

# Jason Griffin

# LEFT WITH NO EXCUSES....

## RACING WITHOUT LIMITS



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# *Jason Griffin Racing Foundation*

501-C NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION



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# Who is Jason Griffin – the person?



## Who is Jason Griffin – the person?

My name is Jason Griffin, and I'm from Easley, SC. I lost my right arm when I was 2 years old. Our next door had just gotten a riding lawn mower and asked my dad if he wanted to try it out, his first time ever, riding one. I snuck out the door as my mother went to get a magazine for her friend and before you know it, I was running up behind my dad to climb aboard, little did he know. At the same time, he shifted into reverse, and the unthinkable became reality. Right place at the right time is what I believe, no doubt in my mind. Over the years, growing up, I had many surgeries and received all of my care from Shriner's Hospital. They didn't charge my parents a dime.

I got my first motorcycle when I was 3, a Suzuki JR50. My dad was a long time president of the Greenville Enduro Riders, one of the oldest AMA chartered clubs around, and still exists to this day. My brother and I hung out in the pits with him, rode some, raced some. Then we got caught up in other things during our teenage years. Girls, BMX bikes, skateboarding, cars, music.

I went to college for a year, and then came home. I then graduated from a local tech college as a Computer Aided Design Engineer. I struggled to find where I belonged. Worked a lot of different jobs.

My younger brother, John, started racing flat track with my dad in 2004. I got to see him race one time before he died unexpectedly. I was angry, and lost.

A family friend came by and lead me to church. I had been raised going to church, but it was not until that point that I truly was saved. I found my super powers in my belief, and it saved my life.

I started racing flat track on my brother's bike, in his honor. My dad was my mechanic. He and my mom and I traveled across America racing. It kept us all alive in a sense.

We raced all of the time. I went back to school, got a bachelor's degree in Psychology and then in Biology. I got my Master's in Biology while we were on the road racing. I would study, race, study, sign autographs, race, study and sleep.



# Who is Jason Griffin – the person?



## Who is Jason Griffin – the person?

We were either winning or crashing the motorcycle. We wrecked a lot of motorcycles. My dad and I would fix them back up during the week, and my family would head back out on the road the next weekend.

I won several AHRMA points championships and turned AMA PRO. Who would have ever thought a one armed guy could be a pro motorcycle racer!!

In 2017, there was a fatality at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. A young man lost his life, Jamison Minor. I had also went down in qualifying that same night. I heard God speak to me that it was time to retire, from AFT Pro Flat Track.

I continued my involvement in the world of racing as a Flat Track race promotor for several years. Racing on and off. I turned my efforts more toward racing my bicycle, racing to make the US Olympic Para-Cycling Team. I competed for several years, and trained at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs in preparation for making the team at the RIO Paralympic Games. I was able to compete on the road, and on the velodrome at the International level., attaining several medals for team USA.

While I no longer compete at the Elite, International level, I am still a USA Cycling Race Director hosting a local grass roots series for up and coming cyclists, and often work with adaptive cycling riders.

Off the track, I am a real estate investor, sharing my knowledge of the business and holding seminars.



# Jason Griffin the racer



## Racing Highlights & Accomplishments

To start with, I am the only rider to have been an amputee Pro AMA Flat Tack racer in the United States. It is a talent that I have been extremely fortunate to be blessed with and a great platform to inspire those less fortunate. I've also been featured on the cover of Flat Track Illustrated, Cycle News, AMA Member's Magazine, AHRMA magazine, and have had a feature article written in Sideburn Magazine.

My goal was to become the first professional amputee AMA Grand National Championship Flat Track racer in the USA and I have far exceeded my expectations.

In 2005 - I started racing at the age of 30. I was an AMA Amateur National Championship my first year competing as an amateur and several regional championships in the Southeastern USA.

