

# NEWSLETTER

JESSICA CLARK



**Hello Friends,**

April didn't go exactly as planned; however, it ended up being a rewarding month! I had four races, which meant we put in 2600 miles on the road throughout California and Nevada. A lot of traveling is required to run for the USAC Ford Focus Western States Championship. The great news is - **I WON at my favorite track, the Las Vegas Bullring.**

Let's start at the beginning of the month. We went to Madera, Ca. to race the Focus Midget in the Gerhardt Classic. I qualified 3<sup>rd</sup> and was running well in the main event when suddenly, on lap 12, the fuel pump drive cable broke and ended the race for my crew and me. I'm glad it was an easy fix since we had to be in Vegas in two weeks!

The next weekend I eagerly awaited my first race in the NASCAR S2 at Irwindale Speedway. My goal was to qualify well, which I did. I knocked .3 of a second off my previous best time and qualified 4<sup>th</sup>. During the main event, a wreck occurred in front of me between turns 3 and 4.

## Coming Events

**Chili Cookoff & Classic Car Show**  
Conejo Creek Park  
Thousand Oaks, Ca.  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

**Ron Sutton's Winner's Circle  
Network Business Mixer Party**  
Sacramento, Ca.  
May 13, 2011

**Triunfo YMCA's Soap Box Derby**  
Farmers Insurance Building  
31051 Agoura Road, Westlake Village  
May 15, 2011

Although I managed to navigate through it, I was clipped by a car behind me. This sent me backwards into the wall and ended the race for me. I did learn something really important - I'm not so good with restarts after a caution. The throttle control is totally different in a stock car because it's so much heavier than a Focus Midget. I intend to practice starts and restarts before my next race!

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## April 16<sup>th</sup> found me at the Bullring in Las Vegas.

I love racing the Focus Midget on that track because it's smooth, fast, and spacious. Since the track is 3/8 of a mile, our speed is over 100 mph. Although I wasn't running poorly in practice, I wasn't exactly running great either. After the heat race my crew told me I needed to step it up a bit. I wasn't running the line that the car was set up for, and it was costing valuable tenths. I made sure that I put it all out there in the main event. I took the lead on the second lap of the 30 lap feature, and I was more focused than I've ever been in my life. I mentally and physically pushed myself through every turn, every lap and actually got progressively faster the last seven laps, which enabled me to gap the field. My car was incredibly fast, and my crew was right, I just needed to go out, *get on the wheel, and hit my marks*. The car handled great for all 30 laps, and there was nothing like taking the checkered flag! It was a very exciting moment for Ron Sutton's Winner's Circle, my family, and me.

## The fourth race in April was to take place at Shasta Park Raceway.



It's a new track in the Focus Midget Series, so we spent the day before the race learning the fast line around the track. Our practice session went terrific, and I was confident going into the race on Saturday. Unfortunately, it rained, so the race was cancelled. The good news is I'm officially "Trailer Trained!" My dad taught me to tow a trailer on the way to Shasta, and I put in about 525 miles!

That's it for now - see you all in May!

Thanks for your support!

*Jessica Clark*

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