

# Darlington's Southern 500

Story: Jenn McVay / Photos: Leon McVay for MSA

Fans are always saying I wish NASCAR was like it was in the old days. After 1 1/2 years of planning, International Speedway Corp., Nascar and Bojangles as the sponsor made the return of the Southern 500 on Labor Day possible.

Goodyear showed up with a great tile. NASCAR came with a new aero package and the drivers loved it. I.S.C. (International Speedway Corp.) went all out with the Retro uniforms for the track workers. ISC also played host to Grand Funk Railroad for the pre-race concert. The race teams also got into the retro theme with 70's style paint and team uniforms.

On hand was the 1972 Richard Petty team. They were there for interviews and to cheer on the #43 STP Retro car. Also making appearances were the 2015 Hall of Fame members and several past inductees.

The racing was more competitive than in the years past. Unlike when Ned Jarrett won the Southern 500 with an 11 lap lead over second place. The race had several lead changes and a record 18 caution flags. Not only did Darlington Raceway with the help of others bring back the Southern 500 on Labor Day. They knocked it out of the park!

After a record setting 18th caution and 11 laps to go, Carl Edwards holds off Keselowski and Hamlin to win the race off pit road. Edwards goes on to win the race. The results are as follows: first place, Carl Edwards; second, Brad Keselowski; third, Denny Hamlin; fourth, Joey Logano; and fifth place, Kevin Harvick.



The retro #43



Retro rubber



A fight among the brews



Jimmy...  
problems, problems, problems



Carl "Bojangles food forever"



And the winner is...CARLINGTON  
(NASCAR PHOTO)