

## Member Profile: Woody Callaway

Woody Callaway started racing off-road in Florida in 1971. But the Warner Robins, Georgia native made the switch to oval track racing two years later where he has enjoyed success, whether on dirt or asphalt. Callaway retired from Brown and Williamson (remember the tobacco giant) giving him more time to play with the many cars, complete and partial, that populate his huge shop. He's working on an early '30s street coupe that needed to be lengthened to house his extra long body. The five racecars that currently sit in his shop include two late models and a street stock while an old skeeter sits up high, stored away from the modern racers.



Woody is pedal-to-the-metal at age 2

Woody says he's always run two or three cars driving one of the late models himself with Jason Bowen driving the street stock. (Jason also drives the #16 NVRA Late Model Modified for Sonny Childs.)

Callaway's winning ways in Don Tomberlin's 22/85 Modified Open vintage racecar are simply a carry-over from his beginnings when Woody won the second race he entered in his early 20s. Early in his off-road racing exploits, Woody raced on the track that used to sit behind Six Flags. But geography hasn't restricted Woody's winnings. He ran the Florida 400 in Tallahassee as a warm up to an impressive list of wins (over 100) and track championships.



Woody with son Casey in the winners circle

The list looks something like this: The Georgia 100 at Dublin 1985, Track Champion at Dublin in '85, The National Late Model Sportsman Challenge at Cordele '95 (paid \$4,000 – two weeks before Woody came in second at the same race at Dublin winning \$2,000), Track Champion at Cordele '96 (Cordele was dirt but is currently paved and renamed Watermelon Capital Speedway), Track Champion at Swainsboro '05. And the list goes on. Woody says he ran two or three times a week when Middle Georgia was thick with dirt tracks.



Woody and Steve Barrett were tire changers for Delmar Cowart at Daytona Winston Cup Race in 1992

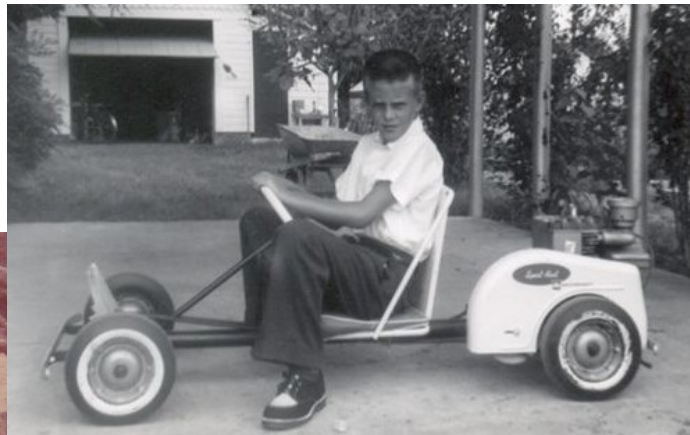
Callaway spent a year in the so-called "big time" having owned a car that spent the 1980 season running the NASCAR Busch Series with engine builder Steve Barrett driving. Seems Woody's talent doesn't stop at driving but certainly includes building successful oval racecars.

Woody has a daughter, Heather, expecting his first grand child, and a son, Casey, who works for Rick Crawford as an "under the truck" mechanic and on race-day the catch-can man..



Callaway in the winners circle at Cordele, Georgia in 2006. Woody was NVRA Late Model Modified Champion in his second season in Don Tomberlin's '66 Nova, his first season in this car.

Callaway is in his third season driving a vintage racecar for Don Tomberlin having won the 2006 NVRA Late Model Modified championship in Don's #22/85 '66 Nova. He still owns his first car, a '66 Chevy.



Woody's first motorized ride.



Callaway off-road racing at 21 at the 6 Flags Dune Buggy Track. Why would you ever leave this for stock car racing?



Woody and two of his racers with Steve Barrett