

## NHRA Recap

This is a report on the club's trip to Gainesville for the 2011 NHRA Gatornationals, courtesy of Wendy Touchette.

Club members had a great day at the NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville on March 11, 2011.

46 club members made the trip by bus and 5 by car.

10 Club members had the pleasure to go thru the pit area of TASCA racing driver Bob Tasca. Mike Cunningham, son Chris is the crew chief.

Mike is a friend of Ron Schauster club member and with Ron's help we were invited to tour the pit area of Bob Tasca, Funny Car.

Club members:

Silky Meegan

Wendy & Mike Touchette

Jan DiSanto

Garry Greims

Dave Colbert

Ernie Battee

Jerry Conkle

Dave Whalen

Ron Vigilio

Ron Schauster

The tour started with the car being unloaded out of the truck much like a NASCAR. Two cars in the top of every hauler. We were walked thru the entire car after the body came off. It was very interesting to see the frame, fire meconizims, oxygen tank, black box, seat compartment that is built around the transmission, drive shaft etc. Interesting to see how small the seat area is up close. We also saw the engine torn down, computer boxes for all the ports to get readouts on all the operations on the car. Talk about modern technology.

We were there when the car was started just before it left for the first run. They start with a little gas, then alcohol then nitro. Very interesting.

All of the club members on the tour got to meet Bob Tasca and had a picture and some autographs. We tried to get the club logo on the car or even a tool box but like everything else you have to give a little green stuff to get that on anything.

We did manage to have a picture with our banner at the car hauler and get an autograph on our banner.

Silky and Ron also had a special invite to go to the starting line during the first round. There was however a problem with clearance and they only made it to the back fence at the start line. It was still fascinating to be at the ground level with the funny car. Silky said that you could feel the ground shake under her as they did the burnout. Great experience and we could not thank Mike enough for the opportunity to go to the pit area and to get up to the start line fence during qualifying.

Club members were also able to get in a few pictures of Kurt Busch at his hauler and to watch as the excitement grew throughout the day. You could tell he was trying to take it all in and try to settle in to the days activities. Unfortunately he made rookie mistakes twice but did qualify on Saturday with a speed of 211.

Sunday wasn't any better for Kurt as he had to race off against Erica Enders who had set a speed record the day before.

He did a great job with his .049 reaction time and Erica had a .021.

Speed for Kurt was 211.59 and Erica went 211.69.

Papers and comments didn't do Kurt justice as he put down a good speed and reaction time only to be eliminated.