

# 47th Mountain Moonshine Festival

Story and photos by Phillip Prichard, MSA

An estimated 100,000 visitors descended on Dawsonville, which usually has a population of less than 1000 for the Dawsonville Mountain Moonshine Festival. The Festival has been around for 47 years, this year was one the largest ever.

The Dawsonville Mountain Moonshine Festival is known as the second largest car show in the world by this year's grand marshal, Hubert Platt, the festival featured more than 1,500 cars or every vintage imaginable, plus arts, crafts, food vendors and some of the best local musicians this side of the Mississippi. This year's festival honors J.B. Day of Easley, S.C., who died earlier this year. Day started bringing race cars to Dawsonville more than 20 years ago.

Festivities began on Friday, October 24, with an all-day car show at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame, a vintage "Moonshine Run" through the north Georgia mountains, and a Grand Casino event.

On Saturday, October 25, a parade of antique race cars and moonshine haulers kicked off at 9 a.m. on Highway 53 in front of the hall of fame with opening ceremonies following at 10 a.m. Five bands performed, the car show, tours of the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and approximately 200 vendors were on hand offering food, car accessories, car parts and other collectibles. Hundreds of cars were on display in a variety of classes.

On Sunday, October 26, the car show continued with music from four bands, including Peyton Porter, Logan Hammond and Shakey Willow.

NASCAR great Bill "Awesome Bill" Elliott was on hand signing bottles of his newly launched Dawsonville Moonshine, on Saturday and Sunday. Nationwide points leader, and Bill Elliott's son,

Chase Elliott was signing autographs on Saturday.

The festival is sponsored by Kare for Kids, a local non-profit that started 21 years ago with a goal of brightening the lives of less fortunate children in Dawson County, the festival is held to ensure every child in the county has a Christmas present under the tree. Registration fees and parking fees help support the Kare for Kids. The organization, also, provides year-round assistance. The organization also provides eye glasses, school supplies, winter coats, toys, clothes and other items for Dawson County children.

The visitors were treated with great weather, displays, hospitality. This is a festival to put on your bucket list for next year.



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