

# The Force at Doc's

By Dennis Martin

When 14-time NHRA POWERade Funny Car Champion John Force came to town for the NHRA races, I am sure he didn't realize there would be 600+ race fans at Doc's. This is no exaggeration. The line went from the front door, created a maze in the dealership, and then proceeded downstairs to where everyone was. This year John brought his daughter, Ashley Force, with him. She is the new, up and coming Funny Car superstar that had beat her dad on the track the week before. John and Ashley were not alone. Doc's NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle racer Chip Ellis and Doc's local dirt tracker Scott Weber were also meeting the fans.

As last year, this was a free "meet and greet". Favazz, of KSHE 95 was there doing a live broadcast and interviewed John and Ashley. During their discussion Ashley confessed that it wasn't that long ago that she wanted to be either a teacher or a police officer or even a tornado chaser. I am sure that dad feels better that she is behind the force of an 8,000 hp machine and not the force of Mother Nature.

This "meet and greet" was supposed to last until 8pm. The last person in line didn't see any of the racers until 9pm. I was really impressed with Ashley, John, Chip, and Scott to stick around an extra hour. John will tell anyone, a person has to keep the fans happy. He was even apologizing to the fans that had to wait in line so long. When I attend this type of event, I like to see what the fans bring to be autographed. I saw them signing model cars, a blower belt, even pictures from long ago. Afterwards, John and Ashley even went upstairs and signed a few things for the Doc's employees.

To see more of John and Ashley tune in to their TV show called "Driving Force". It is on the A&E channel at 9pm on Tuesdays

