

The History Lesson

by Deb Thompson

I'm just back from working the DRAW booth with my friend Connie and Area 3 coordinator, Theresa Tilford, and her grandson Connor in Norwalk, OH at the Summit Racing Equipment Nationals. The feeling I'm left with is gratitude for so many reasons.

I've mentioned before that sometimes it seems DRAW is "the best kept secret" in the drag racing world even though we've been an active, important part now in our 37th year. That didn't seem to be the case this weekend. Most of the people I talked with intentionally headed to the DRAW booth for their purchases, whether their annual purchase of a T-shirt, ladder sheets for the race or ear plugs. Everyone was so generous. I cannot count how many times people said, "keep the change," handing us a \$20 bill for \$1.00 ear plugs. People shared how many DRAW items they proudly had from years past but still wanted more to add to their collection. I was very fortunate enough to meet the son of an injured racer I had talked with when it happened in 1997. I was interviewed by a local news station doing a story on the loudness of NHRA top fuel racing and the need for ear plugs. Someone directed him to us, the charitable organization selling ear plugs, so I was able to briefly describe what it is that DRAW is about.

My gratitude comes from meeting these great people, supporters of DRAW, and the son of an injured racer we helped back in 1997 and being able to spread the word about what it is we are about and why we work hard raising every dollar for our injured racers. Sometimes it feels like we can't do enough and then someone comes along and thanks us. I feel in those moments I should thank them for the privilege of being a part of their lives and allowing us to help in their recovery.

It's true, what goes around comes around! I'm grateful to be a part of this organization and to be able to do what feels like a very small part in helping our racers when they need us most. I'm thankful for all of you supporters doing what you can to accomplish the goal of all of us, to give Fast Help For Fast Friends. I saw it up close again this weekend how important we all are in this endeavor.

FINANCIAL

Vicki Aswege

DRAW Treasurer

***In July, DRAW
paid \$13,500
to aid 8 racers and
their families.***

DRAWing Thoughts

**Diligence
is the mother
of
good fortune.**

DRAWing

ATTENTION

FAST HELP FOR FAST FRIENDS

September 2022

37
YEARS
Providing Financial & Emotional Assistance to Injured Racers



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None at this time

NATIONAL EVENT BOOTH REPORT

Steve LeSueur

Mile high Nationals 2022

Steve LeSueur

Once again, NHRA made their way to Bandimere Speedway in Morrison, CO for the Dodge Power Brokers Mile-High Nationals. The thin air is a strain on both man and machine.

This was my first weekend with our new printer. It worked spectacularly. I paced myself better and had a much better weekend than last year. Small car count, but the crowd was huge as usual.

Thanks to Darren and Traci Couture for making sure I stayed alive and lending me Traci's brand-new car to save DRAW expensive rent car fees. Kudos to Kendra Wolf for making sure I stayed fed and hydrated. Kip Rhotan continues to be DRAW's hero.

Seattle Nationals

Vicki Aswege

The Denso NHRA Nationals were held July 22nd through July 24th at Sonoma Raceway in the Napa Valley area of California. The booth was in the same area as last year, which isn't a great location for spectator traffic. Once the sportsmen found the booth, ladder sales were good. Booth sales did ok.

Several people helped out at various times, allowing for small breaks which was nice. Thanks to Jim Larent, Hali Warnick, Hannah and Ally Feaster for the help. Also a big thanks to Kip Rhoton, Chris Winters and Terry Brock for the setup and generator

Sonoma Nationals

Vicki Aswege

The Flavor-R-Pac NHRA Northwest Nationals returned to Pacific Raceways after a two-year hiatus. The daily temperatures were between 95 and 100 degrees, which is unusually hot for the Seattle area, so the spectator crowd was lower than expectations. Ladder sales were decent as were booth sales. Thanks to Beth Hyatt, Lori Weber, Gary Roe, Tony Hernandez and Brent for helping all weekend. Special thanks to Kip and Chris for setting up the booth.

Back to Bristol

Chris Hardesty

We missed Bristol in 2019 and it was late in the season in 2020 so it was great to get back in June during the week before Summer started.

