

## DON CARLTON TIMELINE

- 1958-1968 -- Hometown racer, A/Gas to Super Stock, Hudson NC (Caldwell Co.).
- 1968 -- Don among racers getting one of 70 drag-package '68 Hemi Barracudas; hired by Buddy Martin as backup Sox & Martin Pro Stock driver.
- 1970(?) -- Brief stint driving for Billy "The Kid" Stepp.
- 1971 -- Hired by Ted Spehar to drive *Motown Missile* Dodge Challenger; contracts with Chrysler as Pro Stock test driver; member of United States Racing Team with 15 other Pro Stock drivers (through 1972?).
- 1971 PRO STOCK Results
- Runner-up to Ronnie Sox, NHRA Gatornationals, Gainesville FL.
  - Runner-up to Ronnie Sox, IHRA Springnationals, Bristol TN.
  - Defeats Bobby Yowell, IHRA U.S. Open Nationals, Rockingham NC.
  - Defeats Reid Whisnant, IHRA World Finals, Lakeland FL.
- 1972 PRO STOCK; Don campaigns Spehar's *Motown Missile* Barracuda.
- Defeats Melvin Yow at NHRA Gatornationals, Gainesville.
  - Defeats Ronnie Sox at IHRA Longhorn Nationals, Dallas TX.
  - Runner-up to Ronnie Sox twice, at IHRA Pro Am Nationals and at U.S. Open Nationals, both Rockingham.
- 1973 PRO STOCK -- Named IHRA Pro Driver of the Year; sets Pro Stock record in *Mopar Missile* Plymouth Duster (Don is owner) with 8.58-second run (152.28 mph) at IHRA Pro Am Nationals; Chrysler halts Pro Stock support.
- Runner-up to Don Nicholson at NHRA Winternationals, Pomona CA.
  - Defeats Butch Leal, NHRA Springnationals, Columbus OH.
  - Defeats Ronnie Sox at IHRA Winternationals (Lakeland); Bob Riffle at IHRA; Longhorn Nationals (Dallas); Dick Landy at IHRA Pro Am Nationals (Rockingham); Don Grotheer at IHRA Northern Nationals (Muncie IN); Don Nicholson at IHRA Springnationals (Bristol).
  - Runner-up to Don Nicholson at IHRA All-American Nationals (Bristol); to Wayne Gapp at IHRA U.S. Open Nationals (Rockingham); and to Don Nicholson at IHRA Nationals (Lakeland).
- 1974 Races in new NHRA class, COMP ELIMINATOR; continues with Chrysler as test driver for Hemi Colt development.
- Defeats Gene Terenzio at NHRA *Le Grandnational*, Montreal.
- 1975 COMP ELIMINATOR
- Defeats Anthony Terenzio at NHRA U.S. Nationals, Clermont IN.
- 1976 COMP ELIMINATOR -- Named to Car Craft Magazine All-Star Race Team; hired to drive for Rod Shop.
- Defeats Scott Shafiroff at NHRA U.S. Nationals (Clermont); Don Nicholson at NHRA Summernationals, Englishtown NJ.
  - Runner-up to Scott Shafiroff at NHRA *Le Grandnational* (Montreal).
- 1977 COMP ELIMINATOR -- Voted Car Craft "Most Popular Pro Stock Driver."
- Defeats Jimmy Jones at NHRA Springnationals (Columbus).
  - Runner-up to Dennis Ferrara at NHRA Sportsnationals, Bowling Green KY.
  - Tragically, Don succumbs day after fatal test-run accident with "stretch-nosed" Rod Shop Hemi Colt at Milan Dragway, Michigan, July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 1992 -- Named to International Drag Racing Hall of Fame, Gainesville.
- 2007 -- Named to North Carolina Drag Racing Hall of Fame, Greensboro NC.