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Do it Right!

Meet Jason Hodgson and Chris DeShon



I met this young man (he's in his 30s and to me that is young) at McCool Junction and I think you might be interested in the story of how he became a Midget Race Car team owner.

Jason lived in Lancaster, England, (not Pennsylvania) and worked as an Urban Renewal Planner and was also a long distance runner. He came to the US in May of 2003 to do some high altitude training in Colorado. Then he went back to the UK to run some 5K and 10K races in England and Europe.

Jason Hodgson

After a couple years of doing this, he met and married a Denver lady and stayed in the US. He became an American citizen in 2007 and they live in Colorado. Since then, Rosalie, his wife, works in property management and he continues to train, race and run.

Last fall his interests took on a new aspect. Someone took him to his first ever midget race in Calhan, Colorado and HE WAS HOOKED! After this experience with the RMMRA event, he was told that *'he ain't seen nothin' yet'* and told him about the Chili Bowl. He couldn't envision what an event named after a food could be like. He went in January 2010 and was astounded. Jason had been to Formula 1 and Rallye races in Europe but he had never seen a spectacle like the Chili Bowl and the range of equipment and quantity of cars in one place at one time. The competition blew him away and he decided that he had to be in the action.

After returning to Colorado, he teamed up with Chris DeShon, a local driver, and started to put the team together. At this point they have 2 cars and all the garbage that comes with it, including a guy to do the heavy mechanics.

Chris at age 27 has 12 years of driving under his belt and a good reputation. He had laid out of driving for the last year and been working as a landscaper. He was ready to go again and they have spent this spring and summer getting the cars and team ready to go.



The team improved their results from the first Midget Money Week race at Beloit, Kansas, straight through to the 4th race on Sunday night at US 36 Speedway and they are on their way to the Belleville Nationals before they return to Colorado. High on their priority list is to prepare for the action next January at the 2012 Chili Bowl.

Jason can hardly wait.

Chris DeShon

Looking Back With Wanda

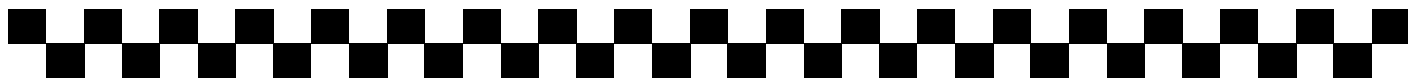
I have talked to a lot of midget race fans during the last couple of seasons while working the POWRi Apparel Trailer. Since I am in the position of being part of the Knepper Living Legend Family, (to hear Jim Childers call it, the oldest generation, along with Junior), a lot of the talk sessions have to do with how things were in “The Old Days”. I enjoy talking about the old days and the current days and the in between days, however you define them. Several of the fans have been urging me to write about some of the experiences that we (my husband, Arnie, and I) lived during “The Good Old Days”. After some arm twisting, I’ve been convinced to give it a try. Maybe the POWRi Fan Club members might enjoy an Old Timer’s story now and again. If you like them or DON’T like them, let me know. You won’t hurt my feelings. We’ll call it *Looking Back* and we’ll start with this one.

Several years ago there was an Omnimax movie featuring the Andretti family. The movie reminded someone about the story about the guy who was a real Mario Andretti fan back when Mario was in his heyday. This man was given a pair of Beagle puppies for his birthday. He named one puppy Mario and the other puppy Dretti. You can see where this is going—him calling his dogs—‘Come on Mario and Dretti’.

Someone reminded me about the time many years ago at the DuQuoin Champ Car race (that’s what they raced back then, Champ Cars) when Jim Hurtibese and Parnelli Jones were doing some racing and winning, and the pits were along the front stretch. The race was over and Herk and Rufus were standing along side the moat talking and having a cold one. Jane Hurtibese (Jim’s wife) saw them and the temptation was just too much for her. She took off at a dead run towards Parnelli’s back side to give him a little push which would have knocked him into Jim and both of them into the water. Unfortunately for Jane, Herk happened to look over Jones’s shoulder and saw her coming. He pulled Parnelli to one side just in time and Janie went zooming past and head first into the moat herself. She came up sputtering and Hurtibese and Ruf walked away talking just like nothing ever happened.

