



**Beal Family Fun!** Four members of the Beal Racing Team are shown in their team shirts! Family patriarch Carty Beal is shown with his son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Krisha Beal, and their daughter Hailey. Carl drives the red truck (top photo), Carty is the driver of the yellow truck (bottom photo) and Krisha drives the pink truck (opposite page). The racing team is shown at the awards ceremony (opposite page).

## Family Ties: Local racing team finding success on off-road circuit

By Len Hayward  
Reprinted from Midland Reporter Telegram

*[Editor's Note: This article was written about the Beal Family, owners of the Texana Ranch in northern Coke County.]*

There is one big thing that sticks out about the God is Awesome Racing Team -- it's that family is a major part.

Nearly all of the drivers on the team, which features off-road "Trophy" Trucks, are members of the Beal family. Patriarch and the team's main financier Carty Beal leads a team that features his son, daughter, daughter-in-law and granddaughters, along with close friends from Midland and other cities across Texas.

Heck, even the two guys that work on the machines are an uncle and nephew.

"It's absolutely heaven, for me," Carty said. "It's a true blessing to be able to do that. That's why we advertise on the truck, 'God is Awesome' because he gives me the finances to do the racing."

The team was successful this past season in the highly-competitive Best In The Desert racing series in Nevada and Arizona as two of the three teams finished in the top 10 in overall points. Plus, Carty's 48-year old son, Carl, earned the series' Rookie of the Year honor.

Competing and winning is a major draw for all involved, but it's that opportunity to spend extended periods with the family at the races that makes it special.

Carty and his son Carl are no strangers to off-road racing. Carty and his brothers competed in off-road racing nearly two decades ago and were successful, winning races such as the Baja 500. They then went drag racing for a few years,

racing on the ultra-competitive National Hot Rod Association Pro Stock circuit.

But it was in 2008 that they had a trophy truck in California and brought it back to Midland to get it ready to race.

"I had never seen it until six years ago," said Randy Wells, the team's crew chief who has worked for the Beals since 1992. "A guy in California had it, and oil prices went to nothing and they told me to bring the truck here and to finish it. I then went back to Arizona and got schooled on trophy trucks."

Wells, who has been working for Carty for 22 years, said the first few years the team ran races in Texas, in a regional series in different parts of the state and New Mexico.

Wells admitted the first few years were interesting as he got used to working on the high-powered off-road trucks that feature high suspensions and large tires. The team added another truck in 2011.

In 2013, the team won a title in a series in Texas and decided to make the move to the more competitive circuits in Nevada, Arizona and California with three trucks competing prior to

the 2014 season.

"It's a big deal out there, there is all the (Bureau of Land Management) land, and there are races out there every week somewhere," Carl said. "There are lot of race teams, a lot of race trucks out there. We are going out there to race and everyone has trucks, and it's virtually equivalent to what we have."

And the draw for the racers is that they can race in long stretches of anywhere between 80 to more than 100 miles, and it offers plenty of excitement. The racers race against the clock and not other races during an event.

"When you can run 100 to 120 miles an hour across the desert, it's so cool," Carl said. "And you jump 30-40 feet high. It's so neat."

The team has three trucks, and is based out of a shop in West Midland, a few blocks off Wall Street. Wells, along with his nephew Greg, do much of the maintenance and work on the trucks in between races.

And all of it is financed by Carty Beal.

The team has no sponsors, although Carl joked with the

recent dip in oil prices, they might be looking for some.

But even without sponsors, the team doesn't lack for anything. Wells said they have access to the same type of equipment larger teams have in the series, even without the same type of manpower.

Wells said, "they've got 10 guys on one truck, and we've got two, and I really think that's too much for those big teams. They just get in the way."

He said they have between four to six weeks between races, and after each race the trucks are torn down to the frame and rebuilt. It can be a time consuming process, but they've gotten used to it and Carty and Carl both said that Randy Wells, and Greg, are the linchpins to the whole operation.

He said Randy's meticulous preparation allowed them to

finish races and be as competitive as they were this past season.

"Without them we wouldn't be there," Carty said. "You have to have a good machine when you start off that starting line or you will not finish. My motto is, if I'm going to spend all the money to go all the way out there to Nevada, I want to finish the races."

Two trucks completed the full 2014 season in the 1400 or "Trick Truck Unlimited" class in the Best of Desert Series. The class has few rules for engines, chassis and tires, but does have stringent safety requirements.

The team's top truck is the "Red" truck and is No. 69 with Carl as a driver, and also had Midlander Kevin Allen behind the wheel. Matt Parks and Greg Wells served as navigators.

The second truck, which is

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