

## Frank Hawley Returns to His Legendary Chi-Town Hustler Roots For “Night Under Fire” in Norwalk



For one night only, at the largest single day drag race event in the country, Two-Time NHRA Nitro Funny Car Champion Frank Hawley, will step back behind the wheel of the Chi-Town Hustler for some exciting Chicago-Style match racing during the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Under Fire at Summit Motorsports Park in Norwalk, Ohio on Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>.

“Last winter Bill Bader contacted me with the idea of not just bringing together these nostalgic, or historic as he refers to them, nitro funny cars, but to also have many of the actual drivers behind the wheel,” said Hawley, Founder of Frank Hawley’s Drag Racing School. “Bader was hoping that Troy Martin, who currently drives the Chi-Town Hustler, wouldn’t mind relinquishing the driving duties for one special night and get me to come back and match race all these other historic funny cars.”

“Troy has been doing a very good job match racing the Chi-Town Hustler across the country for the last several years,” Hawley continued. “The car that Troy has is the 1973 Chi-Town Hustler and I actually didn’t start driving the car until the 1980 season. I met with Troy last week and since he is taller than I am, we made several modifications to the car. We are really looking forward to competing for the fans during the Night Under Fire.”



“It’s just going to be an incredible opportunity,” Hawley added. “It’s going to be a chance for me to see some guys I haven’t seen in many years. It’s one thing to just see these guys in the pits after all these years, but to be able to jump back in the car and compete against them again is something that I never really imagined I would get to do.”

In addition to Hawley and the Chi-Town Hustler and Pulde with his War Eagle, fans will also be able to experience other historic cars such as Raymond Beadle in the Blue Max, Mike Savage's nostalgia Candies &

Hughes Plymouth Funny Car, Jon Capps in the “Jungle Jim” Nostalgia Funny Car, “Mr. Chevrolet” Dick Harrell Camaro Tribute Car and Doc Halladay in his immortalized Telstar.

“You don’t have to be a drag race fan. You don’t even necessarily need to be a John Force Fan. The “Night Under Fire” is about pure entertainment,” explained Bill Bader III, President and Co-Owner of Summit Motorsports Park. “From the pre-race ceremony and all of the pageantry, presentation and emotion that goes into that where it is scripted right down to the end. It is a very special event.”

“One of the things I think our sport has lost is it’s rivalries. Everyone wears a ‘white hat’ and there are no ‘black hats’ any longer,” he stated. “In the old days, we had many more colorful drivers and rivalries that you could really sink your teeth into. These cars of today have become rolling billboards, and I understand that. But to reach back in time and grab the Blue Max, the War Eagle, the Chi-Town and so on is going to be great. Because when you think about it, back then it was about the personalities and the rivalries. It was about the good guy and the bad guy. It was back when our sport was getting its legs, so to speak, but I can tell you it was a pretty cool time for our sport of Drag Racing.”

“For the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Under Fire, we have reached back and grabbed eight historic funny cars, which were all part of the foundation of the modern day fuel funny car class,” he continued. “They have been assembled from all over the US. I didn’t stay just in the Midwest. I personally am very excited to see all of these cars.”



When Hawley takes to the track for the “Night Under Fire”, it won’t be the first time that Hawley has made laps in the Chi-Town Hustler down the notorious North Central Ohio track. “The first year I drove the car in 1980, we ran a big race at Norwalk. It was an eight car funny car show and if my mind is accurate, we beat Dale Pulde in his War Eagle in the final.”

“Now I heard, through Bill Bader, that Dale told him that he beat me in the final,” Hawley pointed out with a smile. “I’m pretty sure I won that race, I

know we were both in the final. Guess someone needs to pull up some documentation from somewhere, but wow, how neat would that be to think that some thirty-one years later we have the opportunity to possibly repeat all that. Dale and I have always had a friendly rivalry. Well I always thought it was friendly. I think that Dale Pulde is one of the best funny cars drivers ever and to get a chance to get out there and race against Dale again is going to be amazing.”

As part of the jam packed schedule of events and excitement again in 2011 there will of course be the famous fireworks show. And for fans who thought that the “Norwalk Experience” and its phenomenal fireworks display could not have grown any larger, once again the Bader Family has many surprises in store for those in attendance for this year’s event. “In addition to shooting fireworks from our two normal locations, we are going to shoot from the media center, the rooftop of the suites, from remote platforms on both sides of the

track, from the rooftop of the restroom and even the roof of race control. This will really bring people in and we are calling it the 'Ring of Fire'."

"It's just amazing what the Bader's have done to their facility over the decades to make Summit Motorsports Park one of the premiere racing venues in the country. It's one of the many reasons why we hold driving school classes there each year," Hawley said. "Although I have not had a chance to attend their 'Night Under Fire' event in years past, knowing the Bader family and their pure dedication to the sport and the fans, I cannot begin to tell you how much I am looking forward to the whole experience."

For complete details on all of the activities planned for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Under Fire visit – [www.summitmotorsportspark.com](http://www.summitmotorsportspark.com) or call 419-668-5555.

For more information on Frank Hawley, and all licensing classes available at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School, visit [www.frankhawley.com](http://www.frankhawley.com) or call 866-480-7223 [Outside US 678-804-8835] Also on Facebook and YouTube!