Do you remember when 16th Street Speedway in Indianapolis was located across the street from the big Speedway? Late 1950s I guess. Every year they had a night of midget racing there the night before the 500. In fact, there were three full midget shows held that night, one right after the other. The first one started about 6 p.m. and consisted of qualifying, heats, dash, semi and a full feature. After that show was over, the stands were cleared and the ticket selling and race car sign in started all over again for the second show. They ran another complete show with qualifying and the whole works. After that show was done, they cleared the stands again, resold tickets and signed in again for the third complete show. The last race was over about 5 a.m. and the midget guys left Indy to haul to the next track up in Kokomo for the race that night. Do you think today’s modern cars and drivers could do that drill? I wonder.

If you have any memories of old races or racers that you would like to share, catch me at the POWRi Trailer and tell me about it. If it’s printable we will use it. That’s it folks! I may do another in a couple of months.



LATE BREAKING NEWS-

The POWRi Lucas Oil National Midget Series event scheduled for August 13th at Shadyhill Speedway in Medaryville, IN has been postponed. Officials from both POWRi and Shadyhill Speedway regret the postponement but plans are already being made to bring the mighty midgets to the speed plant in the spring of 2012.

New POWRi Fan Club T-shirt Winners

We drew names for POWRi T-shirts at the races on the Western Swing. If you are——

Lori Davenport from Belleville, Illinois

Scott Rambo from Ripley, Tennessee

Roy Wirth from prairie DuRocher, Illinois

Come to the Apparel Trailer and pick up your t-shirt. Any shirts not redeemed by the last race of the 2011 season will be returned to stock. Congratulations on being a winner and thanks for being a POWRi Series Fan.



What d'ya think? While we were on the road for Midget Money Week, our sponsor Speedway Motors sent the Tire/Fuel trailer to the beauty shop for a re-do. It now matches their Support Trucks and it now is officially the POWRi Speedway Motors Track Side Support Vehicle. They even presented California Bob, the Track Side Support Person, (he used to be the tire & fuel guy) with a beautiful yellow and purple shirt to match. How Cool! Come down to the pits after the races and get Bob to give you a tour. We're movin' on up!

Apparel Trailer Notes——

The next event shirt to be made available is the Knepper Memorial Shirt for the race on Wednesday, August 10 at Little Belleville. The cost is \$20 and if you can't make the race, you can order a shirt by emailing me at wandak1776@att.net and we will work it out. If we mail it to you, there will be a \$5 per shirt shipping/handling charge. But don't wait too long, I expect the demand to be strong the night of the race. The shirt will be yellow (the Knepper Racing color) and will have room for an autograph of the 2011 winner to be added. This is what it will look like.

Hope you like it.

We still have a supply of driver shirts available of your favorite drivers like Brad Kuhn, Nick Knepper, Austin Brown, Brett Anderson, and others as well as the new Lucas POWRi shirt. We also have a good supply of the POWRi "Army" t-shirts and the White POWRi t.



ARNIE KNEPPER Memorial

Budweiser

LUCAS OIL
National Midget Series
POWRI
Racing

POWRI SPEEDWAY
600cc OUTLAW MICRO SERIES

**FEATURING... POWRI Lucas Oil National Midgets,
AND POWRI Speedway Motors 600c Outlaw Micros**

Wednesday, August 10th
Belle-Clair Speedway

200 South Belt East at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds
www.belleclairspeedway.com

General Admission, Adults \$15.00 • Kids under 12 Free
Gates Open at 4PM, Hot Laps at 6:00pm, Racing at 7PM

314-267-4944 • www.powri.com for more info

POWRI
Racing

It's St. Clair County Fair Time so come early and enjoy the Fair.

It is also St. Louis Auto Racing Fan Club Night so if you are a member of the St. Louis Auto Racing Fan Club you get in free.