



# ELECTRIFIED

## Larry "Spiderman" McBride Sets Electric Record

**L**arry "Spiderman" McBride has raced Top Bike in the USA for 32 years, winning the AMA Championship 10 times. Not only a legend champion, but the first man to run a 5 second pass on a Motorcycle and still the quickest man on two wheels on earth.

McBride has run V-Twins, 4 cylinder bikes and now has tested a new generation Top Bike, which is 100% electric, powered by dry cell batteries.

Lawless Industries, in conjunction with Orange County Choppers (OCC) invited the World's No.1 to test the electric bike.

Chris Matheson, Australian Top Bike Champion and close friend of McBride travelled to the USA late last year with Nitro Voodoo Crew Chief Roger Bloor to spend time with Larry and brother Steve McBride. Matheson was visiting the McBride's to learn more from the Master of Speed in readiness to take on the 2010/2011 Australian Top Bike Championship.

OCC, in conjunction with Electric Bike Project leader Lawless, tested at Lebanon Valley Dragway in New York State, where McBride flew into take part in this World breaking record attempt.



Matheson said he was excited to spend the time with the McBride's at Lebanon Valley, in particular to see this unique project first hand.

Matheson said "Larry is hard core Nitro and always had been". McBride commented "he wasn't no green drag racer by any imagination". The bike was basically a purpose built machine, similar to many leading Top Fuel Motorcycles, however with one key difference, the bike had 4000 AMP of Dry Cell Batteries, linked together, putting out around 363 Volts.

As we know 240 Volts will kill you, let alone 363 Volts or approximately 600 BHP.

The day started early flying from McBride's Race Shop Cycle Specialist at Newport News, Virginia direct to upper New York State, then a couple of hours drive with the OCC guys to a secret location, nestled amongst a picturesque tree lined Drag Strip known as Lebanon Valley.

The Drag Track is legendary in these parts and located alongside a crystal clear fast flowing mountain stream. We arrived mid morning, ready with anticipation not knowing what to expect.

Lawless and the OCC Team, along with Larry & Steve quickly ran their eye over the bike in final preparation for the run. With all batteries charged, Larry donned the familiar "Spiderman" suit and straddled the bike. With a

nod from brother Steve, Larry rolled the throttle with the bike leaping silently out of the pit towards the staging lane.

How weird was this, no noise, only a slight protest from the rear tyre as it tried to slip on the asphalt. No smell, no rumble from the engine just "zzz, zzzz", strange to say the least.

We all raced to the water box, staged the bike, Roger Bloor typically behind the bike with brother Steve up front giving "Spiderman" the nod to burn out.

The bike jumped to life, hopping immediately up on the tyre. Steve pushes back Larry, with Nitro Voodoo Crew Chief Roger Bloor, guiding McBride back to his launch position. McBride staged as he has a thousand times before, cut down the tree with a lightening reaction time, then quickly settled the bike into a 9 second pass.

The bike was straight and launched well, but left slow. McBride returned actually turning around in the deepend and riding straight back up the track. Wow, what an unusual site, the only sound was some chain noise and the tyre protesting as it tried to break traction down the track.

After a few changes to the bike and a re-charge, Larry explained to Lawless that the bike struggled to burnout and to get right up on the rear tyre. He said it needs a hell of a lot more power if they have any chance of running a number.

The crew put more power into the system and checked over the bike to see how it was responding to its first pass.

McBride said "the bike rode well, however, was heavy and wide due to the massive battery configuration, otherwise it's great, it steers and brakes like any other Top Bike, but needs more power to launch out of the hole. Man it's weird no noise, no smell".

Shawn Lawless, CEO of Lawless Industries, cranked up the juice and Larry ran again, dropping the ET by almost 1 second to high 8's.

At this stage OCC legend Paul Teutul Snr, founder and TV star, CEO of Orange County Choppers arrived in a huge pickup truck, ready to witness McBride run down the track. Paul Senior cruised around the pit checking on his crew and passing conversation with track staff & officials. In these parts, Paul Senior is a legendary figure and extremely well known across America and

numerous other countries.

Again, McBride ran the bike only to be troubled by gremlins, shutting the bike down at half track. At this stage, time was running out and the guys were getting anxious, doubting if the bike had the ability to break a seven second pass.

Throwing everything at the power plant, the techno wound up the dial and gave the generator everything it had. The 13 inch DL Drive system motor, with a double zilla controller was about to get full AMPS.

McBride was a little flat, as the times were slower than his normal passes of five seconds, but typically McBride knew this would not happen overnight, Larry said "hell, it took us 32 years to get where we are".

The last pass, the bike sounded strong and launched hard on the rear wheelie bars, squirming down the track to record a seven second pass at almost 170 mph.

Unfortunately, the sun was setting in Lebanon Valley and we had to leave the electric bike for another day.

We returned with OCC crew to the OCC Shop, discussing the bike and its amazing achievements along the way. A tour through the massive OCC facility saw the whole crew settle down to a well deserved meal at a nearby steak house.

We all joked about the lack of noise and smell from the Lawless electric project, but, were in awe of his achievements raising some interesting questions of where technology is heading.

Larry said "hell, I'm a Nitro guy, always have been and always will, not taking anything away from Alcohol, Electric or the Nitros guys, I'm just a Nitro guy". McBride went on to say "it had been an exciting time working with OCC and Lawless and hoped to do more together in the future".

It had been a long day and we were all looking forward to a well earned sleep, knowing that we would return to the McBride's workshop the next day to focus on the upcoming Australian Top Bike season.

A little time later McBride, OCC and Lawless rewrote history, breaking the World record and running a 7.469 at 177 mph at Virginia Motorsport Park on 24 September 2010.

Lawless has no intention of slowing down, the Team have their eyes set on lowering the record and attempting land speed records on the bike at Bonneville Salt Flats in the near future.

The Discovery Channel produced a documentary on the Electric Bike in late 2010.

