

# Coast 2 Coast Racing News at the Grands!

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Welcome to the 2010 Western Grands - Wednesday



The only instructions they were give was NO RACING!  
The Chick Boys.... Steve and Joe

When you get to the track this morning, you will notice some very new things! There are new roads! PLEASE... everyone - do not operate Golf Carts on the grassy areas. The club tried planting grass earlier in the year on their grounds. Who would have thought it could rain in Texas in July!!! After officials decided to move Qualifying to Wednesday because of the MUD problem, many left the facility to see Texas! A few hours later, as Mike Lewis' company trucks began arriving with crushed lime stone, road base, the "Kansas boys" stepped up. Steve and Joe Chick started up the bobcats as Brian Brown started directing. The Wilcoxs, & Semetal's worked on the PA & radio systems. Many began to show up to help! The whole facility took on a new look! And speaking of NEW.... there is a new concession. The River City Club together with the Schwan Company will be providing

meals and goodies out of their concession under the tower. The other vendor is NO LONGER at the facility. And NEW continues as there is a new channel for the radio transmissions from the Tower. Try 89.9 on your radio! Please extend a hand of thanks to all of the people who worked so hard to put in new roads, clean the track and work to replace the MUD that Mother Nature sent!

## Radio Station

Hear all the Announcements from the Tower!

**89.9**

## PARKING

Please park on the pavement at the VFW area designated area for Quarter Midget Participants. Please DO NOT drive on the grassy areas!

## Handler Tips!

### Please Handlers!!

Give your driver the best chance to make it to the A Main here at the Grands! Be sure to check your car and driver weight BEFORE you get in line for Qualifying. Double check all nuts and bolts. Check your car width and NEVER leave the SCALE AREA before you are sealed!

It is very important to keep your driver hydrated. Water is the MOST important thing you should have on your pit cart.

Follow us on Twitter - Quarter\_Midgets!

## Michael Cappelli Photography

the official photographers for the  
2010 Western Grands. 210 288-5573  
We are located back by the VFW



Tell your Family & Friends to log on to QuarterMidgetsLIVE.com for Qualifying & to follow the Grands! Follow us on TWITTER @ Quarter\_Midgets

**QuarterMidgets.com**

# Meet Al Hawkins

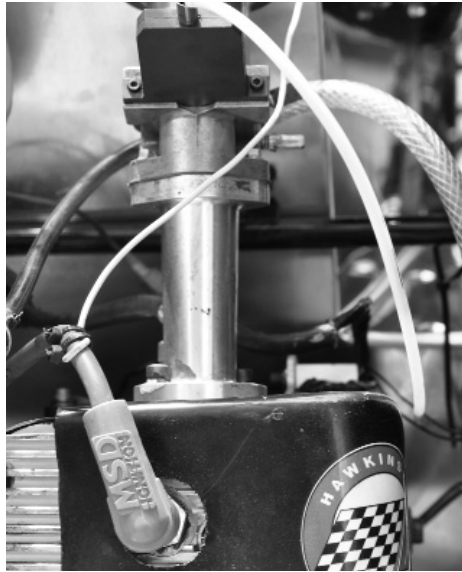
Most people know that Al Hawkins is an Engine Builder. Not an Engine Maintainer but a true Engine Builder. "I started building Quarter Midget Engines because my son, Pete raced," said Al. "It eventually became a family thing with both of my boys, Steve and Pete. We lived in Portland and I was a licensed Electrician working for a company called EC Contractors. Pete was just 12 yrs old and Steve was 15. We were on our way to the WinterNationals (drag race) at Pomona when we met Vern who told us about Quarter Midget racing. The very next weekend, I took the boys over to the Portland Club at Alpenrose Dairy for a FREE ride day. We were totally hooked!"

Back then Al said he bought his first stock engine for \$700. "Pete started in Novice and his very first race, there was a Tech Inspection. I didn't know anymore than putting the engine in the car and pushing Pete off," said Al. "But what I found out quickly, is that I needed to know more about rules of the association." The Engine that was in young Pete Hawkins car, that race, was called illegal. "It was the hardest thing I ever did was to tell my son that our engine wasn't legal!" From that day on, Al Hawkins has been a guy that has researched, worked with, developed and tinkered with engines. "Every customer that calls me always wants to go faster than the previous guy," laughs Al. "Engines Builders are like computer geeks!!! They love what they do and spend hours looking for that little extra."