In 2006 - Named "AMA Sportsman of the Year" in Las Vegas at the AMA Sports Awards Banquet

In 2007 - AHRMA Southeastern Flat Track Champion in the 70's singles class

In 2008 - Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National AHRMA Flat Track Series

In 2010 - AMA All Star Attained Pro AMA license and was the AMA Pro Twins Hot Shoe National Championship

In 2011 - AMA Pro Twins Hot Shoe National Championship for the second year in a row

In 2012 - 2nd place finish overall at the AMA All-Star Nationals

In 2014 -

In 2015 - I was hindered by a few injuries from a wreck, and unable to compete in many AMA National races, I formed a Flat Track series, [WWW.SEMDTRA.COM](http://WWW.SEMDTRA.COM), with my dad, Larry Griffin, and friend, Wayne McJunkin. The purpose was to bring back the strength of the sport of Flat Track racing to the place it was 20 years ago. The series was the largest on the east coast in ran for 6 years. I served as the Race Promotor and was able to pull off several top 10 finishes in points for the SEMDTRA series.

In 2016 - took a brief hiatus from racing Flat Track to focus on training for 2016 Paralympics for Team USA Cycling

In 2017 - Retired from AMA Pro racing, focused on Team USA Para-Cycling Road and Track. Competed in UCI World Cycling Track Masters. Raced regional flat track events

In 2018 - Present - AMA, AHRMA Amateur National and regional racing, race promoting and directing



# Jason Griffin the racer



## **Your riding number is #23? Why?**

My brother, John, was 4, so when I first started racing, I was 3 (one less than John)

Then when I started racing AMA, I took on 23c in honor of the national #23's from the past, including Lance Jones, whom I was racing for at that time.

## **As a flat track rider, you get dirty because of both working on the bikes and riding on the track. Which part is more fun?**

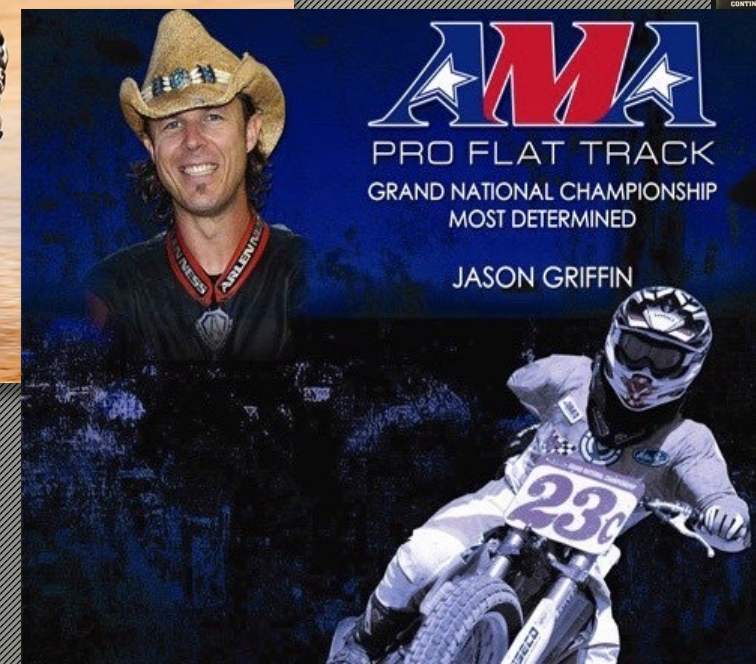
Both are great! The adrenaline I get while racing can't be topped, but the time I get to spend with my dad in the shop over the years cannot be replaced. It's a family sport. At any given race, you will find yourself in the pits of other racers and other racers visiting your pit, getting to know them, learning tricks of the trade, borrowing parts. The Flat Track "family" is like no other sport that I have seen. You see the same racers at the races, and you keep in touch with them during down time too. We look out for each other.

## **Racing also requires commitment. How do you keep yourself trained?**

Working out in the gym is very important. As a previous biology professor at the college level, I know that keeping muscles strong reduces the chances of breaking bones. I also took up riding mountain bikes for some cross training. This lead to racing bicycles for Team Roger C. Peace, on their Para-cycling team.



... a rider who defies all odds to race AFT!





# ... an elite cyclist in UCI Road and Track Racing







# About the Ducati Scrambler & Bike Modifications

## How did you meet Scrambler?

The Ducati is a dream. I bought the bike sight unseen from a flat tracker named Brad Spencer, after spending time with Jordan Graham at The One Moto Show in Portland, Oregon, this past February. Jordan raved about the Scrambler and led his heat race by nearly a half a lap.