Karla and I took the RV as usual and it was 96° with a heat index of 108° the day we left home in Illinois for the 600 mile drive to the track.

Got there on Thursday so we had all day to get the RV unpacked and setup. Up early on Friday to get the booth going before 8am so we could get it all setup plus install a new printer since the last one failed.

The RV was packed full of sale table donations. All of it sold pretty quickly before Sunday arrived. We brought in almost \$4,000 between table sales, ladder sheets and booth sales.

DRAW donor Alex Ownes has been buying older NHRA event pins from continued on page 4

INJURED RACERS' REPORT

(REMINDER - not all injured racers are receiving financial assistance. However, they all need our emotional support. Be sure to send those cards and letters.)

ANDERSON, TIMOTHY – 254 ANDERSON TRAIL, REIDSVILLE, NC 27320 - Tim was racing his Monte Carlo in the Top Eliminator class at Wilkesboro Dragway in Wilkesboro, NC, on June 4, 2022. He got out of the grove, hit the wall and flipped several times. He received an injury to his foot which required three surgeries and the removal of three toes. **UP-DATE:** Tim is in a wheelchair at this time. He is healing nicely but has one spot on his foot that is infected. His next doctor's appointment is around September 12 and Tim hopes to go back to work at this time.

Tim thanks DRAW for all the help.

BRACEY, DOUG – 451 BANNING WAY, VALLEJO, CA 94591 (WIFE: CHRIS) - Doug was racing his 2002 Chevy Cavalier at the NHRA Winternationals in Pomona, CA, in the Top Sportsman class on February 17, 2022. At the finish line the throttle stuck. He hit the wall and into the sand trap going through the first catch net but the second one stopped him. He suffered a mild concussion, dislocated elbow, broken ribs and bruised trail bone. His body had a harsh reaction to the trauma and he had to have some dialysis treatments and blood transfusions. **UP-DATE:** Doug is doing much better. He is getting around better every day. Chris said they are so appreciative of DRAW's help.

COPELAND, JASON – 16226 WEST BURCHETT ROAD, TAHOEQUAH, OK 74464 (WIFE: KIM) Jason was partic-

ipating in the Street Outlaws No Prep Kings event at Tulsa Raceway Park in Tulsa, OK, on August 13, 2022. His Camaro was on the lift and he was working under it. Something started a fire and it ignited the fuel tank spilling fuel on him. He has 2nd and 3rd degree burns on most of his body except his back, abdomen and lower part of his legs.

LOVETTE, TANYA – 10162 CONCORD ROAD, SEAFORD, DE 19973 (SPOUSE: HANK) - On October 9, 2021, Tanya was racing her bike in the SDA DME event at Maryland International Raceway in Mechanicsville, MD. At the launch, the bike went straight up and over. She hung on until she and the bike hit the track. She has a slight fracture of her hip. Her doctor thinks it will heal on her own. Torn ligaments in her shoulder will require surgery. She was stuck so tight to the track they had to cut her leathers off to get her up. **UP-DATE:** Tanya is having surgery again the 30th of this month on her shoulder. This doctor says it is mainly a lot of scare tissue build up and feels that it will take care of her problem. She is in pain management at the present time. She said she is tired of being in pain.

MUNROE, WILL – P O BOX 1135, KEENE, NH 02431 (FINANCE: KYLEE JOSLYN) - Will was racing his super gas roadster in the semi-finals at the Division 1 Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series on May 21, 2022, at Cecil County Dragway in Rising Sun, MD. At the finish line, when his opponent applied the brakes it caused him to cross over and hit Will. Will flipped his roadster. He had to be cut out of the car. He has had surgery to stop the bleeding. Both hands were severally injured. Surgery was required

to amputate three fingers. He has brain swelling but that seems to be stable. He is sedated and they have him intubated. **UP-DATE:** Will is making incredible progress. He is home! Seven weeks at the trauma hospital and 2 weeks at rehab. The brain continues to heal. Walking is progressing nicely. Unfortunately he still isn't able to use his hands. One hand is still healing from the amputation. The other just got stitches out. Therapies weekly. Possibly one more surgery. God was definitely looking down on him!

