



LOU SATTELMAIER
SONIC THUNDER RACING

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LOU SATTELMAIER'S BACKGROUND

Lou Sattelmaier is one of an unusual breed of men who race jet powered race cars for a living. Only a small portion of his work week is spent at the wheel of his 270 mile-an-hour jet powered funny car. His business is also racing.

"Most people would like to have a job in their lifetime that they can make a living at and really enjoy what they're doing," said Lou, "driving the funny car is a real challenge, it's exciting and keeps me motivated!"

A part time race driver back in the 1950's and 60's Lou teamed up with his brother, George, to race in and around Ohio, with a '32 Ford altered coupe. At that time, drag racing alone wouldn't provide a decent living, so Lou supported his family as an engine lab technician and air freight agent, but racing still consumed much of his spare time.

In the fall of 1971, Lou began a one man crusade to curb drug abuse among our youth. The idea came about when his own children asked him to come to school for a "show and tell". This eventually led to a coveted sponsorship with Marathon Oil. In 1975 he teamed-up with the U. S. Navy, in 1977 received major sponsorship from Quaker State Oil and is currently sponsored by Pennzoil, Cornwell Tools, New Eagle Communications, Lincoln Electric, Rotary Lifts, as well as the U. S. Navy and the Brunswick, Ohio Police Department are working with Lou in alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

On March of 1997, Lou was deputized by Medina, Ohio Sheriff Neil F. Hassinger. In his new capacity as Special Deputy Sheriff, Lou will patrol with various deputy Sheriffs to reduce crime as time allows.

With his famed '32 Ford, Lou went on to win over 40 races and numerous show awards. Including, the AHRA Pro-Am Nationals, USDA Fuel and Gas Championship, plus many others. Lou has also won "Best Appearing" honors at the NHRA U. S. Nationals, and IHRA Summernationals, plus major awards at National ISCA Car Shows. His refurbished supercharged '32 Ford fuel coupe is now valued at \$75,000. and travels the 1/4 mile in 8 seconds at over 180 mph.

In the Spring of 1984 Lou climbed behind the wheel of a Jet-powered Mustang. "It was the biggest move I've ever made," said Lou, " as I gained experience, I began to realize that I needed to be not only a good race car driver, but also a good businessman. Sponsors are a key to developing a strong race team, and most important is a good crew. My wife, Elaine, and my sons, Bill, Bob, and John are my crew. They do an outstanding job, they are true professionals."

In 1990 Lou's son, Bob, received his license and now pilots his self built SUPER-SONIC Jet Funny Car, for side by side father - son competition. Lou's daughters, Lisa and Sue, make up his support team and John is the team videographer.

Lou now travels the 1/4 mile with his SONIC THUNDER II Jet Funny Car at speeds of over 270 mph in just 5 seconds. He competes at over 20 major race events each year and is also featured at NHRA national events, major car shows, and parades. He also holds records at various race tracks, and won the Jet Funny Car Olympics of Drag Racing in 1988 and the World Series of Drag Racing in 1990.

Lou attributes his success to his faith in God, family, and sponsors.