Brad and I spent time on the phone over a few weeks time. He did everything I needed to get the bike ready for The Mint 400 out in Las Vegas the first week in March. I flew out to Las Vegas and when I rolled the Scrambler off AJ Kirkpatrick's van (a fellow Super Hooligan Racer with Roland Sands), I didn't have to touch a thing. Hopped on and it was amazing! I changed a few gears for the track conditions, and that was it!

## What did you like the most of your new Scrambler Full Throttle?

I have owned and raced many types of motorcycles throughout my career. From my brother's flat tracker, the Honda Ascot, a Kawasaki 450, Rotax 504, Suzuki TL1000.... and many others. The Scrambler is incredible right out of the box. It's easy for me to handle. All of my other motorcycles I have installed a steering dampener to help compensate. I was a little nervous thinking about getting the Ducati on the track without one, but as of right now, I haven't seen the need for one. The bike is super fast too! In the past we have pulled out all the tricks to make the bikes faster. No need here. The Ducati rolls off the truck ready! It's also nice to be able to ride it anywhere. Being a Hooligan bike, it is street legal, race ready!

## Which are the main changes and adjustment you made to the bike?

The main modifications that I have to make on any motorcycle that I ride is changing the throttle from the right handlebar over to the left. The throttle opens with a forward motion, which allows me to be able to use my index finger to pull the clutch lever, turn the throttle lever and pull myself forward. No whiskey throttle means I don't fall off the back of the bike. At least not from that!



# Hooligan Racing



## Why is hooligan racing movement getting more and more popular in your opinion?

Hooligan racing has been around for a few years. As a race promotor with the Sideways in Savannah series, we saw the numbers slowly increase. It wasn't until I got hooked up with the Super Hooligan racing that I realized how big it was on the west coast. The Hooligan racing gives people the opportunity to race any production motorcycle. They can literally show up with their street bikes and come out to race on the track. Roland Sands came up with the Super Hooligan Series. We ran across them when we went to support Chris Boone, a mentor and good friend of mine, at the X Games. He was competing in the Flat Track event. We had decided to go to Sturgis, which was the week after the X Games to see some of the sites, check out the bike rally. We met up with Cameron Brewer, RSD's Project Manager for Roland Sands, on the plane. I said it would be fun to race while we were there. He texted me when our plane landed, told me to meet him at the Spirit of Sturgis track in 2 hours! What a dream.

I had no intention of racing when we started the vacation. I had no motorcycle, no gear, no helmet, no tools. True to the Flat Track family spirit, when we arrived, I saw so many old friends from pro days. By the time we drove to Roland's pit area, everyone with extra everything, even people I didn't know, brought whatever they could to lend to me. Immediately everyone lent a hand to get the bike modified for me. We got it all done enough to get on the track for the last practice, and straight on to the heat race. More mods. I didn't make the main event from my heat, but had one more shot during the LCQ (Last Chance Qualifier). I kept sliding off the back of the bike. So they rigged a roll of paper towels on the back of the seat with zip-ties to keep me from sliding off the back. I started in the back row of 24. Lap by lap I would pass 2-3 guys to get the 4<sup>th</sup> place spot, and advanced to the Main event. Finished 8<sup>th</sup> over all! We go invited to come to a concert sponsored by Roland Sands. It was an honor. He said he saw me race that day and and that watching me almost made him cry. He invited me back to race again at the famous Buffalo Chip (one of his Super Hooligan Series events). I thought I was mostly retired from racing. I was hooked. The rest is history.

## How come that people involved with Super Hooligan movement are so relaxed and easy-going?

The AFT / AMA racing has gotten so expensive and the number of riders is limited. It has cause the Privateers to struggle to stay in the sport. With the Hooligan racing, you don't have to be in a single series circuit. You race when you want to race, where ever there is a race. The people are so laid back. Winning is always great, but we are all out here to race and have a good time. We all go back home to our day jobs at the end of the weekend.



