

SPECIAL REPORT

A Great Trip to Citrus County Speedway!!!

October 21, 2007



Last night was a night of good old, Saturday night short track stock car racing at Citrus County Speedway, and a hearty contingent of 37 club members and guests were on hand to take in the sights, sounds, and smells of burning rubber. The night's racing card at the 3/8 mile facility in Inverness featured events in five separate divisions, from four-cylinder bombers to late models, with the latter division putting on a

spectacular display with two 50-lap events to cap the evening. Citrus County Speedway is one of those places where fans can get really close to the action, and our club took excellent advantage of the opportunity!

Last night's event also featured the club's sponsorship of Mini-Stock Division driver Steve Griffin of Inverness. With the great cooperation of the Speedway's Operations Director Don Cretty and his excellent staff, we were able to award Steve the sum of \$555 to help defray his racing expenses. As you'll recall from Steve's comments to the club during his June 6 visit with us, he races essentially on a personal budget, and races for the love of the sport. The contribution from the club will go along way toward improving his equipment, and will help him as he prepares for the 100-lap event his class will be running November 17 as part of the Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway.



President Glen Carter placing his autograph on Steve's hood.



More members of the group get in on the action as Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette directs the action.

Also with us at last night's event was Arthur "Buster" Burt, former racer and speaker at our club's October meeting. Throughout the evening, Buster provided frequent insights into his recollections from his racing years, expressing amazement at how far local racing has come. He is shown in the photo below "consulting" with Steve Griffin after his feature event, while Steve shares his view of the race in which he finished seventh. Buster summed the evening up best with his comment, "This is the way racing is supposed to be."

Incidentally, the seventh place finish (which was subsequently changed to sixth as a result of the disqualification of a higher finisher) is a bit misleading...Steve had a strong car, and was making a move for third place about midway through the event, when he was involved in an incident that forced him to the rear of the field. He recovered a number of the positions over the remaining ten laps, but ran out of time. He still maintains a substantial, 38-point lead in his division, with only three events left in the season, so his bid for the mini-stock track championship is intact.



Buster Burt (center) holds court in the grandstands after Steve's (blue shirt, lower center) feature event. Note the yellow club shirts in the background.

As an added bonus, Speedway Operations Director Cretty arranged for two members of our contingent to enjoy a ride in the official pace car. Pictured below are Jennifer Terry and Lance Sylvia, winners of the drawing for the ride. Their smiles were even wider after the trip!

