

PRESS RELEASE

NHRA STAR, FAST JACK BECKMAN, TO SHARE FAVORITE TIPS ON WINNING WITH CORONA, CA SCOUTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO:

National Hot Rod Association Fuel Funny Car star, Fast Jack Beckman, is set to meet with Corona California, Scout Troop 125 on Tuesday, **October 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.**, to share with them his favorite **Quick Tips on Winning in Life**. Beckman, who is based in Corona, will be in the area preparing to participate in the NHRA's final rounds of its 2014 racing season during the Auto Club Finals, to be held November 12 - 15, 2014 at the Auto Club Speedway in Pomona, California. Beckman, who currently stands 11th in season point standings, will be competing in Don Schumacher Racing's Valvoline SynPower Dodge Charger R/T Fuel Funny Car.

WHERE:

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CORONA, CA 92882**

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CORONA, CALIORNIA SCOUT TROOP 125:

Scouting offers fun, challenge and everyday adventure to Corona area Scouts who are from all backgrounds, faiths and cultures. Troop 125 was founded by Mike Bailey in 2000 and has remained active in the West Corona. The Troop is "boy run" with support from adults. The Scouts elect their Patrol Leaders and a Senior Patrol Leader. These youth leaders form the Patrol Leader Council and plan and run the meetings and campouts – all with adult guidance. Trained Scoutmasters observe and guide as needed, always keeping safety first. Scoutmasters work individually with Scouts to challenge them and help them grow into strong leaders and responsible adults.

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Offering many different activities from pinewood derbies to bike rodeos, field trips, hiking and camping, scouting helps the 6-25 year olds grow in confidence, achieve their full potential and become active members of the community.

FAST JACK BECKMAN:

Like many successful racecar drivers, Jack inherited the racing gene. Jack's father, Bob, and mother, JoAnne, were "car people" who introduced him to the mechanical aspects of street cars. Jack notes that it was his Uncle John Jorgenson who convinced his parents to let him take Jack, who was 7, and his brother to Orange County International Raceway for their first drag race. "The first time I saw those cars, felt those cars, smelled those cars, listened to them and watched them, everything about them was absolutely thrilling," Jack recalls. "And from that day I knew that I wanted to drag race." By the time Jack was 17, he had owned several cars that contributed to honing his mechanical skills.

His father – who goes by "Slow Bob" to contrast his son's moniker of "Fast Jack" – was a hot-rodder. Bob didn't race but passed on mechanical skills and sold his son a 1968 El Camino that he still owns. Once Jack passed his driving test in the El Camino on his 16th birthday, he started tinkering with its intake manifold, camshaft and other components.

Jack Beckman's journey to winning the 2012 NHRA Funny Car world championship began in 1986 when he made his first pass down a dragstrip in his El Camino in a time of 15.06 seconds and 90 mph when he was 19 and stationed at Clovis, N.M. Since then, he has been licensed in 12 different NHRA competition categories, has won 17 NHRA career wins, and has scored two NHRA National Championships, one in Super Comp competition and one in the Fuel Funny Car category. His career best speed, reached at Reading, PA, on October 5, 2012, is 320.58 m.p.h., while his career best elapsed time is 3.986.

Jack lost interest in high school and left when he was 17 and began working full time in a tool warehouse. He knew he needed a new direction in life. After earning his GED and passing the Armed Services test, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. "That was likely the best decision I ever made," he says. "It gave me direction, focus, job skills and a renewed sense of self-worth."

He was honorably discharged as a sergeant four years later at age 21 and moved on up to NHRA bracket racing. He eventually joined the Funny Car team owned by Tim Grose where he worked on the bottom of the engine at races. But after the team lost sponsorship funding, Jack took a job in 1988 as an elevator technician for Westinghouse in Southern California. During that part of his life he began competing regularly in NHRA Sportsman categories.

Drag racing remained his passion and doing it full time was a dream. He quit working for the elevator company after 10 years to become an instructor at the Frank Hawley Drag Racing School. Among the 7,000 or more students he taught – including several of whom he has raced including John Force's daughters – were some who continue to play major roles in his life.

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In 2003, Jack drove his 160-mph dragster to the NHRA Super Comp world championship. But the next year he began experiencing health problems that were ultimately diagnosed as high grade level 3B lymphoma, a cancer that had invaded his body from hip to neck. He underwent six months of chemotherapy treatments, but continued to teach at Hawley's school and race as an amateur. Throughout the ordeal, Jack was inspired by an outpouring of support from family, friends and fellow racers.

"People I barely knew would come up to me at the races and tell me they were thinking of me," he says. "I can't describe what that meant to me. It's also nice not having to die to know how much people care about you."

He had his last chemotherapy treatment on October 25, 2004, and remains in remission. As he continued to regain strength, he drove 12 races in 2005 in a Top Fuel Dragster owned by Dexter Tuttle and partially sponsored by MTS.

"First, it was all about the time slip. Then I realized you could win a trophy, and that's all that mattered. When I realized I could win money then my emphasis shifted to that." Owing two NHRA world championships also is a nice payoff. And, he now believes helping people is a longer lasting prize.

On May 2, 2013, Jack was presented with the U.S. Air Force Wall of Achievers honor in Enlisted Heritage Hall at Gunter Annex of Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. Heritage Hall presents tributes to enlisted men and women who have contributed to the growth and development of the United States Air Force. Among former enlisted airmen receiving the honor including President George W. Bush, Brigadier General Chuck Yeager, singers Johnny Cash and Gene Autry, actor Charlton Heston and comedian Flip Wilson.

The City of Norco, Calif., presented Jack with the Key to City on Aug. 10, 2013, and declared the day "Fast Jack Beckman Day" to honor its resident for racing accomplishments and work as a national spokesman for the Chemotherapy: Myths or Facts campaign.

WHY:

The Quick Tips on Winning in Life life skills presentations are an avenue through which professional racers can give back to the communities where they live and race, by inspiring, affirming, empowering, and fueling the dreams of children and teens and encouraging them to believe in themselves and reach for their dreams.

Quick Tips presentations center on key universal truths RWC calls Quick Tips on Winning in Life, applicable to all children and teens regardless of age, cultural background, or life experience: find something to do in life that you really love, study, learn the art of teamwork, find a mentor, take the long view, be flexible with your dreams and goals, avoid the path of least resistance, and more.

Racers Who Care, Inc. is a West Hollywood, California-based 501c3 charitable corporation, founded in 1993, that works with auto, boat, motorcycle and truck racers dedicated to making a positive difference for our next generation. In Southern California, and throughout the U.S. in communities surrounding their tracks, RWC's racers have unforgettably

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impacted kids with exciting observations on how to succeed, presented by people who have -- very publicly, and in a field perceived as ruthless, tough and unforgiving.

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WWW.NATIONALFAMILYWEEK.NET**

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