

PPR *Supercars*



PPR
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HOW DID THEY MAKE THEIR MILLIONS? WE ASK. THEY TEACH.

ISSUE #30
DISPLAY UNTIL 08/30/2020
US \$5.99 / CAN \$7.99

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HEAVY HITTERS

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CAVE HAS p.54
AN ENZO
FERRARI PARKED INSIDE

**SCARED MONEY
DON'T MAKE
MONEY**

A close-up photograph of a black Ferrari Enzo supercar, showing its distinctive red circular headlights and sleek aerodynamic design.

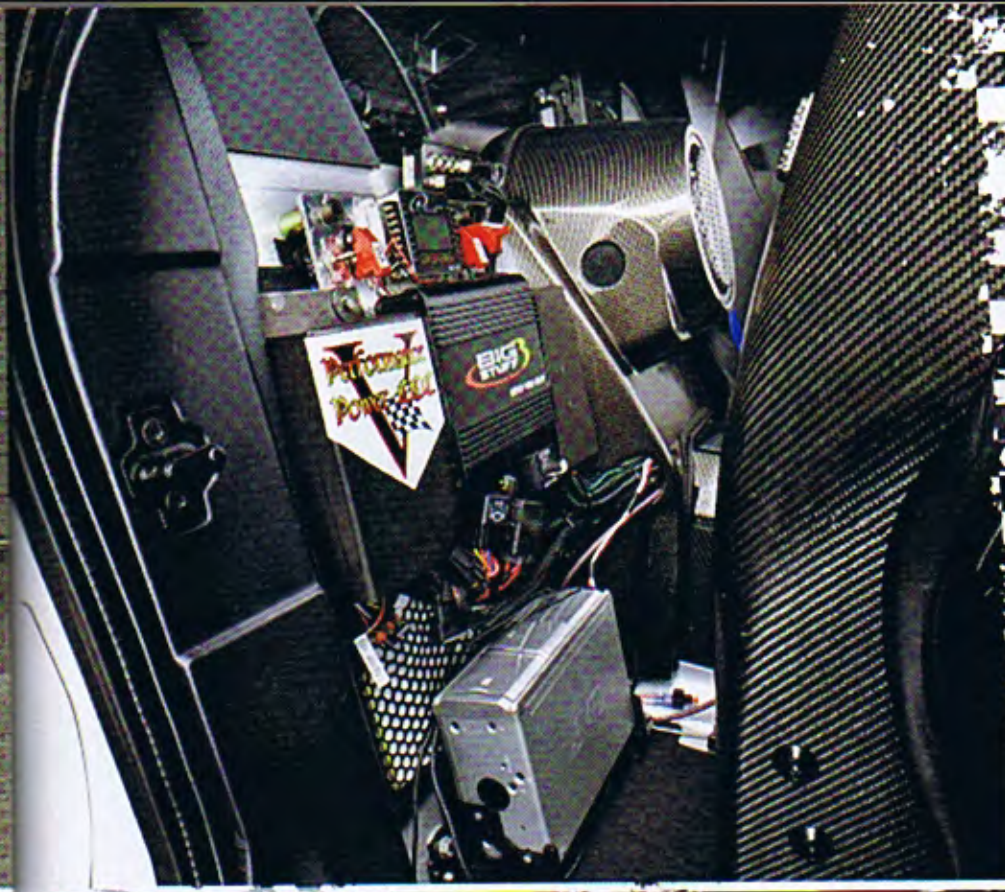
NAME: JOHNNY BOHMER
LOCATION: WEST PALM BEACH, FL
OCCUPATION: OWNER OF PERFORMANCE POWER RACING
WEB: PERFORMANCEPOWERONLINE.COM

EVEN GIANTS FALL

ALREADY A SUCCESS AT HOME AND IN HIS BUSINESS, JOHNNY BOHMER SET OUT TO BREAK A LANDMARK THAT EVEN FORD MOTOR COMPANY HAD DOUBTED. YEARS LATER, ALL NAYSAYERS, INTERNET RIDICULE AND EVEN FORD WAS PUT TO SHAME WHEN MR. BOHMER PUT HIS FOOT DOWN AND SET A RECORD OF 252.97 MPH IN THE STANDING MILE.

Words By Mike Lenders | Photos By David Nickerson II





"A SMART MAN KNOWS HOW TO LISTEN TO SOMEBODY ELSE THAT KNOWS MORE THAN HE DOES."