# Motivation and Inspiration

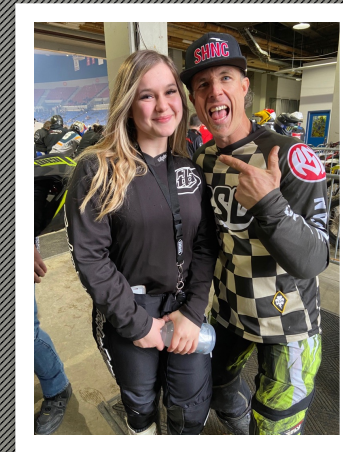
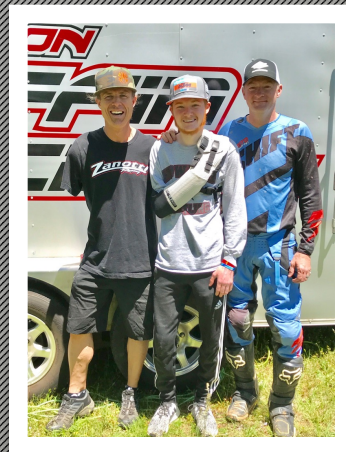
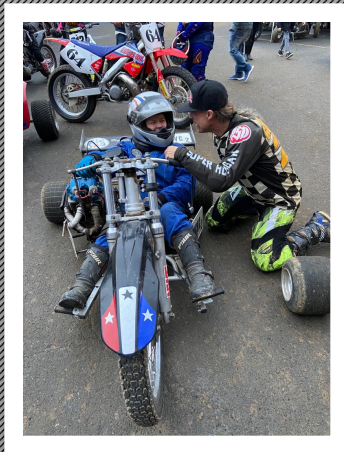


**What's getting you going? What keeps motivating you?**

Well, if you ever want to see me do something... then tell me that I cannot do it!  
To me "No," simply means "No stopping me!"

I love to make people smile and laugh. Changing people's outlook on life is what keeps me going. I am here to spread some joy in this world through my 2 wheeled endeavors. Kind of like a 3 ring traveling circus. Welcome to Flat Track!!

I want to race at every event in the Super Hooligan Series. Roland Sands does a good job putting on races in areas that are not heavily into Flat Track racing to promote the sport. His series is primarily on the West Coast and brings us to many opportunities to visit Shriners.





# What's next for you?



## What's your next goal, Jason?

We began taking about 2020 and what was next for us. We came up with the idea of this being the year to give back. After returning to my roots with some online reflection of time at Shriner's Hospitals, we decided that it would be in this, that we would dedicate much of our efforts.

We have since established the Jason Griffin Foundation, with a mission to visit as many of the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children as we can along the way to races, and in cities where we are racing that have a hospital, to bring as many families out to enjoy a VIP experience at the races, meeting riders, share his story of being a kid just like them who found his God given Super Power spirituality and to challenge them to find their own Ability, despite their Disability . It's more of a blessing than a curse!!



# ... a mission racing coast to coast



Jason Griffin's 2020 races schedule takes him all across the United States each year

## What's Your Super Power?

- Visit as many Shriner's Hospitals for Children as possible along the route and in race venue towns
- Show them his Super Powers by sharing his story
- Motivate them to find their passion
- Inspire them to find their Super Powers and to go after their dreams

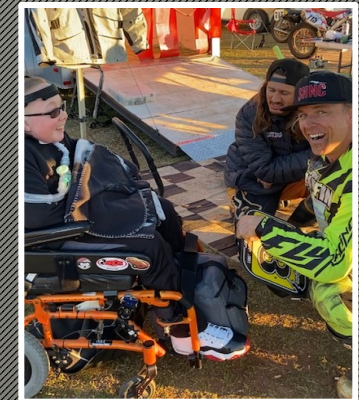


★ What's Your Superpower?

★ A Day at the Races +  
What's Your Super Power

## A Day at the Races

- In race venue towns that have a Shriner's Hospital, make a "What's Your Super Power?" visit
- Host Shriner's Hospital "Child Life" excursions for families
- Race tickets, pit passes, hospitality, autographs and pictures





# What's next for you?



## What's your next goal, Jason?

Inspire the world through racing without limits.. I will also be racing in a first ever adaptive exclusive athlete Flat Track race the night before the AFT Sacramento Mile in Lodi, CA! We are excited to promote ability in light of disability.

Promoting racing events and motorcycle safety. I have been asked to serve as the Grand Marshal at the Ohio Bike Week events and Flat Track race.

The Jason Griffin Foundation is also working towards promoting safety in riding on and off the track, with distributorship of Helite Moto AirVests. We strongly believe that many of the lost and injured riders that have been our family and friends on and off the track might have had very different outcomes with this use of this affordable, effective new gear.

Take my mom to Italy

Become a Ducati Team Rider

Leave behind a lasting legacy to serve others