

## Mopar Power Gives 50-year old Challenger 2 the Piston-Powered Land Speed Record



*50 years after Mickey Thompson's original 406mph run with the Challenger 2, his son Danny Thompson took the Challenger 2 from storage and began the extensive process of restoring, retrofitting, and updating the vehicle to complete the goal the car was unable to achieve back in 1968 - setting a new piston-driven world land speed record. Bad weather and mechanical problems scuttled earlier attempts, but Danny and his team were back at Speed Week on Bonneville, Utah's Salt Flats, a couple of weeks ago for another shot at the record, with 435mph as the target. And they blew by that with ease.*

*Two years ago, Danny set the overall AA/FS record at 406.769mph, but on the first day of 2018 Speed Week the Challenger 2 laid down a mind-numbing 446.605mph pass - with a broken valve spring. The crew got everything repaired for an attempt at a back-up run on Sunday to confirm a new record. And a new record it was as Danny recorded 450.909mph for the five-mile run to secure his family's name in the record books. The new official record, which is an average of the two runs, is 448.757mph.*

*Rather than the original Ford 427s, the restored Challenger 2 is powered by a pair of dry-block nitro-fueled Hemi V8 engines in an all-wheel drive configuration. Overall horsepower has more than doubled, going from 600 front engine and 1200 rear engine to an even 2500 per. Twin three-speed gearboxes link the two engines together and counterbalance*

*output, a marked improvement over the original "split gas pedal and Mickey's intuition" mechanism. The front of the car houses two 30 gallon aluminum fuel tanks that hold just enough nitromethane for one full speed pass. The total curb weight approaches 5200 lbs.*

*If you're interested in seeing more, check out these videos on YouTube.com:*

- *Challenger II - Dual Engine Start with commentary -*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soA-XH89IAw&t=21s>
- *Challenger II - First Startup Extended -*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP56C\\_JVPc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP56C_JVPc)
- *Danny Thompson Bonus Video - SPEED SPORT - MAVTV - Challenger 2 - Land Speed Record - Racing -*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgRL4ktwIZI&t=28s>
- *Danny Thompson's 450mph Speed Week Record Run -*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci6GYi8S-2Q>
- *Danny Thompson's 450mph Speed Week Run - Window Cam -*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3WSYRyY2sI&t=93s>

*Those course markers go by almost looking like a picket fence!*