

Racing for Ethanol

Jonathan Olmscheid Proves Ethanol Works on Dirt Tracks

By day, Jonathan Olmscheid is an accountant at Christianson & Associates, PLLP in Willmar, MN (320-235-5937), working with ethanol plants and other agribusinesses on complicated topics such as grandfathered baseline volumes, Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs), and other topics.

At night and on weekends, however, Olmscheid puts his calculator away and climbs into his US Ethanol modified race car. The 350-horsepower Chevy engine in US Ethanol is fueled by 98% ethanol (E98) as it roars at 90 miles an hour around dirt tracks on the WIS-SOTA Midwest Modifieds racing circuit, which holds sanctioned races in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Canada.

Olmscheid's race car has been sponsored by ethanol industry sources since 2012, but he has used ethanol in his race cars since his second year on the track in

2000, when he was 16 years old.

Ethanol Sponsors

Olmscheid started with one ethanol sponsor, Big River Resources, LLC of West Burlington, IA, which owns four ethanol plants. He now has six ethanol-related sponsors with several more coming on board. Sponsors help cover Olmscheid's racing expenses and, in return, get to have their logo displayed on the US Ethanol race car.

"I'm sure they don't generate much business from sponsoring the car, but it draws attention to ethanol," Olmscheid told *BioFuels Journal*. "The more shows I do with the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the more ethanol conferences I speak at, the more exposure they get."

In addition to Big River Resources, Olmscheid's race car is sponsored by ACE Ethanol, Stanley, WI; Granite Falls



Jonathan Olmscheid shows off his trophy after he finished first in his US Ethanol race car at the Madison, MN track.

Energy, Granite Falls, MN; Highwater Ethanol, Lambertton, MN; and Marysville Ethanol, Marysville, MI.

Olmscheid has raced in several "Jam

the Stands" events where US Ethanol was the show car. The Minnesota Corn Growers Association has sponsored the "Jam the Stands" races, where Olmscheid used the occasion to discuss ethanol with racing enthusiasts.

Olmscheid, who is 28, and his wife, Danielle, have a son Landon, who is five months old. Starting a family slowed Olmscheid's racing efforts this summer, but he still managed to compete in 18 races, which is about half the number he's raced in previous years.

Despite the limited number of races, Olmscheid still managed to chalk up one win this year at the Madison, MN Speedway where he beat the WISSOTA 2014 Midwest modified national point champion.

A Family Tradition

Racing stock cars has been a part of Olmscheid's family history since before he was born. His father, John Olmscheid, started the family race car tradition 35 years ago on the dirt track

at Alexandria, MN.

Jonathan's brother, Doug, began his race car career while he was still in high school. Doug, 36, recently took a break from racing because of family responsibilities. Father John still builds race car bodies, including US Ethanol's.

Jonathan said he fuels his race car with E98 because it helps his engine run cooler. A handful of other race car drivers also use ethanol, he said, including some other cars in the Modified Midwest class that Olmscheid competes in. Other racers use ethanol in the Street Stock class, too, he said.

Ethanol Interest

Olmscheid's interest in ethanol came naturally. He grew up in Elrosa, MN, and worked on farms in the area. From his rural Minnesota perspective, Olmscheid saw how the ethanol industry helped boost local farm economies and created jobs in small towns and rural areas.

Olmscheid's ethanol race fuel is produced at the Chippewa Valley Ethanol



The US Ethanol race car roars around dirt tracks at 90 miles an hour using E98 ethanol in its 350-horsepower engine.

Co. of Benson, MN, which is just 30 miles from Willmar.

Olmscheid said he burned 150 gallons of E98 ethanol this year on the WISSOTA circuit. He says his mileage with ethanol is about the same as other competitors who use conventional racing fuel. "I'm going to continue to race with ethanol and try to get more people to use it as race fuel," Olmscheid said. "Some of the sanctioning bodies don't allow ethanol, but I'm going to try to get more of them to approve it."

Jerry Perkins, editor

US Ethanol
JONATHAN OLMSCHIED 2014

POWERED BY HOMEGROWN CLEAR RENEWABLE FUEL

THANKS TO OUR 2014 SPONSORS!

ACE Ethanol - Stanley, WI
Big River Resources - West Burlington, IA
Granite Falls Energy - Granite Falls, MN
Highwater Ethanol - Lambertton, MN
Marysville Ethanol - Marysville, MI
Hydro Dynamics, Inc. - Rome, GA
Scooter's Trucking - Elrosa, MN
Glacial Plains Cooperative - Benson, MN
Bowman Grading & Graveling - Parkers Prairie, MN
Wayne's Auto Repair - Osakis, MN
Falling Trailers - Sauk Centre, MN
Christianson & Associates, PLLP - Willmar, MN
Mary Olmscheid Agency - Elrosa/Sauk Centre, MN

www.olmscheidracing.com

Hydro Dynamics, Inc.
H E
Ace Ethanol
Marysville Ethanol
Glacial Plains Cooperative
Christianson & Associates
FARMERS INSURANCE

Both sides of Jonathan Olmscheid's card promote his race car's use of ethanol as a homegrown renewable fuel.

High Security Switch Point Lock

FITS RAIL
90 - 141 lbs./yd.

locks switch point tight
against running rail
watch SWITCH POINT LOCK in action
aldoninfo.com/switchlock

ALDON Company, Inc.
847.623.8800

Response No. 431

Your Source of Bulk Conveying Equipment and Safety Supplies for the Biofuels Industry

Engulfment Rescue Tube & Auger

New Rescue Auger powered by standard drill

1.800.527.8775
www.kcsupply.com
kcsupply@kcsupply.com

Response No. 432