Generally speaking, Al believes that his personality of being a perfectionist has actually been a curse, in his profession! When someone sends Hawkins an engine and says.. make this thing go faster.... the biggest challenge is the ports! That is beyond a doubt the most difficult, time consuming, and most rewarding or damning....thing to an Engine Builder. "You can go from being a Hero to a Zero in just .021 seconds," laughs Hawkins.

Really, seriously, why does Al get so in to what he does...

"I have been building QM engines since 1988....some 22 years. I just like it, he says. I really, really like this. I like the kids and watching them go fast. I like seeing kids grow up in this sport. In the beginning, I did it 'cause I enjoyed in, but now I can't think of doing anything else! Don't you have any other hobbies.... Hawkins gets asked????? Al admits he is a softy for drag racing as he use to be a drag racer himself. When he lived back east, he always made time to catch the Nationals at IRP. But mostly, he works on engines, and mostly DECO engines. That is his first love! He likes the grass roots of Quarter Midget Racing and gets his most rewards



seeing a driver develop thru the classes to become an accomplished 'B or 'AA driver. During the interview the M & M Boys stopped by and asked Al a question. Do you like the DECO program more now or how it use to be? "Well, of course he would love to see more of them but he said "I would prefer it to be the way it is now.... Now the DECO classes are really the only ones where engine builders can showcase their talents, but you would kind of have to be a DECO guy to understand that statement. Hawkins admits that he wishes that the leaders of our sport around 1995, would have realized what was going to happen in QM racing, so that more of the rules would make sense for todays racers. The other question that M & M asked was about Electronic ignition. Does Al think that things are better with Electronics now days? Hawkins admits that he feels that Electronic ignition is not really an advantage in providing more power. "Once the fire is lit at the proper time.... it is over. The electronics only makes this fire come at a designated time. It is more controllable. Al has agreed to become a columnist for Coast 2 Coast Racing so that he can continue to educate the current racer so that they might be able to someday experience the true power of the grass roots engines of this sport!

## Current Track Records

Jr Novice -	Meghan Wilcox	7.950	07/12/2008
Sr Novice -	Kyle Thompson	7.373	06/10/2006
Jr Honda -	Leah Wilcox	6.884	06/13/2009
Sr Honda -	Leah Wilcox	6.611	05/08/2010
Hvy Honda -	Kyle Thompson	6.902	10/11/2008
Jr Stock -	Leah Wilcox	6.382	06/06/2009
Sr Stock -	Berklee Jimenez	6.447	06/06/2009
Lt Mod -	Berklee Jimenez	6.538	09/05/2009
Hvy Mod -	Josh Albertson	6.649	10/11/2008
Lt 160 -	Leah Wilcox	6.362	05/08/2010
Hvy 160 -	Alex Wilcox	6.679	09/05/2009
Lt 'B -	Berkley Jimenez	6.274	05/08/2010
Hvy 'B -	Open	-	-
Lt 'AA -	Nathan Lewis	6.169	07/12/2008
Hvy 'AA -	Open	-	-
Lt W Formula -	Berkley Jimenez	6.177	05/08/2010
Hvy W Formula -	Adam Wilcox	6.128	09/05/2009
Half -	Adam Wilcox	6.106	09/05/2009

# Some People's Dogs

I was invited over to the Thompson motorcoach on Tuesday before the rains, to watch Blake Bowers Videos on QuarterMidgetsLIVE Channel on YouTube but that dang dog of Wright's snarled at me!!!! And I have been the one always making sure it got home safely.... GEEZ Is it true.... when they say... some dogs are just like their owners?????

**PLEASE if anyone has any extra FORKS, could you please loan them to Mike Hughes.... he is desperately looking for ONE!**

Remember all Briggs World Formula Drivers.. You must have the Briggs Stickers on your car to Qualify for the Savings Bonds Program. You can get stickers from the MEDIA Trailer on the back side of the Tower on Thursday and Friday!



**WHOOOO**  
*is Thinking Halloween at the end of July?*

**The Topeka Club in Kansas!**  
**You are invited to their Pumpkin Race,**  
**October 23 - 24, 2010**  
**Watch for more details at**  
**[topekaqma.org](http://topekaqma.org)**