



NAME: Jimmy Politi and Thomas Ruggiero

BORN: Jimmy, Jan. 3, 1991; Thomas, Oct. 31, 1991

HOMETOWN: Newburgh, N.Y.

SCOUT RANK: Eagle Scout (Troop 007, Newburgh)

MADE HEADLINES: As members of the team that tied for first place in the open division in the 2007 Dell-Winston School Solar Car Challenge.

THE SCOOP: Nine teams of high schoolers built cars that run only on solar energy to compete in a nine-day race last July from Texas to New York. The guys' Newburgh Free Academy team built Sol Machine VII, which averaged 38 miles per hour over about 690 total miles.

THE CAR: "It's designed so that at whatever angle the sun hits it, solar cells are exposed," Jimmy says. Building took more than a year, using molds donated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It was exciting to work with materials like carbon fiber, Kevlar and titanium," Thomas says.

INTERESTS: Besides Scouts, Jimmy loves graphic arts and skateboarding. Thomas is into snowboarding, skateboarding, cooking and auto body work.

THE FUTURE: "The race tuned me in to the need for alternative energy sources," Thomas says. "Seeing what our car is capable of gives me confidence that the environmental problem can be turned around," Jimmy says.

ON THE WEB: www.boyslife.org/links/winstonsolarchallenge

NAME: Mike Bridges

BORN: Oct. 17, 1994

HOMETOWN: Scottsdale, Ariz.

SCOUT RANK: Tenderfoot Scout
(Troop 201, Scottsdale)

MADE HEADLINES: By being crowned the 2006 All-American Soap Box Derby World Champ in the rally stock division.

WINNINGS: A massive trophy, \$3,000 scholarship, a Goodyear blimp ride.

THE SCOOP: Mike has been racing for four years and built his own car (with some help from his parents.) "What can take only 12 hours to build took us weeks. I guess you could say I'm a perfectionist."

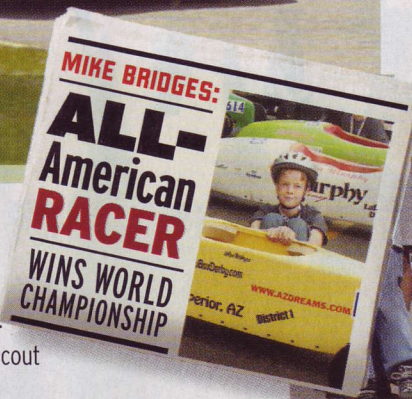
CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE: More than 500 racers from six countries competed. "It was very exciting. I felt like I was walking around in a dream."

OFF THE RACE TRACK: Camping with his troop and playing games on his PC and Game Boys.

THE FUTURE: "I'm taking a break from racing this year, but I'd like to continue for two or three more years in the Masters [division]."

ADVICE: "Try to see yourself winning, and have confidence you can do it. Take your time and make sure you get all the details."

ON THE WEB: www.boyslife.org/links/aasbd



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