RODRIGUEZ, SANTI – 11670 S E 92ND COURT, BELLEVIEW, FL 34420 (SPOUSE: SANDRA) Santi was racing his bike at Gainesville Raceway Park in Gainesville, FL, on April 16, 2022. He was in the staging lanes ready to turn into the racing lane and the bike stuttered a little. When he cleared the motor, the throttle stuck. He went across the staging lanes and hit a tree. He broke his leg which required surgery. **UP-DATE:** Santi is having some pain in his knee and the physical therapist has suggested he see his primary physician to be sure he didn't have other damage to his leg. Hopefully it is just healing pain and he can continue with therapy and strengthening the leg. He wanted everyone to one how helpful and important DRAW's assistance has been. It has helped kept food on the table and the electricity on. He also wanted to thank everyone for the cards.

SINGLETON, KEN – P O BOX 1961 – CHICKASHA, OK 73023 (SPOUSE: JO) - Ken was taking part in the Funny Car Chaos being held at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis, TX, on March 25, 2022. At the finish line his car became en-

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Division 4 News

It is hard to believe that the NHRA D4 Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series is completed for 2022. The last race was at Tulsa Raceway in Tulsa, OK, June 09-12, 2022. A lightning strike to the track electrical system canceled all time trials and qualifying runs on Friday. I'm sure everyone was appreciative to Dan Foley, for his knowledge and contribution to help make repairs and getting things back up and running, so the event could continue on Saturday. The PA system and computer systems were damaged as well. Texting and the FM radio station were used to announce the races. Everyone adapted and the race took place. The weather was the complete opposite from what it was at our previous race at Texas Motorplex. We certainly were not cold at this race. It was hot, humid and not even a hint of a breeze. There again, everyone dealt with it, made the best of it and had a good weekend racing and visiting with their friends. With the rising fuel cost, the car count was down. With that being said, the booth total, \$1095, was down quite a bit from what it has been at our previous D4 races this year. I want to thank the racers for their support of DRAW. Without your support DRAW wouldn't be able to help the injured racers. Thanks to Judy Gotcher and Bethany McLemore for their help at the booth throughout the weekend.

I'm so glad that I had the chance to meet injured racer Ken Singleton and his wife Jo, on Saturday afternoon. Their appreciation for DRAW's help, reminded me of why I, along with others, volunteer with DRAW. It takes each of us doing our part, to help DRAW be there for our injured racers. Think how you can help.

Continue to send cards to the injured racers. They are appreciated more than you will ever know.

Fast Help For Fast Friends, Because We Care,

Sarah Bishop

AREA 2 NEWS

I would like to thank the kind folks at DRAW who sent me get well cards during my hip replacement recovery. Now I know how the injured racers feel when they receive cards from us....like someone cares. We do good work and I'm proud to be part of the DRAW organization. Wanda Exum

Wanda Exum

NATIONAL EVENT CONTINUED

us for some time and this year he showed up with a list so Karla and him dug through the whole box finding 197 of the pins he was needing.

It was hot again on Friday until a storm came through in the afternoon and almost blew the tent down, if it wasn't for random fans Frank and Mike, who got in to stay dry then ended up helping us hold the tent down, it could have been a bad situation.

It cooled off real nice after that and the rest of the weekend was beautiful

It was nice to see Mickey and Beth Prestridge along with Kendra Wolf who helped out on Sunday running a few errands.

John Force was getting some new shoes from the Simpson trailer and took the time to swing by and thank DRAW for all we do!

VIRGINIA NATIONALS 2022

Steve LeSueur

NHRA and DRAW returned to Virginia Motorsports Park for the first time since 2019. The Virginia fans turned out with force for the return of NHRA drag racing.

The weather worked against the timely completion of the schedule. Intermittent rain showers popped up all weekend, slowing qualifying sheet sales. Thanks to Kendra Wolf and Beth Prestridge for helping me during the weekend. It was fun seeing a lot of local friends here at my home track.

