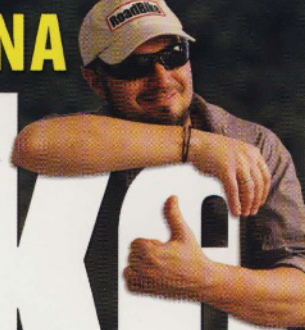


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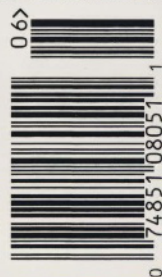
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# Star Power

Jimmie Johnson And Sunoco Team Up For Charity

BY ROADBIKE STAFF  
PHOTOS BY BOB FEATHER

**P**assion stirs at an early age. Passion for love, money, the arts — affinity for these things is usually spawned at an early age. And when it comes to racing, the love of horsepower; the lure of grease, oil, and gears, and the thrill of competition feed this passion, until it blossoms into the heart of a champion.

Defending NASCAR Sprint Cup champ Jimmie Johnson's passion for racing began with motorcycles. At age 5 he started out on 50cc dirt bikes. An instant success on the local tracks, little Jimmie dominated the small-bike motocross circuit in Southern California until his teenage enthusiasm and desire for competition made him yearn for something more, and he graduated to four-wheel racing just about as soon as he was tall enough to reach the pedals. Destroying the competition in the SODA, SCORE International, and Mickey Thompson Off-Road leagues, Johnson moved to the Midwest after high school and became a full-fledged racecar driver, and in the year 2000, at the age of 24, was racing stock cars in NASCAR. You know the rest of the story: today, Johnson is the first driver since Jeff Gordon to win the Sprint Cup series in consecutive years. Two championships in seven full seasons of any sport ain't half bad (Jimmie darned near had his first back in 2004, when he finished second to Kurt Busch by just eight points in the closest Sprint Cup race in history.) And if you follow the NASCAR game, you know that, with a few exceptions, the cream usually rises to the top, and that's why drivers like Gordon and Johnson, now teammates, are consistently on the podium if not in the winner's circle.

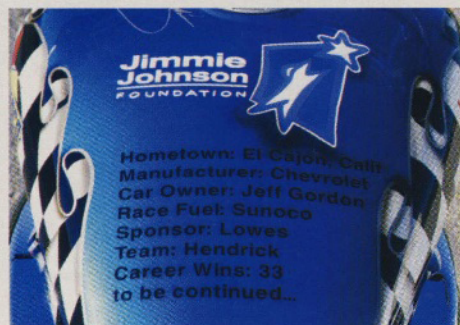




It's his passion that drives Johnson to be the best, and in an arena flush with hotshots and showoffs, Jimmie's reputation as not only a fearless racer and fierce competitor, but as a genuinely nice guy has made him a fan favorite on the circuit.

But here's something you may not know. Jimmie Johnson has another passion: the passion to give back and help the less fortunate. To this end, in 2006 Jimmie and his wife, Chandra, founded the Jimmie Johnson Foundation ([www.JimmieJohnsonFoundation.org](http://www.JimmieJohnsonFoundation.org)), a charitable organization dedicated to assisting families and communities in need, particularly children, throughout the United States. To date, the JJF has donated tens of thousands of dollars to charities such as the American Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity. And while Jimmie continues to mow down the competition on the racetrack, the JJF has dedicated itself to propping up those in desperate need of a boost. From raising funds with auctions of memorabilia on eBay to building a bowling alley for the kids at Victory Junction Gang Camp (for children with chronic medical conditions and terminal illnesses) in Randleman, North Carolina, the Foundation has brought to fruition the Johnsons' passion for humanity.

Why are we discussing NASCAR in the pages of *RoadBike*? Because it brings us to this month's Real-World Custom, a 2008 Road Star. Intended specifically for the Jimmie Johnson Foundation, it was built by the crew at *2Xtrem Motorcycle TV*, a cable show that reaches more than 31 million households around the US. As we all know, television is swamped with



motorcycle programs that are more about personalities than they are about bikes; *2Xtrem TV* is a show for the rest of us. Made by and for enthusiasts, it focuses on the lifestyle, adventure, tips, and the real-life knowledge necessary to get the most out of your motorcycling experience. Producer Joe Capicotti and the guys have made a television program about street-performance bikes, road racing, and off-road riding for the everyday rider and racer. You'll find family-friendly adventures, technical specs, and riding and physical training tips to help you ride better, safer, and smarter. And they've donated this Road Star to Jimmie Johnson and his foundation, to use however they see fit.







