

Icom and Team F.A.S.T.: Taking Communications Reliability and Off-Road Racing to the Limit

Bellevue, WA, March 8, 2011 Icom America is pleased to announce that F.A.S.T. Industries has chosen Icom as a company sponsor and communications equipment provider for Team F.A.S.T. Racing. After a long period of hard work, F.A.S.T.



founder Keith Minnicks and his team are ready for a busy first racing season and stated, "We are looking at starting with either the SNORE race on May 14th or the MORE race on May 21st in Lucerne, CA, which comes down to whichever has more entries since we are competitive. We will be racing at least 5 other races this season: we are going to start in the 1450 sportsman class and by end of season move into our professional class 7 unlimited, to prepare for the fight for the 2012 SNORE championship."

The adrenaline-charged, bone-jarring world of high-speed off-road racing is a passion for the 26-year-old company founder and college student. Keith's F.A.S.T. Fabrication is finishing work on a highly-customized Ford Ranger off-road racing truck for competing in the Nevada and California deserts. With a newer, modified 4.0-liter SOHC engine, they expect 300-320 hp, a significant increase over their prior 150-hp motor.

Seven years ago, at 19, Keith Minnicks was a college student and star motorcycle salesman racing dirt bikes. A self-confessed adrenaline addict living life on the edge, he always pushed to be at the top of his physical and mental game.

Everything changed on February 14, 2004 at the sand dunes of Glamis, CA when Keith collided with a sand rail. He recounts, "I lost my life for two minutes. After eight hours of open-heart surgery and three weeks of intensive care I left the hospital with a paralyzed left arm. After two years of physical therapy, repair surgeries, and nerve grafts, I had to find another way to do what I loved—live on the edge at high speeds through the desert."

Keith describes himself as "a 26 year old permanently disabled and educated extreme sports enthusiast." Team F.A.S.T. Racing consists of a group of passionate and determined builders, racers and volunteers—a highly-coordinated and choreographed group with absolute reliance on each other, and their Icom equipment.

Reliable communications are essential in racing. Furthermore, Team F.A.S.T.'s needs are unique. They simply could not function without their Icom IC-F5021s and IC-F3011s. In addition to relaying team data, maintenance and dispatching the chase truck, there's another unique reason Team F.A.S.T. uses Icom: because Keith can't use his left arm, he needs his co-driver to shift for him and read the gauges while he steers, so they are constantly in communication. The noise level inside the truck dictates the need for radio communication between Keith and his co-driver, as well as the team and chase truck. Additionally, the terrain is so severe that Keith can't take his eyes away to read the gauges, so he relies completely on the team and radios to send and receive critical data.



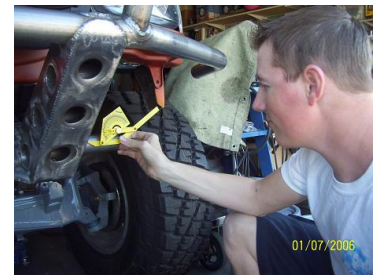
Icom provided two IC-F5021 base land mobile units—one for the race truck and one for the tow rig/base station—as well as three antennas to move the base from the tow rig to their chase truck. Two IC-F3011 handhelds boasting a 5-mile radius are also used for chase teams and people on the track.

Keith underscores, "Icom's role in this project is at the core of this team. Without the communication between driver, co-driver and the pit team, we wouldn't be a force to be reckoned with. Because of Icom's race-proven F5021 land radio and programming by PCI Race Radios, we will never have to worry about the loss of vital communications. The F3011 handheld is user-friendly for our volunteers too—its easy programming options and compatibility with the various race intercoms and headsets make it a winner."



"Icom is THE name in communications for the off-road industry. The radios are rugged, last for decades, have great clarity—I put not only my life, but my co-driver's as well, in the hands of Icom every race."

Keith plans on graduating college this year with a BA in Accounting at CSU Fullerton and continuing on to his Masters, as well as law school. He resolutely stated, "I am 95% back to the person I was before, but with a strong education and a will to do anything."



He concludes, "Without the help from sponsors, family and friends, none of this would be possible." Icom America is proud to play an integral part in helping him realize his accomplishments.

To contact Keith Minnicks, call (949) 233-3930 or log onto: www.fast-fabrication.com

High resolution images of the F5021 mobile and F3011 portable land mobile radios are ready for downloading from: www.icomamerica.com/downloads