We come across two types of car enthusiasts in our

experiences. There are the "Museum Guys," who like to display their rare automobiles the same way old women display their living rooms. You know the type, with the plastic on the couch so you can't actually sit on it. These are the types of guys that sit and admire their vehicles in a climate-controlled setting with one hand on a camera and the other on Windex or Armor-All, because you never know when some dust might negatively affect the appearance of the vehicle at any moment. Heaven forbid the bottoms of the tires get dirty from actually rolling on the streets. On the flipside, there are the "Garage Guys" who know their cars like they used to know their old baseball gloves, inside and out. They have the need for speed and performance, and know how to get the most out of their vehicles, and they're not afraid to modify their vehicles to the max. A great case in point is the man we're about to introduce you to, so enter West Palm Beach resident and owner of Performance Power Racing, Johnny Bohmer.



"IT'S THE FIRST CAR TO BREAK 250 IN A STANDING MILE. PEOPLE GET CONFUSED BECAUSE THE BUGATTI VEYRON HIT 253, BUT THAT WAS IN 4.9 MILES."

Raised in Kentucky, Johnny's cloth is cut from old fashioned American work ethic, pride, and, of course, courage. A staunch Ford enthusiast with a Mustang and GT collection to prove it, Johnny represents the term "red-blooded American" to a T. While many others are out there chasing high-powered exotics (many of which Johnny has already driven) he'd be "just as happy riding in an old beat up pick-up truck." His Ford infatuation has even defined his legacy in automobile performance, as his own Performance Power-built Ford GT, which he considers to be "the most well-rounded car" he's ever seen, became the first street car in history to break 250 mph in the standing mile, hitting 252.97 mph on March 14, 2010 at the Top Gun Run in Miami, Florida. Johnny built the car the same way he and his wife built his 7,900 sq. ft. house; they rolled up their sleeves and did it themselves. Johnny and his Performance Power team defied the naysayers, which included Ford, in a four and a half year odyssey that ultimately handed them not only a trophy, but a piece of history.

We caught up with Johnny to find out about breaking the standing mile speed record in a street car, thinking outside the box when it comes to automobile customization, and why success has nothing to do with flash, and everything to do with loving your family and keeping your word.

Where were you born and raised? How has your upbringing shaped you?
I was born in Dallas, TX and lived there til I was five or so. I spent

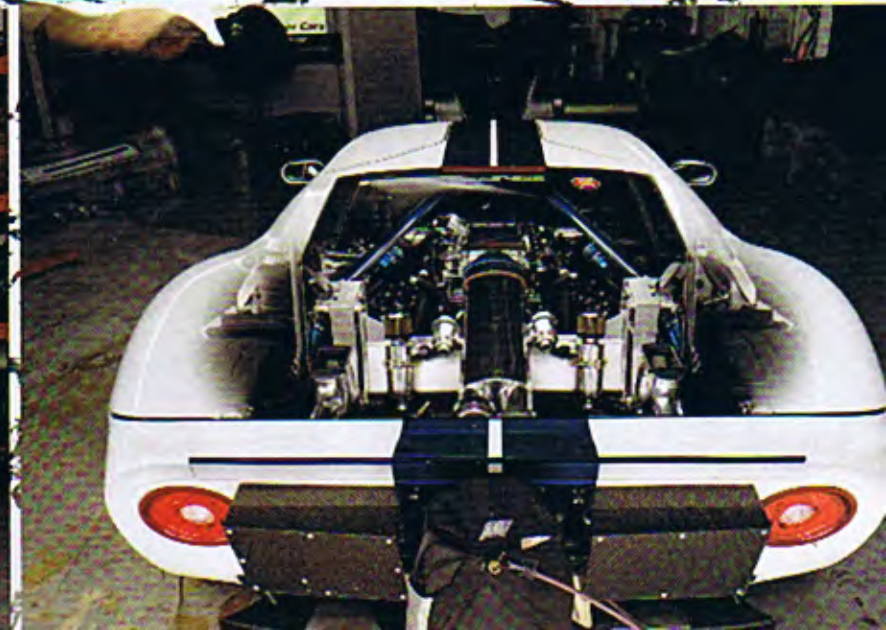
most of my life in Lexington KY; it was a really good setting. I feel so bad for a lot of the younger kids, because when I grew up it was a different time. We could stay out 'til dark, there were no child molesters running around. It was a nice rural city-type environment. There were farms all around, and we'd go camping, etc. It was an atmosphere where you could really do what you wanted without cell phones and Internet everywhere, and you didn't go to jail for spitting on the sidewalk.

