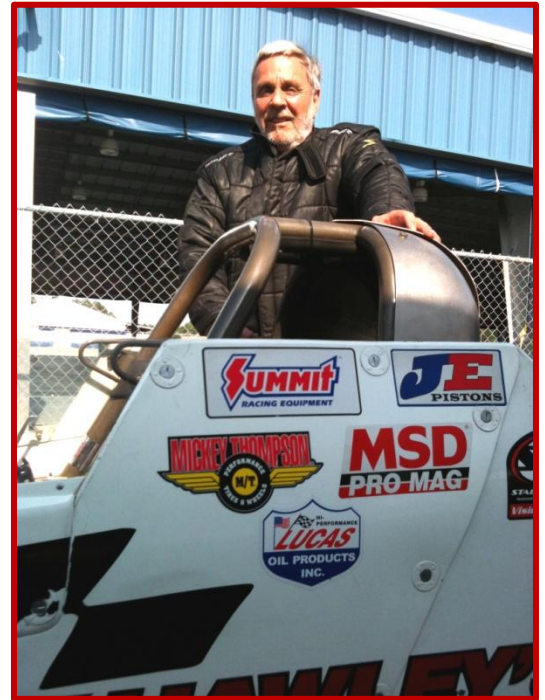


## Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School Top Dragster Grad Proves One's Age is Just a Number

He may be seventy years old and an age where most are starting to slow down and enjoy a lighter pace in life, but Florida resident Ronald Shalla, who goes by R. Lee, is doing just the opposite and recently drove over 200 MPH in 6 seconds during his Top Dragster class at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School in Gainesville, Florida.

Shalla has been a fan of all things fast for decades, spending his earlier years racing his street cars at local drag strips when Iowa was his home. Fast forward fifty years or so and the semi-retired Shalla, who spent forty plus years in the aviation field, is finally getting to check a few things off his "must do" list.

The ball started rolling for Shalla about six years ago when he and a group of friends that make the trek to the NHRA GatorNationals each year all talked about getting together and having a dragster to race. With none of the friends in the group holding a NHRA competition license, Shalla took it upon himself to attend one of Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School's Super Classes.



"So here I earned my Super Comp license and the next time we all got together for lunch I said to them, 'Well let's start talking about this dragster again'," he chuckled. "Like who's going to buy it, who's going to maintain it, because I can tell you who's going to drive it."

While the group dragster plan hasn't come to be as of yet, Shalla has continued to keep up his license by making trips to Hawley's School from time to time and make refresher passes in one of the school's dragsters.

Recently, Shalla learned of the new Top Dragster course offering at Frank Hawley's school and at the very young age of seventy, booked his class with the hopes of reaching the next level of speed.

"I wanted to go 200 MPH and get into the six second zone," he confessed of his choice to take the class. "Frank's teaching skills are phenomenal. I've probably made thirty runs in the school's Super dragster over the last five years and when you work with Frank, he has a way of doing things to make sure that they are done right."

Shalla achieved both his goals by posting six second ET's and breaking the 200 MPH barrier. "What a rush," he exclaimed. "It was something else and I've met my goals. At this point, if I can I would like to come back and license in the Top Alcohol Dragster and get into the five second zone."

At seventy years old, Shalla shows the rest of us it's never too late to reach for all you aspire and that one's age is just a number.

*For more information on Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School and all of the NHRA license course offerings, which include Super Comp & Super Gas (NHRA 7.50 and up License), Top Dragster & Top Sportsman, (NHRA 6.00 and up – Advanced ET License) Top Alcohol Dragster (NHRA 2A License), Top Alcohol Funny Car (NHRA 2B License) and Pro Stock Motorcycle, visit [www.frankhawley.com](http://www.frankhawley.com) or call 866-480-7223 (Outside the US 678-804-8835) Also on Facebook and YouTube!*