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gulfed in flames. He received 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his nose, face and eyes. Twenty-six percent of his body has 2nd and 3rd degree burns. His face and hands will require skin grafts. **UP-DATE:** Ken is excited at the possibility of getting prosthetic fingers for his right hand in the near future. He will be seeing a prosthetic specialist in Dallas, TX in Sept to discuss his possibilities. He will have additional surgery on his left hand. Even after surgery, he still might not have movement in the left thumb. They will explore the possibility of prosthetic fingers for the left hand after the surgery. His skin grafts have healed and at this time are doing well. He is having swelling in both hands, so he is has to wear gloves on each hand to try to keep the swelling

down. Continue to remember Ken during this time by sending him a card or note.

SOBRINO, CARLOS – 39 BERGEN TURNPIKE, LITTLE FERRY, NJ 07643 - On May 13, 2022, Carlos was racing his Mustang in the Street Outlaws No Prep event at Maple Grove Raceway. His car got loose causing him to hit the wall on the right, go airborne and hit the wall on the left, cracking the barrier in two places. He broke four vertebrae, bruises to his back, extensive chest injuries and nerve damage to his thighs and knees. He is home now but limited to what he can do. He would like to receive cards.

VARNER, GABE – 4801 LANDS END TRAIL, ALEXIS, NC 28006 (MOTHER: AMY) - Gabe is the youngest junior

racer we have had injured. He comes from a family of racers. On May 7, 2022, he was racing at Darlington Dragway in Hartsville, SC. At the finish line, his dragster flipped. He lost his index finger and thumb. The doctors had to remove the index finger but were able to retrieve enough bone from the finger to build him a thumb. He is being a very brave young man through this.

SYMPATHY

LARRY FORE had a bike accident at top end at the Division 5 LODRS at Bandimere Speedway in Morrison, CO, on June 17, 2022. Larry succumbed to his injuries. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of his daughter, *Jennifer Fore, 14847 54th Drive, Golden, CO 80403.*

DONATIONS

**Hole Shot Donations

Harrison & Susan Sanders
Charles & Vicki Abdouch
Eric & Toya Miller
Bobbi & David Luken
H. Justin & Rebecca Schriefer
Greg's Plumbing, Inc.
Sandra Seeley/HairAmerica Queens Parlour
Michael R. Menke
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Andy Or Tracy Wright Ranch Account
Thomas & Elaine Neff
Gary R. Coe
Richard Csordos
David Haworth/Alison Barkley
Jack Yates
Ron Capps Motorsports
Earl E. Sauder
Bobby Lee or Nancy Marriott
Vincent & Ruth Hamm
Judith & William Moss
Lloyd Wofford
Timothy & Deborah Miller

** Denotes \$100+ donation

In Memory of Dave McClelland
From: Ken Morelli

In Memory of Bruton Smith
From: James F. Williams, Jr.

In Memory of Bill Bader, Sr.
From: James F. Williams, Jr
Gary Deeks
Chad J. Moss

In Memory of Jacob Wasko
From: Chad J. Moss

In Memory of Jimmy T. (Lucas Oil)
From: Randy Westphal

In Memory of Ryck Campbell
From: Joseph Fasano

In Memory of Marge Edgecombe
From: Her Family



102 Walnut Dr
Oak Leaf, TX 75154

Forwarding Service Requested

DRAW Membership Application

*Together we are bringing "Fast Help for Fast Friends"!
(please, no abbreviations and print legibly so your mail will reach you!)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Area Code _____ Telephone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

MARK THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS:

(1) Annual DRAW Dues - New _____ Renewal _____ Current # _____

Individual - \$30 *US funds only*

Family - \$50 *US funds only* - (two or more family members)

(2) Donation to DRAW in the Amount of \$ _____

(3) I would like to Receive: (One Each Per Family Membership)

DRAWing Attention (newsletter) Yes No Deliver By E-Mail Regular Mail

FORM OF PAYMENT:

(1) Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date (4 Digits) _____ CVS # _____

Name As It Appears on Credit Card _____

Type of Credit Card Visa Master Card American Express Discover Amount \$ _____

Customer Signature X _____ Date _____

(2) Check # _____ Amount _____ Make check payable to DRAW

Mail to: DRAW Memberships, Olan Gotcher, 102 Walnut Drive, Oak Leaf, Texas 75154