



E-NEWSLETTER

June News

Gettin' It Done: A Need for Speed

Accessible Racing Vehicles

Besides wheelchair racing, people in wheelchairs are involved in many other types of racing, including cars, trucks, off-roading, on water, skill contests and setting speed records. One of the most famous among them is Patrick Rummerfield, profiled in our February issue.

- For more examples of racers in wheelchairs: click [here](#). Check out all 3 pages of the link.
- For a story on dragon boat racing by vets with disabilities: click [here](#).
- To view a You Tube video of an accessible drag race van, click [here](#).



Clay Egan's Accessible Off Road Race Vehicle



Karson Racing's Accessible Drag Race Van

It's fascinating to read about the determination of these racers who are following their dreams, no matter what life seems to throw at them. There's truly a "racer mentality" in some

12th Annual Racing to Recovery Gala Raises Nearly \$300,000 to Support Medical Research to Find a Cure for Paralysis

Over four hundred supporters were on hand to honor Legends of Racing award recipient Roger Penske and rub shoulders with IndyCar drivers and race team owners past and present, as well as Indiana's business and social elite. The spectacular venue atop the Chase Bank Tower featured a birds-eye view of downtown Indianapolis and the Lucas Oil Stadium.



Sam Schmidt and IndyCar drivers on stage

On May 18, 2011 the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation hosted its 12th annual Racing to Recovery Gala in downtown Indianapolis, IN. The event was wildly successful, raising nearly \$300,000 to support medical research to find a cure for paralysis.

Helio Castroneves, Ryan Briscoe, Will Power, Danica Patrick, Dan Wheldon, Alex Tagliani, Bertrand Baguette and Alex Lloyd were among the many IndyCar Series drivers on hand to support the Foundation. Past Indy 500 winners came out to celebrate as well, including Rick Mears, Bobby Unser and Arie Luyendyk - each a racing legend in his own right.

During the evening, Schmidt and four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Rick Mears presented [Roger Penske](#) with this year's Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation Legends of Racing Award.



Famed sports artist Bill Patterson created this painting for the evening's auction.

Foundation President/CEO Ida Cahill commented after the event, "Sam and I are delighted that Roger Penske was a part of our Racing to Recovery Gala." "His achievements in the world of motorsports and business are applauded by everyone with whom he comes in contact. He is truly an ambassador for the sport and we couldn't have chosen a more worthy recipient of our Legends of Racing Award. We were also humbled by the support that both the racing and Indianapolis communities showed the Foundation through their generosity last night. The Racing to Recovery Gala has become a highly anticipated event during the month of May and we're excited to see it grow

people; a certain personality type that just needs to compete.

The accomplishments of these racers are certainly commendable. Whether involved as a driver or in team management, from the point of view of the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation it's great to see people in wheelchairs attracting mainstream media attention.

A Racing Mind



At the January, 2011 Assistive Technology Industry Association conference in Orlando, FL, Hank Torres of Spherical Rock, Texas set a Guinness World Information achievement for the quickest palms-free typing. Although quadriplegic, Hank does have limited use of his fingers. But he wanted to show the world what he, along with cutting edge technology, could accomplish without them.

A camera mounted to his laptop captured his head actions and a puff swap tracked his breaths. Those were then related to an on-display screen keyboard and an adapted Swype® text input system.

On his third and last attempt, Torres made history with a new Guinness World Data feat by entering the official Guinness World Records® phrase, "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human."

Torres, who was injured more than 30 years ago in a hang-gliding accident, successfully input the phrase in 83.09 seconds on a computer running Microsoft Windows 7. An official Guinness World

even more in the future."

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation is leading the charge to cure paralysis by funding scientific research, medical treatment, rehabilitation and technological advances benefiting those with spinal cord injuries, stroke victims and people diagnosed with ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. In addition to initiating local and national advocacy efforts on behalf of those disabled, SSPF also funds national "Day at the Races" programs and "Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon" fundraising events. Ida Cahill is a member of the Spinal Cord Leaders Council.



SSPF President/CEO Ida Cahill and SSPF founder Sam Schmidt

A Feel Good Story

Couldn't resist sharing this "feel good" story link, contributed by Judy Schmidt. Click [here](#).

2011 Schedule of Events

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation has a very busy schedule in 2011, which includes several Day at the Races quality of life events, Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon fundraisers, local fundraisers, the annual May Gala and the annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament.

To view the entire schedule, click [here](#). The schedule will be updated as further information becomes available.

Records adjudicator was on site to verify the record.

An engineer by training, Torres has also invented several wheelchair-based solutions for which he has been awarded numerous patents - all of which he wrote using assistive technology.

SSPF is Coming Back to the Milwaukee Mile and Iowa Speedway!

Are you within traveling distance of Milwaukee Wisconsin or Newton

Iowa? This month, we are excited to be scheduling two events at the Milwaukee Mile (at the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds) and one event at Iowa Speedway (located in Newton Iowa) in conjunction with IndyCar race weekends:

*** Friday, June 17: Family Fun Day including 2.25 mile Walk 'n Wheel at the Milwaukee Mile**, held in conjunction with Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin. For more information about the event, click [here](#). To print the entry form, click [here](#).

*** Saturday, June 18: Day at the Races at the Milwaukee Mile** (For flyer, click [here](#).)

*** Saturday, June 25: Day at the Races at Iowa Speedway** (For flyer, click [here](#).)

Dawson's on Main Supports SSPF

Popular restaurant in Speedway, Indiana raises over \$750 during the month of May for the Foundation's Day at the Races program

During the month of May, *Dawson's on Main*, a popular restaurant in Speedway Indiana, raised over \$750 for the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation with their fundraiser, "Dining for the Day at the Races".

The Foundation's Day at the Races program May event brings people with paralysis, each with a guest, for a day at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Included are free tickets to the track, VIP parking garage passes, lunch in the Andretti hospitality tent, a special meet & greet with Sam Schmidt, and a unique opportunity for driver autographs & photos. Dawson's contribution helped cover the costs of putting on this annual event.

Dawson's on Main is located within walking distance of Indianapolis Motor Speedway. As a restaurant owner, Chris Hill had long appreciated Sam Schmidt's initiative and work ethic. When Cindy Norton, Manager of the Day at the Races program approached *Dawson's on Main* about becoming one of the program's sponsors, Chris and his partners said they could do more than that. Together they came up with a plan to promote the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation and the restaurant at the same time.

Dawson's on Main "Dining for the Day at the Races" cards were printed and distributed to race teams, owners, drivers, employees, track attendees, hospitals, rehab facilities, local businesses and to anyone the foundation's staff and volunteers came in contact with. The cards were also available at *Dawson's on Main*. Each time a patron presented the Dining for the Day at the Races card to their server, 10% of their entire dining purchase was donated by the restaurant to the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation.

Restaurant patrons who used the cards could also sign up to win a 2009 HER racing firesuit autographed by driver Alex Lloyd. The lucky winners of the firesuit were Dan and Nita Diehl of Indianapolis. As fate would have it, Dan is a memorabilia collector and was very excited to have won the racing firesuit.



Alex Lloyd wearing the HER racing firesuit.

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation extends our sincere gratitude to the owners and staff of *Dawson's on Main* for holding this fundraiser during the month of May. Also, a huge thank you to all who donated to a worthy cause while enjoying a great meal at Dawson's on Main in Speedway Indiana.

We provide a Day at the Races in conjunction with IndyCar race weekends across the United States. If you would like to help us with a similar fundraiser, please contact Cindy Norton at cnorton@samschmidt.org or 502-396-3214. For a map of Day at the Races locations, click [here](#).

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