



# DEAN CASKEY

## Mini Stockar Champion

**AGE:** 45 (Feb. 1, 1964)

**LIVES IN:** Grand Terrace

**FAMILY:** Married to Patti; no children

**OCCUPATION:** Civil crew foreman for Edison

**OTHER INTERESTS:** Dirt bike riding

**YEARS IN RACING:** 7

**SPONSORS:** P. Caskey, CPA; Blue Eagle Video, Russ Uppman Motorsports

**CHAMPIONSHIPS AND HONORS:** Mini Stockar champion, Orange Show Speedway, 2008, 2006; Mini Stockar champion, Willow Springs Raceway, 2006, 2005, 2004

## Mini Stockar Champion Caskey Isn't Sure What Future Holds

DEAN CASKEY HAS compiled an impressive record as a race car driver, with five Mini Stockar championships in seven seasons. The way it looks now, though, that record book might be closed.

"I think we're done, at least for this season," he said. "I think the class kind of ran its course. But you never know what might happen in the future."

Caskey never planned for short-track racing to be part of his future. He and wife Patti were devoted Orange Show Speedway fans who regularly made the drive from Apple Valley to be on hand for the Saturday night programs.

Later, after he began racing on the quarter-mile oval, the nights he spent as a spectator became educational as he would "watch the other racers techniques. It was a learning experience for me. I enjoyed it, and I enjoyed all the people."

Caskey was into off-road racing in the early 1990s, competing in the SCORE Desert Series in a short-wheelbase (Class 9) buggy, and he got his first exposure to short-track and Mini Stockar racing as a crew member for a season before buying the team and folding his 6-foot-3 frame into the driver's seat of the quarter-scale car for the first time.

"The issue was getting my head low enough to make room for the roll cage," Caskey said. "It was right there. But we didn't have a lot of trouble."

He didn't have a lot of trouble finding the winner's circle, either, and began chasing championships at both Orange Show Speedway and Willow Springs Raceway. That, indirectly, led to wife Patti's decision to become one of his main rivals.

"Racing both tracks we had six- and seven-week stretches with races every week, so I bought a spare

car and I was going to spend the winter going through it," Caskey said. "She decided to hop in it when it was in the garage, then she decided she was going to try it and that was it. What was I going to say?"

"We said we'll see how it plays out and she did well. Both years I won the championship (at Orange Show) she was second."

In addition to the on-track competition, the Caskeys found a new way to counteract the boredom during hours on the highway.

"We'd be bench racing all the way home," Caskey said with a laugh. "On the long rides from Willow Springs there was a lot of time to critique each other. It kept us awake on the way home. We'd critique each other and just try to improve for the next race. It was Little League racing, but we both took it seriously."

Caskey's hobby is dirt bike racing. "That's my passion," he said. "I'd be racing that if Patti would let me, but that's not going to happen." So, at least for the time being, Caskey appears to be a retired racer.

"We've kicked around the idea of moving up," he said. "My problem is that when I get into something, I immerse myself so deep into it, and I don't know if I have the desire to do it again. I've kicked around the idea of getting a Legends Car and messing around with that."

"I would like to get involved in some capacity at the track. I don't want to completely leave it. I'd like to keep my foot in the door."