

LOOKING GOOD

By Leigh Grogan

Fast cars, fashionable clothes

Kristi Chatham is 32 years old. She's spent her life surrounded by hot rods, fast boats, a mother who didn't allow her to have a motorcycle and a grandmother who was very reserved when it came to fashion.

So what does Chatham do now that's she all grown up? She's created a line of clothing called Betty's Garage. It's designed specifically for women motorsports fans like herself.

The line, which Chatham started about a year ago, is inspired by her life experiences and because she believes women have been ignored from a fashion standpoint by the racing industry.

From her home in Bethel Island, Chatham says she envisioned apparel that was fashionable and high quality.

"There are about 10 pieces in the line," she says, "and most of them are made of stretch cotton sateen. Because my customers

are often at a track, car show or speedway, I incorporated breathable fabrics."

So who exactly is "Betty"?

"Betty is my idea of the classic woman of the '50s," Chatham says. "She's daring, with an understated allure to her. I wanted to return clothing to the days when women were put together."

Chatham will add several pieces to next spring's line, including a drag-racing jacket and driving gloves. Sizes are 4 to 16, and prices range from \$27 to \$115.

Chatham sells her clothing line at races, car shows and tracks, including Infineon Raceway in Sonoma. She'll have a booth this Saturday at the Billetproof Noe-Cal 2005 hot rod and custom car show at the Antioch Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th St. For more information about the event visit www.billetproof.com.



Betty's Garage
Betty's Garage Stretch Slick Dress (\$115) comes in yellow and black and features gathered sleeves with checkboard race trim around the cuffs.



Betty's Garage
Kristi Chatham is creator of Betty's Garage, a line of stylish clothing for female motorsports fans. She's wearing Betty's Racer top and Pit Girl pants. The line, which also includes accessories, is available at www.bettrysracegarage.com.

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