

**Deaf Culture Question of the Week** - May 4 - 8, 2009

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Which one of the deaf persons below was considered "The Fastest Woman on Earth?"

- a. Marlee Matlin
- b. Kitty O'Neil
- c. Bobbie Beth Scoggins
- d. Phyllis Frelich

Scroll down for the answer

Answer: "b" Kitty O'Neil - Kitty O'Neil became deaf at four months of age from spinal meningitis. "In 1976, at the age of 28, Kitty set a world record in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "Fastest Woman on Earth." She rode a rocket car called "Motivator" with 48,000 horsepower that reached a speed up to 412 mph in 3.22 seconds." Later she became a stuntwoman in Hollywood. (Source: <http://www.deafis.org/sports/kitty.php>)

Go to this website for a picture of Kitty O'Neil with the dragster she drove to become the "Fastest Woman on Earth" - <http://www.freewebs.com/scottcommins racing/kitty.jpg>