

Drag Racing the Comet

By Steve Repergel

In 1964, Ford introduced their line of modified Comets in drag racing attire. Fifty Ford factory experimental cars were produced in two classes. The first were called B/FX and positioned a modified 289 cubic inch under the hood. The latter was known as A/FX using the awe-inspiring 427 cubic inch engine, which was even raced in a Comet Station Wagon.

Much like the Ford Thunderbolt, but lighter, the A/FX Comet came with hood scoops mounted right at the very front end of the car. In addition, several body parts were made of fiberglass including the hood, front fenders,

bumpers, trunk lid and doors, while inner body panels were constructed of aluminum. Beneath the heavy duty suspension were huge mufflers and 9.00X15 inch tires. Supplying juice to the massive 427 V8 was a seventy two pound battery that was placed in the trunk next to the spare. This helped displace weight accordingly.

The hi-performance initiatives proved crucial to the Comet's success. In fact, sound deadening material was exempt from being placed anywhere on the car, thus keeping weight to a minimum. Although there were discrepancies concerning the use of a 427 cubic inch in a Comet Station Wagon, Ford's accomplishments set numerous drag racing records and increased overall sales for 1964.