



## **JOHN KLAUSMEIER: Crew Chief, No. 10 Ford Mustang**

**Birthdate:** Feb. 1, 1981  
**Birthplace:** Baltimore, Maryland  
**Hometown:** Perry Hall, Maryland  
**Residence:** Mooresville, North Carolina  
**Spouse:** Brooke  
**Children:** Cam and Olivia

In the beginning, racing was just a hobby for John Klausmeier, crew chief for the No. 10 Smithfield team and driver Aric Almirola at Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR). That all changed in 2002 after Klausmeier landed an internship at Dale Earnhardt, Inc. while completing his degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland-Baltimore.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in hand, Klausmeier moved to North Carolina to pursue a career in racing. He had turned his hobby into a full-time job.

Klausmeier began his tenure with the Earnhardt team in 2005 as an aerodynamics engineer and then transitioned to test engineer, collaborating with drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Martin Truex Jr., at numerous test sessions on racetracks throughout the United States. Klausmeier became a race engineer in 2007, working with the No. 15 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series team of driver Paul Menard before joining SHR in 2009.

As a race engineer at SHR, Klausmeier worked with drivers Ryan Newman, Danica Patrick and Kurt Busch. From SHR's inception in 2009 through the end of 2018, those drivers scored eight wins along with 55 top-five finishes and 143 top-10s.

Two of those victories, in particular, stand out for Klausmeier. Busch's victory at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway in June 2016 came with Klausmeier as his interim crew chief in place of Tony Gibson. And Klausmeier was a part of Busch's biggest win – the 2017 Daytona 500.

Klausmeier's accomplishments as an engineer and interim crew chief led to his promotion as the full-time crew chief for Almirola and the No. 10 Smithfield team in 2018.

"I enjoyed the crew chief role in my first full-time year," Klausmeier said. "The biggest differences were getting to work alongside and rally the talented people we have on our team. As a race engineer, I was so immersed in the technical workings of the car's performance that I sometimes lost sight of the larger picture. As a crew chief, I get to motivate and rely on the specialists in each area of the team to get the best result possible."

With Klausmeier calling the shots, Almirola ended 2018 a career-best fifth in the championship standings, 11 places better than his previous best points finish of 16<sup>th</sup> in 2014. He got there thanks to front-running consistency. Almirola's 17 top-10 finishes were more than double his tally from any previous season, and his 181 laps led were more than he had in his seven previous seasons combined. Finally, after contending for wins all year long, Almirola finally broke through in the fall with a popular victory Oct. 14 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway that sent him into the penultimate round of the NASCAR Playoffs.

"We continued to improve as the year progressed and had some of our best results when it mattered most in the playoff races," Klausmeier said. "Aric did an outstanding job learning our system at SHR and pushing our team throughout the year. You could see everyone's confidence grow throughout the season."

Klausmeier's run with Almirola at the helm of the No. 10 team was not his first with the driver. The duo first met in late summer of 2007 when Almirola began testing and competing for the Earnhardt team.

"I like how determined Aric is," Klausmeier said. "He has a ton of drive and yearns for the best. We're both at very similar places in life right now and I feel like this is a great opportunity for both of us. We want to maximize the potential, grow together and get the most reward out of it."

Klausmeier resides in Mooresville, North Carolina, with his wife Brooke and their son Cam and daughter Olivia.