Saturday, August 14, 2010 – Canaan Fair Speedway

We trekked up to Canaan again this past Saturday for another great day of racing. In the first warm-up, Austin noted that the car felt a little loose in the middle of the turn. So, the crew made a few changes for the second warm-up. Austin said the car felt "excellent" for that time on the track, but it spun out on him twice without warning. The crew then put everything back where it was and put on four new tires to scuff in during the 3rd practice. For the heat race, Austin started in 5th. He was able to pull up into 4th place on the start, but then could not advance further up during the 10 lap event. He finished 4th, but one of the top three cars was disqualified for the car being "too low", so Austin ended up with 3rd place heat points.

In the feature event, which didn't get on the track until after 10:30pm, Austin had an eighth place starting position outside the #71 of Ed Laquire Jr. Austin had a great start on the outside and was making his way up through. While working his way on the outside of the #29 of Bruce Jaycox, Austin and Jaycox made contact, which resulted in Jaycox getting a right rear flat on the following lap. On the restart, Austin started 4th outside of the #69 of Sid Laquire. On the start, the #31 of Kenny Cantlin (who started 5th) got underneath Austin. Coming down the front-stretch and into turn 1, Austin slid behind Cantlin and then passed him on the inside, coming out of turn 2. This put Austin into 3rd, as he and Cantlin had already gone underneath the #2 of Ramey in the middle of 1 and 2. On another restart, Austin was able to get into 2nd and follow the #09 of David Miller Jr. for a couple of laps. He tried very hard to get under Miller, but just couldn't time his pass right. Then another caution came out that turned into a 15 minute red flag stop due to an injury in the pits that required ambulance transport. During this red flag, the cars were all shut down and unfortunately, the tires had time to cool off. When we were finally able to restart, Austin started on the outside pole. He didn't get a very good start and was shuffled back to 5th place behind the #71. Austin tried for several laps to get under Laquire, but couldn't get a good run on him on the inside. So with 6 laps to go, Austin decided to try to work his way around the outside of Laquire. However, in turn 3, Austin drove in too deep on the outside and his car came around on him. Luckily, the whole field of cars missed him, so we had no damage, but had to restart in the back with only 6 laps left. He restarted 13th and was only able to get back up to 11th by the end of the race. We give him a lot of kudos for trying to pass on the outside!

Sunday, August 15, 2010 – Twin State Karting

Austin only took his kart out for one practice today because it has been handling so well. We put on two new right side tires because the ones on the kart were very old. This didn't seem to help at all. The kart didn't handle very well in the practice and had a "hop" in the middle of the turn. Austin started last in the heat race. He was in second place by lap 2, but could not pass the #7 of Brad Zahensky, so finished in the 2nd position. This gave him an outside pole starting position for the feature event. He had a decent start, but Zahensky was able to pull to the front. Austin dropped in behind him for second and made a few attempts at the beginning to get by Brad, but was unable to. He said the kart just wasn't handling well today and didn't seem to have the horsepower that it normally does down the straightaway. It seems the new tires didn't really help! He had his first 2nd place finish of the season.