



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—SPECIAL EDITION GATORNATIONALS RECAP—MARCH 12, 2010 Some Photos of the Action

Gainesville was NOT Rained Out! By Dean Vetter

Gainesville, FL—March 12: Spring weather is slow in coming this year but after many e-mails and phone calls we boarded our two buses and departed at 11:30 am and arrived at a very muddy facility, in Gainesville at 1 pm. Track management allowed us to stop at the front gate (but not park there). After a quick security check, of our backpacks and lunch bags, we entered the “midway” (see photos) and were greeted there by Eric Jones, who was waiting for the “yellow shirts”.

It was pleasant and cool and track-drying efforts were underway with plans to start qualifying at 3 pm. This gave us plenty of time to see the displays, pits and Eric Jones’ car. We included a stop at Kurt Busch’s pit but he wasn’t there. He did zip by us, in a golf cart, while we were walking to our seats, however. Anyway, here’s “proof” he was there...



you felt the exhaust heat as they zipped by! Kurt Busch and John Force were on the mics quite a bit and there was a tribute to Darrell Gwynn. Doug Kalitta drove Darrell’s car down the strip at 3.846 and 315 mph. Most of the weekend included a fundraiser for those with spinal cord injuries, like Darrell.

The evening continued as Pro Mods and Alcohol cars ran. Many drivers had trouble, all day, getting power to the ground and did not know if it was the weather, the track or the humidity or all the above. We left the stands, for the bus at about 8:15.

On the way home we were treated to a DVD of Terry Fater, a ventriloquist with 25 years of experience, who now performs in Las Vegas. It was a great day! See page 2 of this special edition for a few other snapshots from the event.

Don’t miss this trip next year!



Eric Jones, greeting part of our contingent (No, that’s not his dragster he’s holding!)

After 3 pm we watched as about 30 “Sportsman” qualified at speeds as high as 200 mph. Then, motorcycles. What a kick, no roll bars or seatbelts and do those men and women fly down the ¼ mile! Next was Pro Stock, running up to 5 pm. They ran as quick as 6.61 seconds and 208 mph.

At dinnertime we saw the Funny Cars, including of course, John and Ashley Force. John beat his daughter by .001 (4.094 to 4.093) with both hitting the end at about 308 mph. Each class of cars was louder and more “explosive” off the line, but earplugs were not a MUST until the Top Fuel dragsters ran. WOW, the grandstands shook as the green light blinked and



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