

Two More Hawley Top Dragster Grads Join the 200 MPH Club

While their personal backgrounds may be quite different, their goals and aspirations mirror that of the many who seek to push themselves into the sometimes seemingly unimaginable 200 MPH threshold. Not only did both Jim Fitzgerald and Bob Panoff acquire their first 200 MPH quarter mile passes during their Top Dragster class at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School, they both did so while reaching into the six second zone.

Georgia resident, Jim Fitzgerald has been drag racing for well over a decade, starting with E.T.'s in the low fourteen second range. Once his Mustang was upgraded and began making runs in low nine's, he made the decision to attend a Super Class at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School, where he earned his NHRA Super Gas license.

"I had so much fun during my first class with Frank, I attended the [Super] class again the following year and drove the dragster," Fitzgerald pointed out. "I was ready to "step it up" a little and Frank's Top Dragster class was the perfect opportunity."



In addition to being a drag racer, Fitzgerald enjoys skydiving, holds a commercial pilot's license with several ratings and most of his drag racing experience has come from his participation in Fun Ford Weekends and National Mustang Racing Association [NMRA] events behind the wheel of his 2000 Mustang.

What he strapped into during his Frank Hawley Top Dragster class, was a whole new experience for the retired Fortune 100 executive. "The car was a thrill to drive and the class was very informative and worthwhile, as always," he said. "Frank and his team run an excellent operation and I always enjoy being there. As a matter of fact, I have already inquired with Paul as to the future Top Dragster schedule. I have been there 5 times already and can't wait to go back."



"I highly recommend Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School for anyone who wants to acquire a license, improve their drag racing skills, or just have a good time," said the new 200 MPH Club member. "Anyone, at any level of drag racing experience, will enjoy their experience and will learn a lot also. I want to say thanks to Frank, Paul, Lana, and all the crew."

Likewise proud of his newest 200 MPH accomplishment at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School, Bob Panoff had previously completed Hawley's Super Class where he gained his NHRA license in both Super Gas and Super Comp. "I greatly enjoyed both experiences," said the longtime tax litigation attorney from Florida. "When the Top Dragster class became available, because Frank is such a superb teacher, I decided to use the Top Dragster

class as a means to fulfill a long held goal of going more than 200 MPH in the quarter mile under safe and closely monitored conditions, in an incredibly exciting vehicle.”

In addition to his prior experiences at Frank Hawley’s Drag Racing School, Panoff had participated in road course track days, standing mile events, and 30 laps in slightly detuned NASCAR vehicle, but found the Top Dragster class to be the most challenging and fulfilling automotive experience thus far.



“Because my experience on an actual drag strip was at the novice level, I had to play a little catch up and really focus and mentally practice over and over again,” he explained. “With Frank’s help I learned all of the separate steps and put them together into a competent routine. Sort of what I did back in high school when I was a lettered gymnast.”

“Everything clicked and on my last run I fulfilled my goal/dream and ran 207.43 MPH in 6.793 seconds. To say the least, I was ecstatic,” he exclaimed of his final pass during the school’s Top Dragster program. “Being a member of the 200 MPH plus, six second club feels fantastic!”

The Top Dragster program is just one of many exciting offerings at Frank Hawley’s Drag Racing School. Drivers can train with the Two-Time NHRA Nitro Funny Car Champion, Frank Hawley while working to earn their NHRA 4A or 4B license [7.50 and up] in the school’s Super Class, a course that is offered at numerous locations across the country. Other classes available include Top Sportsman, Top Alcohol Dragster, Top Alcohol Funny Car and Pro Stock Bike.

Classes for most programs are offered year-round. For more information visit www.frankhawley.com or call 866-480-7223 [Outside US 678-804-8835] Exclusive offerings and exciting contest info is available to those who follow Frank Hawley’s Drag Racing School on [Facebook](#).