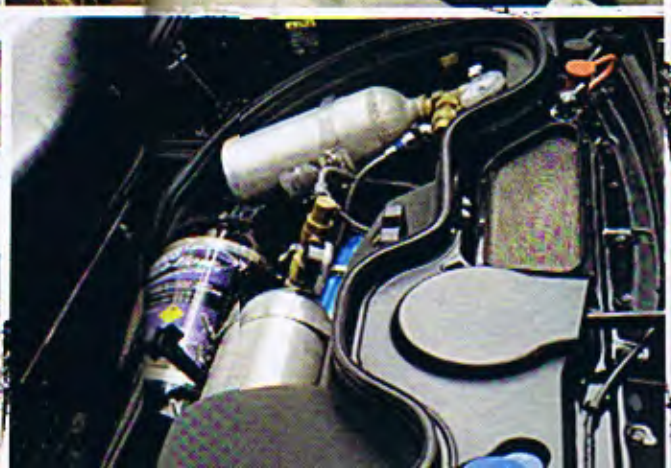
What do you do now? What's your passion?

I build high-end performance, exotic and muscle cars. I grew up around racing as a kid, since some of my relatives and brothers raced. I've been around that stuff for most of my life, since I was about 10 or 12. I raced motocross when I was a kid for many years, did semi-professional stuff as I got a little older, until I got beat up a couple of times on the track and finally decided to quit and stick to the cars [laughs].

How did you get started with the business?

I set up an equipment shop in '95. Prior to that, I was restoring and working on Jaguars, Porsches, Ferraris, Harleys, but it was very small scale. I was repairing a lot of old classics. The equipment company was very lucrative; it was a pretty good business, so I wrote a book related to the material handling industry that was pretty successful. When I sold my forklift company in '97, I had already purchased a couple of the Ford GTs. I decided that I wanted to open





"THE REV-AIR PACKAGE FOR THE LAMBORGHINI LP640 RANGES FROM \$115,000 TO \$145,000 FOR OUR 'MACK DADDY PACKAGE'"

a speed shop and build the first street car to ever hit 250 mph (in a standing mile). There were a lot of big shops chasing that goal and spending big money to do it, but I've got a great group of guys, and we were able to pull it off. 4½ years into it we achieved that first goal.

What type of modifications did you add to the GT to set the current mark?

Well, for starters, it's got about 1,600-hp and that's without nitrous. We designed almost everything on the car in my shop, and developed prototypes. It's the first car to break 250 mph in a standing mile. People get confused because the Bugatti Veyron hit 253, but that took almost five miles. We used twin turbos from Precision Turbos. We just kept testing and adding things. We didn't worry about what people thought we "couldn't" do, we just went out and did it. It's completely street legal; it even has A/C, a TV, a radar detector, and a nice stereo. I take the kids out in it periodically and drive it to work. Yet it's the first car in the world to go 250 mph in the standing mile.

What made you choose the Ford GT?

I chose the GT because I'm a Ford guy, and because I wanted an American car to hold the record. I had a really fast Porsche, which had good HP, but the HP was useless compared to the GT. I've had a bunch of different exotics over the years, but they're made like sewing machines; they break a lot, they're very temperamental. I'd put my GT up against any Supercar in the world. Our next goal is to try to get the GT to be the first street car to hit 275 mph in the standing mile. We also want to have the first exotic to hit 7.99 seconds in the quarter

mile. Then we're going to try to go to the road courses, and set some lap times. Simply put, I'd say the GT is the most well-rounded car I've ever seen.

Besides the GT, have you been involved in any other crazy builds? Has your shop done anything else outside the box?

We worked on an LP640 for one of our customers and basically transformed the car so to speak. We got a body kit from an equipment guy we work with overseas, and performed the install. The car is a regular LP640, and it's got a kit on it we call the Performance Power "Rev-Air Package," which can be installed for about \$115,000. Our "Mack Daddy Package" goes for \$145k and includes wheels, rims and tires. As you can see it's very hard to tell the difference between the car that we worked on and the extremely rare Lamborghini Reventon that's out in the market.

What is success to you?

