

Dragstrip Reunion in Dallas

March 21 was the third annual Southeastern Dragstrip Reunion. The dragstrip was an institution in Dallas, GA and is fondly remembered by its fans and drivers. The reunion was held at Hardy Chevrolet in Dallas.

Photos courtesy of Fred Simmons



CHARLES HARDY AND HUBERT PLATT



TALKING BULL...



HUBERT WITH HIS MEMORABILIA



DRAG RACER IN TRAINING!

Ryan Newman's Team Hit With Major Penalties After 'Tire Gate'

NASCAR issued one of the largest penalties in its history Tuesday after Ryan Newman's No. 31 team at Richard Childress Racing was found to have illegally manipulated tires.

Rumors had swept through the NASCAR garage at Martinsville Speedway after officials confiscated tires for two straight weeks. Drivers like Jeff Gordon and Denny Hamlin said



they were certain some teams were drilling small holes in the tires in order to let air out during the course of a run, thus allowing for better wear and grip.

The No. 31 team that competes in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series has been penalized for rules infractions discovered as a result of NASCAR's post-event tire audit conducted following the March 22 race at Auto Club Speedway.

As a result of these violations, crew chief Luke Lambert has been fined a total of \$125,000 (\$75,000 plus \$50,000), suspended from the next six NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Championship races, plus any non-championship races or special events which might occur during that time period, and been placed on NASCAR probation through Dec. 31. James Bender, team tire technician, and Philip

Surgen, team engineer, have been suspended from the next six NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Championship races, plus any non-championship races or special events which might occur during that time period, and been placed on NASCAR probation through Dec. 31.

Driver Ryan Newman and car owner Richard Childress each have been penalized with the loss of 75 (50 plus 25) championship driver and championship car owner points.

"NASCAR takes very seriously its responsibility to govern and regulate the rules of the sport in order to ensure competitive balance," said Steve O'Donnell, Executive Vice President and Chief Racing Development Officer. "We've been very clear that any modifications to race vehicle tires is an unacceptable practice and will not be tolerated."

NASCAR, which warned crew chiefs there



would be harsh penalties for any team caught cheating, also took tires after the Martinsville race. Those tires, taken from Joey Logano, AJ Allmendinger, Martin Truex Jr. and Matt Kenseth, were all found to be legal.

Photos: Leon McVay

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