



Jim Wemett AA/FC

Box 111
Macedon, New York
14502

1979 N.H.R.A. DIVISION 1 FUNNY CAR CHAMPION

SEASON SUMMARY

1978

- 3/10 Qualified at Gatornationals in Gainesville, Florida
4/16 Runner-up at Maple Grove Funny Car Show
5/7 Winner at Epping, New Hampshire Spring Funny Car Championships
7/13 Qualified at Summernationals, Englishtown, New Jersey
8/6 Second Low Qualifier at Grandnationals, Sansair, Canada
8/29 Winner at Englishtown, New Jersey
9/3 Winner at Cayuga, Canada

Winner of the Most Improved Professional Award -- NHRA Division I

Best Time 6.15 -- 234 mph

1979

- Qualified at AHRA Pro's in Phoenix, Arizona
Qualified at Gatornationals, Gainesville, Florida
Winner at Englishtown, New Jersey, Crazy Eddie Night
Runner-up Budd's Creek, Maryland, Division I race
Runner-up, Gold Cup Nationals, Empire Dragway, Leicester, New York
Division I Divisional Funny Car Champion



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1970 Racing Budget

Complete Turnkey, Race Ready Funny Car	\$30,000
*Chassis - motor	
*Body - wheels	
2 complete Back-up motors @ \$14,000 each	28,000
Spare lenco transmission	1,800
Paint and lettering of car and trailer	2,000
Spare rear-end	2,000
Spare pistons, crankshaft, connecting rods, rings, bearing, clutch and miscellaneous parts	10,000
10 sets of racing tires @ \$350 each	3,500
50,000 miles - Gas, Food, Lodging, Travel	15,000
Nitro - 750 gallons or 15 barrels	15,000
Payroll	20,000
Truck, trailer and insurance payments	7,000
Spare body	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$139,300



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Bert Gronseth - Crew Chief

"Uncle" Bert Gronseth, currently living in Utica, New York and working as a psychologist at the Utica Psychiatric Center, has been Crew Chief on the Wombat Funny Car since 1973. A college graduate from Tennessee with a Master's degree and theological training from the Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, Bert has been a school teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, and has been active in several professional organizations including a local chapter president and national convention speaker of the American Personnel and Guidance Association. He has also been a supply pastor, and a member of the Board of Deacon's (treasurer).

Bert's avocational interests include: cooking, sports official, heavy construction operator, light industry, sales, recreational worker, thespian, and 18-wheel truck driver.

Now in his seventh season of involvement with Jim Wemett's fuel funnys, "Uncle" -- well he looks like an uncle doesn't he?? -- Bert counts this as his longest period of continuous service, with no end in sight!



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George Johnson - Driver

George Johnson, a high school graduate who spent 16 months in Vietnam as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army, joined Jim Wemett's operation with extensive experience in automotive mechanics, working in car dealerships and attending GM mechanics schools. George joined the Wombat racing team in 1974 as chief mechanic and quickly accelerated into the driver's seat. Since that first trip down the track, George has worked his way through many accomplishments, including in 1977 ranking as high in professional points as 10th nationally during the season and ending up as Runner-Up in Division I. In 1978, George received the Most Improved Driver Award and finished in the 24th position nationally in the tough 1978 NGRA Winston World Championship series. With six years background in drag racing, George has his sights set on being among the top ten next year. In 1979, George finished as Division I Funny Car Champion.



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Bill Richards - Crew

The newest member of the Wombat team, Bill Richards is a Sales Representative for an electronics distributor during the week and on weekends sheds his suit and tie for jeans and a tee-shirt.

With a B.S. degree in Communications/Marketing from St. John Fisher College, Bill handles most of the promotional work for the Wombat team.

Since going to his first race in September of 1977 (it took Jim a year to convince him to make this first trip), it's been hard for Bill to stay home. Besides the promotional work, Bill takes care of a lot of the wrenching work at the tracks too.

For the 1980 season, Bill is working on some wild promotional ideas -- so keep alert Race Fans!

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1978 Season

3/10	GatorNationals, Gainesville, Fla.	6.56	221	
		6.66	220	
4/16	Maplegrove	6.29	207	
		7.63	121	solo
		6.59	218	runner-up
4/30	Cayuga, Canada	7.73	212	
		7.17	194	
5/7	Epping, New Hampshire	6.62	213	
		6.65	215	
		6.48	222	won meet
5/20	Cayuga, Canada	6.76	215	
		11.19	153	smoked tires on an oiled track
6/4	Epping, New Hampshire	6.53	226	
		6.51	226	
		12.69	59	shut-off run fuel-line leak
6/9	SpringNationals, Columbus, Ohio	6.51	227	
		6.44	220	
		6.45	220	
7/1	Empire, Leicester, New York	6.92	219	
7/7	Edgewater	6.21	216	
		6.33	226	
7/13	Englishtown, New Jersey	6.33	227	
		6.24	231	
		14.96	50	shut-off run head gasket
7/21	Lancaster, New York	4.05		
		4.62		
		4.89		
7/22	Maplegrove	6.63	218	
		6.45	223	