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## North American Eagle – Supersonic Land Speed Record Contender

June 6-8, Ed Shadle; seasoned racing veteran, past holder of the B Street Roadster class record, and co-owner of the **North American Eagle (NAE)**, plans to perform medium speed test runs in the **NAE** at El Mirage Dry Lake, CA. These runs are in preparation of becoming the fastest man on earth, in early 2007. Shadle's mission, along with partner and co-owner Keith Zanghi, is to shatter the world's land speed record in the **NAE**—a converted Lockheed F-104 Starfighter—by blasting across the desert at over **800 MPH**.



“Continuous testing is the vital key to our success—clearly the horsepower is there and we know it will go fast,” says a confident Shadle and he has good reason to boast; the conversion of a celebrated Mach 2 fighter jet to the equivalent of every Hot Rodder's dream is no easy feat and it has presented a number of challenges to Shadle, Zanghi, and their team of 36 highly trained engineers and technicians who have donated their time and skills to this project. Their persistence has paid off though and last year's (October 2005) tests conducted at Rogers Dry Lake, at Edwards Air Force Base have convinced the NAE team that a land speed goal of 800 MPH or higher is achievable.



The current land speed record of 763 MPH or Mach 1.2 was set the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1997 by Andy Green of Great Britain and the *Thrust SSC*. Ed, his craft, and his American-Canadian team intend to change all that and bring the record back to North America.

“Clearly, this project is more than breaking a land-speed record, it’s about history and the opportunity to be a part of it,” says Shadle proudly. Before the



conversion, this F-104 had a particularly significant history, having served as a chase plane for the X-15 project and flown by a virtual Who’s Who of aviation—Test Pilots Chuck Yeager, Scott Crossfield, Pete Knight, and former shuttle pilot Joe Engle. Now, christened as the **North American Eagle**, it is destined to make history again.

While the overall project goal is to safely achieve a ground speed record of 800 MPH, the NAE project is also a test bed for significant research.

Parachute deployment tests have proven invaluable towards the design of spin recovery chutes for jet fighters. The **NAE** has been fitted with over fifty accelerometers, microphones, and strain gauges used to collect and evaluate critical data concerning the structural integrity, magnetic braking and propulsion systems at extreme speeds. The technology and testing involved in the running of the vehicle makes invaluable to scientific research on high-speed vehicles.



The **North American Eagle** will be performing the vehicle’s next test run June 6-8 at El Mirage, CA. before the record attempt scheduled for late 2006 or early 2007. On June 3, the North American Eagle will be on display at Palmdale’s Plant 42 Heritage Air Park and on June 9 and 10; the car will be displayed at the world’s largest auto/aero bookstore, Autobook/Aerobooks, located in Burbank, CA.



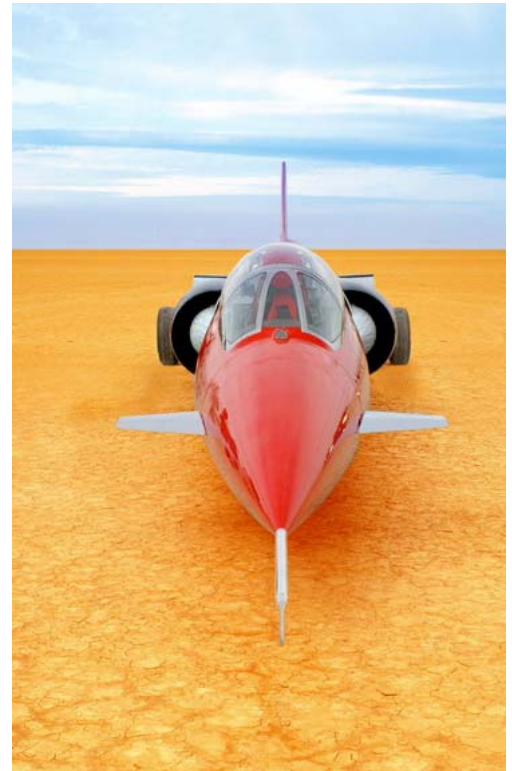
## **NORTH AMERICAN EAGLE**

### **THE SUPERSONIC LAND SPEED RECORD CHALLENGER**

Currently the team is seeking a major financial sponsor to help make their dream a reality. The North American Eagle can make a sponsor's desire for international positive exposure to existing and prospective customers become a reality too.

#### **Sponsorship Benefits:**

1. **Web Presence:** There have been over 59 million hits on ThrustSSC's website, the current record holder.
2. **Exposure:** SPEED Channel reaches millions of viewers during each weekend and there are over 100 million racing fans in the U.S. alone. There are dozens of Auto and Aero magazines in the United States alone.
3. **Timeliness:** 2007 will be the 10th Anniversary of the current Land Speed Record. What better time than now to cover the event?
4. **Advertising:** NAE can serve as a moving billboard for your company logo and Anheuser Busch is consistent with our branding.



#### **The Bottom Line**

**North American Eagle** presents itself as a unique and innovative sponsorship opportunity; imagine a rocket car sporting your own logo as it speeds across the desert! Unlike NASCAR, where there are dozens of cars in each race with numerous sponsors on each car, there is only one vehicle attempting to break the land speed record, making this an even more valuable opportunity.

The sponsor of the NAE team can expect to have at least five years of international coverage while the team holds the record. During the peak of this time you can expect significant attention from almost every media outlet in the world!

**For more information concerning sponsorship and upcoming events, please contact Douglas Schwartz, Media Director, at 408 246-3749 or [doug@sterlingci.com](mailto:doug@sterlingci.com)**