

First Annual Middle Georgia Raceway Driver and Fan Reunion

A great deal of planning and logistical preparation culminated on Saturday November 5, 2005 with the NVRA Georgia Chapter's First Annual Middle Georgia Raceway Driver and Fan Reunion. Over 400 fans and former race drivers gathered in Macon, Georgia to reminisce about the now closed Middle Georgia Raceway.

Opened in 1966, Middle Georgia Raceway was one of the finest banked ½ mile asphalt tracks on the NASCAR circuit. Over the years MGR ran a weekly schedule of races for stock cars and even hosted a few sprint car races along the way. For a variety of reasons MGR closed for good in 1983. Although the track and front stretch grandstands still exist, they are in such poor condition that we could not hold the reunion onsite.

Richard Petty won four NASCAR Cup races (1966, 67, 69, 70) run at MGR, while Bobby Allison won three races (1968, 69, 71), David Pearson one (1968) and the late Bobby Isaac one race (1969). In addition to the periodic cup races, MGR hosted many Busch Grand National (Late Model Sportsman series then) races that attracted the top named drivers of that time.

Many former drivers attended the reunion to see old friends and sign autographs for the fans who enjoyed watching them race at MGR. Past MGR track champions in attendance at the reunion were "Bullet" Bob Burcham, Bruce Brantley, Boscoe Lowe and Don Tomberlin. Former NASCAR champions on hand were 1960 NASCAR Cup Champion Rex White and five-time NASCAR Busch Grand National Champion Jack Ingram (72, 73, 74, 82 and 85). James Hylton, who had 6 top ten and 4 top five finishes in the cup races at MGR was on hand and donated one of his old crash helmets and a NASCAR style gas can that were auctioned off. Ken Ragan, who won the last Late Model race run at MGR was also in attendance. Numerous local racing heroes were there including Ronnie Sanders, Roscoe Smith, Woody Calloway, Al Smith, Bob Moore, Richard Webb, Eddie McDonald and many more.

The crowd enjoyed a brilliant display of classic stock cars, home cooked barbecue, a very popular autograph session and participated in a racing memorabilia auction to help raise money to place a historical marker at the site of the old Middle Georgia Raceway.

Plans are underway to make the 2nd annual MGR reunion even bigger and better. Please enjoy the reunion photographs posted on this website.