisbach	474.6
8th	Justin Hoffman	473.9
9th	Joey Omlin	472.2
10th	Mathew Ray	471.1
11th	Paul Luis	451.5
12th	Leonard Holbrook	430.8
13th	Jared Backovich	412.6
14th	Rody Raydoza	409.5
15th	Ken Schultz	408.5
16th	Aaron Wolf	389.1
17th	Don Doan	385.2
18th	Sam Morris	370.4
19th	Monty Wilson	358.7
20th	Auston Jansen	356.7
21st	Joey McKee	354.7
22nd	Jeff Sylvester	327.9
23rd	Byron McIntosh	314.8
24th	Derek Hansen	270.2
25th	David Cheney	253.6
26th	Chris Moore	234.5
27th	Dudley Corey	205.1
28th	Melissa Forbus	186.0



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## Show-n-Shine

- 1st Richard Hay
- 2nd Rick Chambers
- 3rd Jeriah Gurley

## Drag Racing Results

### Bracket

- 1st Steve Buliavac
- 2nd Cecilly Grant

### 11:50

- 1st Harvey Grant

### Outlaw

- 1st Lenny Reed
- 2nd Adam Winslet

### Stick Shift

- 1st Matt McVey
- 2nd Ryan Wolfe

### Sled Pull Results

### Diesel Modified

- 1st Scott Vorhees
- 2nd Lenny Reed
- 3rd Joel Gooch

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### Diesel Street

- 1st Cory Dow
- 2nd Colter Hess
- 3rd Yulan Dobson

### Diesel Super Street

- 1st Victor Silveria
- 2nd Cole Dow
- 3rd Albert Mendes III

### Powder Puff Modified

- Margo Reed 295.9
- Megan Storey 272.3

### Powder Puff Super Street

- Michelle Ashlock 266.5
- Kasondra Wullenwaber 233.1
- Jasmine McIntosh 221.9
- Cecilly Grant 206.9
- Elise Esteves 197.9
- Amy Loux 196



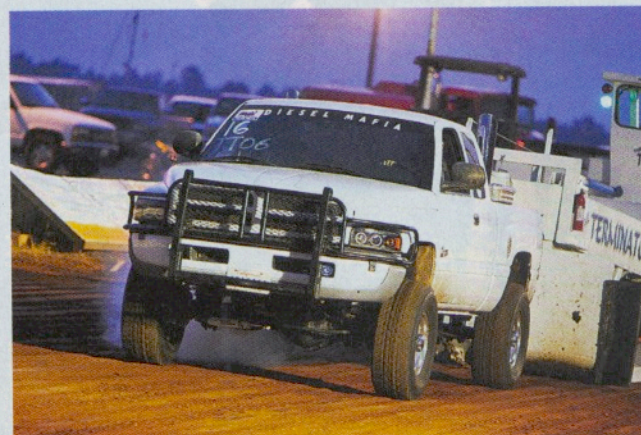
If there's a diesel event in California, expect to see Joe Higuera and his '01 Dodge. Joe's fourth place finish was as talked about as his Ram's mohawk.



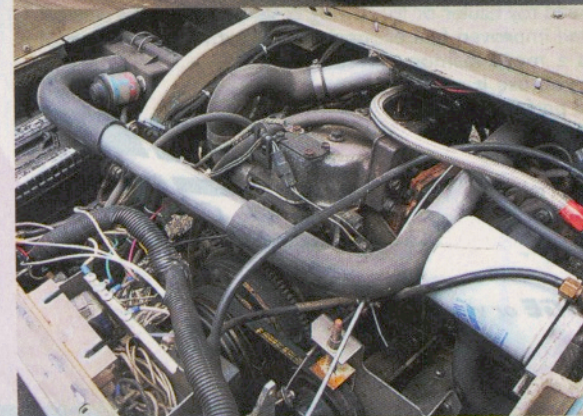
The First Gens were out in full force, including Cole Dowe's 479.6-whp '93 Dodge that also took second place in the Super Street pulling class.



First place in the Outlaw drag class, first in Powder Puff Modified and second in Modified — it was a good day for Lenny and Margo Reed.



"Just because it smokes, doesn't mean it's broke" is not always true; just ask Erik Roberts.



## Diesel-Powered Golf Cart

Adam Sprague is a diesel nut. Any guesses on what his dog's name is? If you said Rudolph, you're wrong. It's actually Diesel. It's no wonder he and his brother got together to build a diesel-powered golf cart.

The engine was salvaged from a Thermo King refrigerator and the turbo came off a motorcycle. Cooling off the power plant is a six-core refrigerator radiator and Eric fabricated the bumpers and 9-inch lift. After going for a ride in the cart, it didn't take long to see the combination works and works well. It was quicker than our rental car and a whole lot cooler, too.