



... A Gift from the Racing World

MISSION STATEMENT

Project Track Champion is dedicated to the promotion of accessibility for persons with a disability in the racing environment. Project Track Champion is committed to creating, promoting and securing measures to remove barriers that would normally restrict a person with a disability from having an interactive roll within the racing community and other non-related venues.

From Concept to Reality

Based on an interview with Denny Snider
with excerpts from the Project Track Champion Web Site



The very beginning



The modifications begin



Project Track Champion Car

On January 12, 2005, *Project Track Champion* was initiated. The project was the dream of Denny Snider, an avid NASCAR fan. *Project Track Champion* resulted in the development of a specially equipped and highly modified racing car for those with special needs. This unique vehicle allows those with special needs as well as those without, an opportunity to grasp a true sense and feeling of what it is like to be inside a real racing car.

The proto-type was created and first displayed at the Performance World Car and Truck Show in February 2007. The car had its first passenger in May, when 65 year old Essie Martin had her dream come true of riding in a race car. Denny's dream was to share his passion for racing with individuals with special needs. His father was wheel-chair bound and unable to share his son's passion. The world of racing has a 112 year history and this car is the first of its kind.



The original race car designs had the entrance to the vehicle through the window, for driver safety purposes. It was never the intention to leave anyone out!

According to Denny, today, racing is the second largest sports event next to pro football! The modification of the traditional race car encompasses two key components that Denny says provides a metaphor for advocacy:

“1 – The roof had to be raised to accommodate the additional headroom required. In raising the roof, we also raised the level of awareness to tend to the needs of others, to the best of our ability; and

2 – My favourite component is the doors on the passenger side which swing open, to receive anyone who wishes to enter, conveying a sense of welcome to our world.”

Denny sees this car as one more step in closing the gap between those with special needs and those without special needs. The *Project*

Track Champion car is:

A Gift from the world of Racing to those with Special Needs.

A Tool to assist in closing the gap between two worlds...those with special needs and those without.

A Bridge everyone may cross over to experience the world of racing from a Real Race Car Driver's perspective.

A Beacon to enlighten the fact that more needs to be done to bring down barriers that would exclude those with special needs.

Although the race car was designed and built for those with special needs, the fully accessible race car is for everyone. Trained staff insures the individual's wheelchair or transporter is secured on the passenger side and that any family or caregivers who also wish to ride along are buckled safely in the rear seats. The fully functional driver's door allows race fans the opportunity to visit a race car driver's world first hand.

Many have had the opportunity to experience the thrill of motor racing and as such have had a dream fulfilled. EP



Jeremiah Armstrong enjoys a front seat in the Project Track Champion car



Scott Osmond enjoys a front seat in the Project Track Champion car



Scott and Jeremiah with NASCAR drivers

Cayuga Raceway Trip The Experience of a Lifetime

By **Jennette Overzet**

Two individuals with exceptional needs, Jeremiah Armstrong and Scott Osmond, enjoyed a trip to Cayuga Raceway on September 2, 2007. Jeremiah, Scott and their caregivers met two professional NASCAR drivers, Shawn McGlynn (car #81) and Jennifer Jarvis-Hatch (car #19). They received autographs and had their pictures taken with these two friendly drivers. We met and socialized with others that were also excited for their turn for a ride in the wheelchair accessible racecar. We had an opportunity to meet and re-acquaint with Denny Snider who designed the car and with the others on the *Project Track Champion* team.

The *Project Track Champion* team members carefully and skillfully buckled the wheelchairs in the car. Jeremiah and Scott were able to sit in front with the driver! The race car driver drove approximately five laps around the track at what seemed like 200 km/hour. They showed tremendous joy during the ride, to the point of becoming extremely ecstatic. The team members also took us on a personal tour of other cars and showed us how the car is modified for racing. For lunch we enjoyed a Bar-b-que in the raceway pit and were able to watch the cars and visit further with the drivers. **EP**

Project Track Champion Set to Expand

By Denny Snider,
Concept Creator
(Project Track Champion)

Due to the tremendous success of *Project Track Champion*, I am pleased to announce the addition of a second car to be added to the race team. Although the original car has many actual race car features and components, it still remains stock in many respects. The second car will be built and constructed with actual race car components from top to bottom, front to back. Setting this race car apart from its racing big brothers will be the features necessary to accommodate passengers with special needs, including wheelchair users. The second car, due to its actual race car appeal will now make it possible to take the real race fan on a ride-along at speedways. I am not at liberty at this time to say whether or not this race car will be available this year, but certainly in 2008.

With its 2007 appearance kick-off, *Project Track Champion* is prepared to put smiles on the faces of thousands of individuals.

The future of *Project Track Champion* is looking very bright and has no place to go but up. Without a doubt, it has proven to be a win-win situation for all who have been involved to date. There are literally hundreds to thank from Moncton, New Brunswick to Fort Lauderdale, Florida who have made a dream become a reality. *Project Track Champion* tips its helmet to Jones Brown Motorsports Insurance Inc. and Q-Straint for their incredible support.

On behalf of all involved with this very worthy cause, and those for whom the project was created, I say a heart-felt thank you. EP

www.project-track-champion.com



This specially
designed race car is
merely the “vehicle”
for advocacy