

Indianapolis Results in Another Successful Stop for Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School

Lucas Oil Raceway, home of the NHRA U.S. Nationals, was the venue for one of the most recent road trips of Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School. During the Super Class that was held, fifteen drivers and five classroom students took part in the popular course, with many new NHRA licensed drivers emerging from the class.



One of those newly licensed drivers is Ron Helmer, of Freeland, Michigan. Helmer went to several drag races with friends in the sixties and fell in love with it but never got to fulfill his lifelong dream of racing until just recently. "After a professional career, mortgages, kids college and so on, I retired and wanted to go back to drag racing which was always one of my first loves and so I did," he said. "I took the class because I wanted to go drag racing for fun and knew I needed to be certified to go faster than ten seconds. I knew of Frank Hawley's drag school from the internet and also recognized his name as a veteran pro drag racer."

"The whole experience was over the top," Helmer exclaimed of his Hawley Super Class. "It was definitely a peak experience for me. I tell friends the best I can say, that I felt like Tom Hanks in Apollo 13 movie [pauses] having just gone to the moon and back and having to work my tail off the whole time to accomplish it. Mind you, I have flown airplanes as a pilot, raced motorcycles and flown in a WWII B-25 Bomber and [Hawley's Super Class] tops them all. I felt it was that much fun. [It was] an out of this world experience."

Helmer earned his NHRA 4B license while driving one of the school's Super Gas cars as did fellow graduate, Duncan Borthwick.



Borthwick, who also hails from Michigan, has been an automotive enthusiast his whole life.

Currently a design engineer at Ford Motor Company, where he has been employed for the last 20 years, notes that there had been a significant gap in time when he had no direct involvement with drag racing, but the stories of some of his colleagues having fun over the last few years finally made him decide to join in the fun or "cave in" as he put it.

"I had just purchased my first muscle car in a long time [a 2012 Mustang GT], and although my plans included to significantly increase the power and drive the car at the local drag strip, I really had no plans to take any classes," Borthwick explained. "However, one of my friends took Frank's class last year, and he said that not only was it one of the best things he's ever done, but the lessons he learned gave him a lot of extra confidence with all aspects of driving a car on a drag strip. When he told me that Frank's class was coming to a raceway only a few hours away, it didn't take long for me to decide to sign up for the class."

"My experience with the class was extraordinary," he continued. "Not only was Frank's teaching skill exceptional, but his entire staff was as professional as any I've ever seen – automotive or otherwise. Some might think that the class would mainly be focused on the basics of driving mechanics, but the mental aspect

of driving was also a significant portion of the classroom discussion. This included talking about other aspects in life that help illustrate what it takes to be a good driver. The overall knowledge shared in the class was very impressive.”

Although his current racing plans did not require for Borthwick to hold a competition license, he feels that the lessons learned during Hawley’s class are still as valuable as ever when it comes to driving his own car. “These lessons also apply to many aspects of daily life, and I still find myself thinking about some of these lessons today. At one point in the second day, Frank asked the class whether some of these lessons would help helpful to some things outside of driving. I was the first to say ‘yes’.”

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 or call 866-480-7223 (Outside the US 678-804-8835) Also on Facebook and YouTube! Classes Held Year-Round!

Upcoming Summer 2011 Frank Hawley’s Drag Racing School Courses and Locations:

Super Class – The Strip @ LVMS – Las Vegas, NV – June 21 & 22

Super Class – Royal Purple Raceway – Baytown, TX – June 28 & 29

Top Alcohol Funny Car – Gainesville Raceway – Gainesville, FL – July 12 & 13

Super Class – Summit Motorsports Park – Norwalk, OH – July 19 & 20

Super Class – Bandimere Speedway – Morristown, CO – July 26 & 27

Top Dragster – Gainesville Raceway – Gainesville, FL – August 10

Top Dragster – Gainesville Raceway – Gainesville, FL – September 20

Space in each class is limited, please call 866-480-7223 to reserve your seat as soon as possible to ensure your date.