

Georgia Racing Hall of Fame

Story/Photos: Phillip Prichard, MSA

Moonshine and racing history come alive at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery. The Georgia Racing Hall of Fame contains the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame Room, The Elliott Family Legacy Room, Georgia racing heritage exhibits including Bill Elliott, Chase Elliott, Spencer Davis, Raymond Parks and many more. Outside the museum, you will find vintage race cars, a garden of bricks, and a winner's circle. The facility hosts special events associated with Georgia's rich racing history and much more. The museum recently had a facelift with new murals and displays.

Auto racing has a long history in this area and another popular destination for all NA-SCAR fans is Gordon Pirkle's Dawsonville Poolroom, located a short distance away in downtown Dawsonville. Each fall, the Moonshine Festival brings thousands of tourists to the GRHOF and the community.

The 48th Moonshine Festival will be October 23-25. The festival explores Dawson County's history during the Prohibition era when liquor was illegal and the Great Depression of the 1930s when running moonshine through the foothills of the Northeast Georgia Mountains was a way of life. Thousands of tourists flock to the birthplace of NASCAR racing to hear about storied legends Lloyd Seay, Roy Hall, Raymond Parks, and Gober Sosebee. These men loved the thrill of being chased by the law along the ridges of the Northeast Georgia Mountains. Bring the family to visit an old moonshine still, our new legal moonshine distillery, and listen to stories from both

"Trippers" and "Revenuers." On Saturday, crafts, food, and entertainment begin at 8 AM on the square in Dawsonville. The parade begins at 9 AM. A huge car show will line the streets and adjacent parking lots, including vintage race cars and their drivers. Sunday, activities will continue with music,



dancers, kid's games and rides, exhibits, crafts, food and cars, cars, and more cars! Fun for the entire family. All proceeds of the festival go to help the needy children in Dawson County. Call 706-216-5273 or www. kareforkids.us for more details.

The Georgia Racing Hall of Fame has been recognized by the Georgia State Legislators and is dedicated to acknowledging prominent members of Georgia's racing community past, present and future. The mission statement of the GRHOF is: "To honor, by public acknowledgement or commemoration, those individuals who have merited recognition and distinction and who, by their exploits, accomplishments, contributions and activities in regard to Georgia's racing history, and who by their character and respectability will serve as an inspiration and an example of highest traditions and whose reputations have withstood the difficult test of time."

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