Stay tuned for the foundation's plans for the bike (who knows? You might be able to win it on one of those previously mentioned eBay auctions), but for now, this radical Road Star is making the rally rounds — it was last spotted at the Star booth at Daytona Bike Week, which is where *RoadBike* snapped it — and the entire build process can be witnessed on *2Xtreem TV* repeats, or on the show's web site, [www.2Xtreem.com](http://www.2Xtreem.com).

"This really started out as a project by Joe [Capicotti] and Sunoco," builder Dave Buchman said. "They got the ball rolling on this. It's for a really good cause — the foundation does some great work with kids — so we were happy to help out in any way we could."

Chromed with authorized Star accessories from tip to tail, this Sunoco-sponsored Road Star is a real looker, with teardrop mirrors, steel braided lines, polished rotors, custom bars and grips, and turned-out, NASCAR-style Samson exhaust pipes. A modified swingarm supports a fat 240 rear tire under a custom fender — which also houses a groovy, one-piece taillight. An alligator-and-tiger-shark seat, custom foot controls, chrome fork tubes, and

custom checkered-flag paint complete the picture.

But under all that beauty beats the heart of a beast, and perhaps that's what makes Jimmie so happy. A 1671cc power plant is fed by a performance ECU, and high-compression pistons, a performance cam, velocity stacks, and a ported cylinder head make the Road Star move, while a heavy-duty clutch and pressure plate keep it rolling.

"I tuned up the porting a little bit, it's got those cams in it," Dave said. "Basically, the motor's got the Star Warrior race package in it, so aside from those diamond-cut cylinders, it may look stock, but it's not, not at all."

Mary Barr, executive director of the Jimmie Johnson Foundation, couldn't be more pleased with the job Sunoco and the *2Xtreem* team did on the Star: "The Jimmie Johnson Foundation extends our deepest thanks to everyone involved."

When people come together for a good cause, great things can happen, and this Sunoco Star is a testament to that fact. Johnson's passion for perfection, combined with the desire to help those in need, means that everyone involved in this project is a winner.

**RB**

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>OWNER</b>	The Jimmy Johnson Foundation
<b>HOME</b>	West Palm Beach, FL
<b>BUILDER</b>	2Xtreem Motorcycle TV crew
<b>YEAR/MODEL</b>	2008 Road Star Warrior
<b>TIME TO BUILD</b>	Two weeks
<b>COST TO BUILD</b>	Approximately \$31,000
<b>CHROMER</b>	Star accessories
<b>PAINTER</b>	Fibreworks - Bobby Capwell

### ENGINE

<b>DISPLACEMENT</b>	102" ci
<b>PISTONS</b>	Speedstar high-compression competition 10.2:1 forged pistons
<b>HEADS</b>	Ported by 2Xtreem and featuring Speedstar competition valve springs and diamond-cut fins
<b>CAMS</b>	Speedstar performance camshafts to increase mid-to top-end power
<b>CARBS</b>	Speedstar high-flow fuel injectors and performance ECU
<b>AIR CLEANER</b>	Speedstar Air Scoop to feed under-tank velocity stacks
<b>EXHAUST</b>	Samson straight pipes with NASCAR-style right-side turnouts
<b>FINAL DRIVE</b>	Belt with chrome pulley

### CHASSIS

<b>FRAME</b>	Stock
<b>RAKE</b>	Stock
<b>STRETCH</b>	Stock
<b>FRONT SUSPENSION</b>	Revalve and chrome covers
<b>SWINGARM</b>	Modified to fit 240 rear tire
<b>REAR SUSPENSION</b>	Lowering kit installed
<b>FRONT WHEEL</b>	Chromed stock with polished brake discs
<b>REAR WHEEL</b>	Widened and chromed
<b>FRONT TIRE</b>	120
<b>REAR TIRE</b>	240
<b>FRONT BRAKES</b>	Polished brake rotors
<b>REAR BRAKES</b>	Stock
<b>FENDERS</b>	Front stock; rear modified for custom single seat

### ACCESSORIES

<b>HEADLIGHT</b>	Chrome halogen
<b>TAILLIGHT</b>	Star smoked lens with fender eliminator kit
<b>TURN SIGNALS</b>	Rear integrated into taillight; front, chrome
<b>HANDLEBARS</b>	Star Fat Double T-bars
<b>SEAT</b>	Designed by 2Xtreem; created by Jeffrey Phipps Custom Saddles, West Palm Beach, FL
<b>PEGS</b>	Polished billet
<b>HAND CONTROLS</b>	Star custom chrome and leather grips. Steel braided lines
<b>MIRRORS</b>	Star chrome teardrop
<b>FOOT CONTROLS</b>	All replaced with Star polished billet