



*SUPER
ELIMINATOR
CHAMPION*

Kevin Winters



My love for two wheels started when I was eight years old and I got my first mini bike, a Honda 250 Minitrail. Through my years of growing up, I had several different bikes that I just trailroad. I got my first street bike when I was 18 years old and have always ridden and had a bike until 1999-2000—that was my first time without a motorcycle, in my life!

In 2001, I purchased a 1975 Harley Super-glide. It was a wreck, so I tore it down and did a ground-up restoration with a lot of performance upgrades. The bike was finally finished in early 2002, when my friend Kelley Smith told me about our local track, Great Lakes Dragway in Union Grove, Wisconsin, that was doing an Harley Series on Thursday nights throughout the summer. So, we decided to go to the track just to make a time run and see what my bike would do. Well, when we got there the lady at the gate told me it was the same amount of money to race in the event or make time runs, so I entered the race!

It was an ET race and I had never done this before, so I had no idea what to do. I was told to just dial a number close to what my bike runs and cut a good light (whatever that meant). Well...I won my first round of competition that night. I was HOOKED! It is something I think everyone should try once, because it's such a rush. I continued to race in the series that year, but did not finish the season due to parts failures. After the season, I fixed that bike and sold it.

In 2003, I took the year off, to save money for a new bike. Then I came in 2004 on my now 1998 Buell S1 Lightning. I did very well—won three events and the track championship that year. I wanted more, so Kelley told me about the AHORA. He had already joined and

was racing in the series, and he told me to try it.

So, I took his advice and participated in three events as a non-points competitor. I ran in the ET Class and I believe that I went out in the first round at every event, but I had a blast. This was the BIG TIME... a national sanctioning body just for Harley drag racing and the people were great. So, in 2006 I ran the full tour in SEP and ET. I struggled and finished 13th nationally in both classes. At the end of the season, I made some modifications to the bike with the help of Dale Miller at Miller Motorsports.

In 2007, I stepped up and ran three classes—SE, SEP, and ET. I won my first two AHORA national events that year and finished in the top ten in all three classes.

2008 proved to be my best year yet. I became the AHORA Pingel Super Eliminator National and Eastern Champion. I also finished third and fourth nationally in SEP and ET.

The help and advice from my fellow racers and good friends, Donnie Huffman and Bob Drapp, really pushed me over the hump to win the 2008 championship. Dan and Lynn DeGood chats at the last race in Rockingham really helped keep

me focused, as I was a little nervous on race day. I would not have been able to achieve any of this if it wasn't for the help and support of my wife, Betty Winters. I want to thank everyone who helped me achieve this championship and my sponsors—McHenry Harley-Davidson, Hal's Speed Shop, Miller Motors, F & S Enterprises, DP Brakes, O'Leary's Pub and Grill, RK Chain, and all the contingency sponsors. Please visit my website: www.winters-racing.com. See you in 2009!

