

GRAND-PRIZE WINNER ATTENDED HAWLEY'S DRAG RACING SCHOOL



National DRAGSTER's Be A Winner, Be A Member program rewards NHRA members who win a regular-season bracket race at an NHRA member track with prizes from sponsors. Each month, a drawing is held and racers are randomly selected to receive these prizes. At the end of last year, one lucky racer was awarded the grand prize.

Division 4 E.T. racer Dave Gautreaux, of River Ridge, La., was selected as the 2011 grand-prize winner and received a two-day Super class from Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School valued at \$2,000.

National DRAGSTER also provided \$500 in spending money, bringing the total prize value to \$2,500.

In 2008, Gautreaux's friend convinced him to take his new Suzuki GSX-R 600 to the dragstrip, just for fun. Gautreaux then began competing at local points races, but when his street bike was stolen, he got a used '03 GSX-R 1000 and built a stripped-down, full-race bracket bike. After many hours of design and fabrication, Gautreaux had a solid bike that has performed well on the local scene and in Division 4 competition since he got his NHRA license in 2010. According to Gautreaux, although his bike may not be much to look at, it does its job — and does it in under nine seconds.

Gautreaux's first win was in February 2011, and that victory qualified him to enter in the Be A Winner, Be A Member program.



"I knew friends who had won prizes before, so I made sure to send my name in," he said. "Nothing showed up in the mail, so the whole thing slipped my mind."

In November, Gautreaux was tearing down a transmission he

destroyed in his last pass of the season when he received a phone call

from a National DRAGSTER staff member, who informed him of his grand-prize win. His winning entry, from March 3, was drawn from more than 2,900 submissions made during the 2011 season.

"It was the coolest call I had ever gotten," he said. "I was going to Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School to drive a Super Comp dragster, and National DRAGSTER was picking up the hotel and gas."

After a season of racing; caring for his child, who had health issues; and a busy schedule, he was finally able to attend the two-day Super class at



(Left) Dave Gautreaux, back row, far right, was selected as the 2011 Be A Winner, Be A Member grand-prize recipient, awarding him a two-day Super class at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School in Houston. (Above) According to Gautreaux, the knowledge he gained from Frank Hawley will help him take his bracket racing to the next level. "In 15 years of formal schooling, I have never had a better instructor," he said.

Royal Purple Raceway in Houston this fall, where he enjoyed both the classroom session and driving portion of the course.

"Our class covered all skill and progress levels," said Gautreaux. "Frank [Hawley] talked to each one of us the exact way we needed at each step of the way. The man knows people. I won't give away his secrets, but I think he would argue that none of what he teaches is secret at all."

"I came away with knowledge that should step my bracket racing up to the next level, or two, and bracket racing was never discussed. I learned how to drive an eight-second dragster,

but the lesson was much bigger than that. The benefits from this class make winning the grand prize the most valuable thing I've gotten for turning on a win light to date."

Said Hawley, "We were pleased to provide this class to the Be A Winner, Be A Member grand-prize winner. We certainly enjoyed having Dave at the class. He did a great job driving, and it was obvious that his previous motorcycle racing helped him adapt to the dragster."

For more information on all the courses and locations available for Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School, log on to www.frankhawley.com or call 866-480-7223. **ND**



Gautreaux benefitted from the classroom and driving portions of the course at Frank Hawley's school. "Completing my license runs made me giggle like a schoolboy on the return road, but the classroom time ranks as one of the top experiences in my life," said Gautreaux.

