

## **Kasey Kahne drives ultra-fast supermodified at legendary Oswego Speedway**

By Keith Shampine

**(Oswego, N.Y.)** – NASCAR Sprint Cup superstar Kasey Kahne continues to show his love for open-wheel racing, proving it lately when he hosted and raced in the “Battle at the Grove” 360 sprint car race on Wednesday, Aug. 5, and the Kasey Kahne Steel Palace Classic USAC Silver Crown 100 lapper the next night at upstate New York’s Oswego Speedway.

While at Oswego’s “fast five-eighths,” two-time supermodified track championship car owner John Nicotra gave Kahne the opportunity to turn some laps in an open-wheel car which the 10-time Sprint Cup winner had never driven – an 850-plus horsepower, 1850-pound supermodified, considered to be the fastest short-track car in the world (\* see below).

Kahne thrilled fans with about a dozen fast laps behind the wheel of Nicotra’s blue No. 6.

Three-time Oswego track champion Otto Sitterly – Nicotra’s primary driver – followed Kahne around the historic oval in his familiar G&I Homes No. 7 before diving to the bottom and passing Kasey on the duo’s last trip around the speedway.

After the exhibition, Kahne appeared to have a difficult time getting the smile off his face.

“That’s a lot different,” he said after his drive with Sitterly. “There’s a lot of downforce. The engine is way on the left and the tires are huge. These things are fun to drive. I just drove it tonight; I’d like to race one sometime.”

Nicotra, who with Sitterly driving just won his second straight Oswego points championship, said he was ecstatic the deal came together for Kasey to drive his super.

“The great thing is that Kasey grew up very close to Davey Hamilton, who drives the car Kasey was in. Davey was at Oswego racing in the Silver Crown event, so it was cool to watch him give Kasey some tips on what to expect in a super.

“I’m just really happy Kasey got a chance to drive a supermodified,” Nicotra continued. “He’s always heard about the place and known about the supers, so for him to finally get a chance to drive one was great to see. I’d like to see him race one sometime. I’d be glad to give Kasey and all the fans a chance to see that.”

It was reported Kahne turned laps in the 17.3-second range, which is fast enough to run up front in a non-winged super feature at The Big O.

The night proved to be a special one for the legendary lakeside speedway. The front grandstand was packed to capacity to watch Kahne, Ryan Newman and the rest of the stars of USAC’s top series compete on the tricky oval. While USAC’s return to Oswego was a true treat, many fans noted that the Kahne, Sitterly supermodified exhibition clearly was the highlight of the night.

*\* The fastest short-track car in the world means that no known racecar would be faster than a supermodified on an oval track less than one mile in length.*



*Kahne at speed in the Nicotra 6*

Photo's by Mike "Pinner" Johnson



*Kahne and Sitterly pose after the exhibition –*