It's very simple. Having a good life, and being with my kids. My family is what makes me happy. It looks like I'm out there racing all day, but really I'm pretty much out of the shop everyday by 5 o'clock. I live two miles from my business, and try not to work on the weekends unless we've got a race. Right now my son is in the car with me and we're headed to a big car show in Tampa. Success is all about being happy and not waking up with any regrets. I don't want to be an 80-year-old man and look back and wish I did something. You got to do the right thing; that's what success is all about.

Have you had any major failures?

I've been pretty lucky, there's always



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I WANT TO TRY
TO GO FOR 300."

going to be failures. I've been ripped off a couple of times. It's been a struggle; building this car was a huge goal and accomplishment to overcome. I went way out on a limb to make this dream happen. There are interviews floating around on the Internet from two and half years ago where I'm describing everything I was going to do to set that record. All the things I said, people ridiculed me for it. All the Internet trash talk (even Ford didn't believe it could be done) made us work harder. We proved them all wrong, and we broke 250 mph. Next, Matt and I are shooting for 275 mph or more.

What's your family life like?

I've been married for 22 years. I've got three kids, a 6 year-old daughter, an 11 year-old son and a 17 year-old daughter. I'm really proud of all of them. We'll go camping, and stuff like that; I love spending time with them.

How do you balance work and family?

You got to go home and turn it off. That's the key. I have a big piece of property, and the kids help out. I have a lot of work around there, and that keeps us busy.

Tell me about the house.

Its 7,900 sq. ft., (plus a car shop), sitting on just under 5 acres. I spent about 7 years developing the property, cutting down about 700 trees, and then replanting another 600 myself. I'm sure I've spent more time on the property than I have on the cars [laughs]. The rocks I used on the waterfall were a lot of work as well. I had one that was so heavy that I had a 40-ton hydraulic crane that couldn't lift it. I've got about 400 tons of sand on the beach. It's a special kind of sand; it's a low heat, non-silica based sand, which is safer for kids to play in. The property's got a 16-camera PTZ full-surveillance security system. It's



"I TELL MY KIDS THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT THE R.W.T. REAL WORLD TRAINING. YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT THERE AND TRY THINGS FOR YOURSELF, JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE IT ON PAPER DOESN'T MEAN IT'LL WORK."

got a laser beam layout, (which works in the house) with a voice command to alert you if anyone is on the property. There are 12 equally placed lights on the property that light up with 1500 watt bulbs. I've got over six miles of wiring underground. It's a lot of work. There's probably 1.5 million dollars in the property but that doesn't count all the hours of labor I've put in.

What advice would you give to help others succeed?

If you've got a dream, go for it. It's pretty cliché, but if you have something you want to do, you have to stick to it. If you make a deal with somebody, stick to it; and try to keep your word, because your word and your family are all you've got. If you come across an obstacle, you've got to figure out a way around it or a way to knock it down. A smart man knows how to listen to somebody else who knows more than he does. You can combine the knowledge you gain from them with your own, and it will really benefit you.

What are your current goals?

Build the first street car to hit 300 mph. We also want to have the premier performance shop in the world. We want to be able to build these cars for the people that can afford it. Since we went 252.97 mph in the standing mile, somebody will probably eclipse that.





But we were the first to go 250!! Somebody's going to have to try for 275 next and 300 would be the real benchmark, hopefully that will be us.

What have been your biggest keys for success?

I'm not a one man band here by any means. My success is directly related to my wife. I couldn't have been successful without her help keeping an eye on the kids. My car success comes from having a great group of guys. We work together. It's a team effort. I'm just as happy riding in an old beat-up pick-up truck as some exotic car. I enjoy going fast, but I'm not flashy. I wear the same thing every day; camo pants with a black t-shirt. I got a 10 dollar Casio watch I've been wearing for probably 15 years. I'm not a glitzy glamour type of guy, and we've caught a lot

of flak for that actually, but I'm not into that. What you see is what you get with me, I just like to take it to the track and out-run those guys. We just have fun, and let the cars do the talking. ■



40 - Lockdown

22x9.5 | 20x8.5 | 18x8

36 - Protocol

18x7.5 | 17x7 | 16x7 | 15x7

37 - Havoc

16x7.5 | 15x6.5

38 - Arctic

22x9.5 | 20x8.5

41 - Regency

20x7.5 | 18x7.5 | 17x7.5 | 16x7.5



*36 - Protocol available in Black/Machined, or Chrome



*41 Regency available in Chrome, or Silver

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