

NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

# CELEBRATING CANCER SURVIVOR AND SODA RACER, JOHN HOLTZ

## OVERCOMING THE ODDS

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH 2022

You may recognize the Holtz Family name from their years of involvement in off-road racing. John Holtz, driver of the Yellow #477 Formula 4x4 Jeep, originally got his start in the infamous "Good Ole Boys" (G.O.B.) class at Crandon International Off-road Raceway in 1987. It wasn't long until he and his friends (Kendal and Warren) joined the Formula 4x4 class in 1992- where TFA Racing was born.

No stranger to the dirt, John has raced both short-course and competed in numerous desert races. John began competing in the Baja 1000 starting in 2002 - as well as SODA, Dark Water 100 in Pennsylvania, the Baja 500, San Felipe 250, SCORE 250, and Mint 400 where he has pitted for both Curt and Todd Leduc.

In early January 2015, the doctor treating John told him that he was suffering from stage four, Mantle cell lymphoma, a deadly (and one of the rarest) forms of non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas. John's 51 years of life suddenly took a devastating turn from the hopeful future he and his family looked forward to.

As is his custom whenever life throws him a challenge, John stood tall, marshaled his inner strength and faced the unknown head on. With the support of his family and friends, John underwent multiple rounds of intense chemo, a life-saving stem-cell transplant, and years of maintenance chemo.

In 2020, John's doctor shared, he was his **FIRST** patient to **survive 5 years after that intense regimen of chemo.**

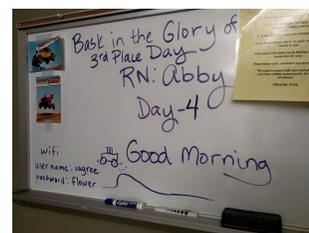


## THE JOURNEY



John shares, " I decided to continue racing during my cancer diagnosis because my doctor pushed back my transplant date by a week and I was not given much chance of survival. Unfortunately the doctor found out (Nate-Dawg's wife, Jen, tutored his kids), and he said 'absolutely not'.

Luckily, my good friend Dennis Chencharick from Pennsylvania stepped in to race my Jeep for me while I watched from my hospital bed at Froedtert. He made the podium and finished third on day one, but on day 2, my transfer case exploded."



*Pictured to the left is the whiteboard in John's hospital room with pictures of both race Jeeps and a note from his nurse, Abby celebrating their 3rd place win.*



Dennis Chencharick is also a former SODA Racer - he raced in classes 3, 8, and 13 from 1970s - early 2000s.

Since October 2015, John has been in remission. However, he has continuously undergone maintenance chemo and regular scans to ensure it's caught and treated in time if or when it returns.

NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY  
**CELEBRATING CANCER SURVIVOR AND SODA  
RACER, JOHN HOLTZ**

**Q & A WITH JOHN HOLTZ**

**DO YOU LOOK AT LIFE DIFFERENTLY AFTER YOUR CANCER DIAGNOSIS?**

Yes of course. I appreciate everyday. I never have a bad day. Cherish the memories.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RECENTLY DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER?**

Never give up hope. Drive hard, never lift.

**WHAT'S YOUR BEST RACE EVER?**

1st place win 2018 Crandon Spring Run  
**WHAT CLASS DO YOU HOPE TO MOVE UP TO SOMEDAY?**

Jeep Speed or Ultra 4

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR OTHER INTERESTS OR HOBBIES?**

Camping, building Jeeps, Desert racing

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RACING STYLE?**

Veteran, Opportunistic

**WHAT DOES TFA STAND FOR?**

Oh, I don't know if I can say that on here.. it's whatever you want it to stand for.

**WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO THANK ?**

My family and friends. it wouldn't be possible without them. I'd like to thank my crew, Chris Holtz, Baggage (Warren Wendt), Dennis Luebke, Dennis Chencharick, Steve Woodring, Rusty Price, Samantha Holtz, Brooke Holtz, Jennifer Holtz, Stephanie Holtz, Theresa Ritchie-Holtz, and Judy Holtz.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SPONSORS YOU'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE?**

Pure Class Vodka/Hendricks Family Distillery, Global Fab, Element Marketing & Advertising, Competition Specialists, Dale Gas & Oil, and Knutson Machine.

**ABOUT TFA RACING**



TFA Racing was founded in 1992 and they've since become a three - generation family race team. Chuck Holtz, John's father, began racing in 1999 at Crandon International Off-road Raceway before retiring in 2013 and passing the reins down to his sons Andy and John. In 2014, Andy Holtz became the primary driver of the red, white and blue #476 Jeep.



**MEET THE TFA TEAM**

**ANDY HOLTZ**

Andy began co-driving with his dad Chuck in 2001 at Crandon International Off-road Raceway, in addition to spotting and pit crewing for the TFA Racing team. Andy also raced Steve Hannah's Jeep in 2004 at Bark River before he took over racing the #476 Red, White, and Blue Jeep full-time in 2014.

Aside from racing short-course in the Midwest, Andy has also had the opportunity to race in the Dark Water 100 in Pennsylvania and to pit for Curt Leduc in the Las Vegas Mint 400.

**CHUCK HOLTZ**

Chuck Holtz - Aside from racing-short course in the Midwest, Chuck also competed in the 2007 Baja 1000. As a former driver and current TFA Racing team owner, you'll find him in the pits, cheering at the track, and working behind the scenes helping mold TFA Racing into the team that it is today

**CHRIS HOLTZ**

Chris grew up surrounded by racing since before he could walk and has been putting in work behind the scenes as both a pit-crew member and spotter. In 2019 at the Crandon 50th, Chris had the opportunity to compete in the "Good Ole Boys" class where TFA Racing all began. Since then, Chris has continued to race at local tracks throughout Wisconsin and hopes to one day get behind the wheel of another TFA Racing Jeep.