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## Driver of the Month - June

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**Jack Beckman** ★

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### Catching up with "Fast Jack" Beckman

They might call six-time NHRA Pro Stock Champion Warren Johnson "The Professor," but it's "Fast Jack" Beckman who has taught more students how to drag race than anyone outside of Frank Hawley. In fact, the driver of the Valvoline/Mail Terminal Services Dodge Charger Funny Car enjoys the teaching profession so much; he's constantly speaking to school children about goal setting and overcoming obstacles. Beckman's "Quick Tips on Racing and Life" presentation is part of the Racers Who Care program.

Beckman, a former elevator repairman, can talk with authority about overcoming obstacles. He was diagnosed with lymphoma in late 2003 and spent much of the 2004 season receiving chemotherapy treatments. After being told in early 2005 that his cancer was in remission Beckman spends much time supporting cancer-related charities and causes.

With one Funny Car win already this season Beckman is no longer the Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School teacher and Sportsman racer; he's a genuine contender week in and week out on the NHRA circuit.

We sat down with Fast Jack for some Q&A.

*Q: Where did you get your "gift for gab"?*

A. Probably my mom. Everybody now thinks my dad's so funny, but I didn't think he was that funny when I was growing up.

*Q: When you talk to kids at their schools, what do they want to know?*

A. The want to know when's the last time you caught on fire and how many crashes that you've been in. It doesn't matter what message you get across, the first question always involves fire and accidents

### DRIVER OF MONTH»

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### Valvoline Te

Co-Crew Chie and Tommy I Valvoline/MT

*Q: What are factors in set Funny Car ea*

Rick: We lool weather conc try to adjust what the trac

*Q: How do yc engine from*

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*Q: What do you get back from these kids?*

A. You know, a lot of times the parents will email me or one of the instructors will come up and say, "I can tell they were really getting it" and "it's a lesson that they'll probably take with them," and that's the gratifying part of it.

*Q: Which current NHRA drivers did you help as an instructor?*

A. Ashley Force, Robert Hight, Brittany and Courtney Force, Laurie Force Hight, Erica Enders, Justin Humphreys off the top of my head. I have also worked with many of the Pro Stock teams during our reaction time clinics: Warren Johnson, Kurt Johnson, Greg Anderson, Jason Line, V. Gaines, Jim Yates, Tom Hammonds. That's all my memory will allow for now.

Tommy: That's possible but it's a job we can do. If we have a good one, we have a lot of time to come up with a formula for the water in the temperature, the barometer that helps us tune-up calls, overdrive and percentage to within its 'ha

*Q: What was your experience with motor oil?*

Rick: I've used Valvoline products in my car when I was 12 years old.

Tommy: Pro Stock was 4 years ago. I used to build cars for hot rodding town and street. I always used Valvoline. In fact, in those days, you didn't have an actual car to poke the tires. You couldn't just use a cardboard box on top. I liked that thought it was a cool-looking car with colors and even pretty patriotic of flows with it. I was always a guy the whole growing up, I liked cars and even

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