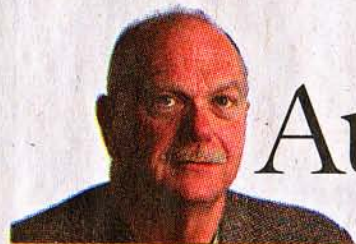


Camping with RVers is a great Daytona time



Autosports

Tim Miller

If you attend NASCAR races with a motorhome, a Hamilton-based website can give you lots of information, advice, and guidance. Wheeling that diesel-powered RV can be an arduous task, and the last things you need are problems getting set up to watch a weekend of your favourite stock car racing.

With a lifelong passion for racing, Hamilton's Chris Ecklund took his motorhome to Daytona for the 500 a couple of years ago and parked in an RV facility alongside the track's Lake Lloyd.

And for the next 10 days, Ecklund said, not only did he and his family enjoy the racing, he enjoyed the people and atmosphere in the RV area.

"This is a place you can take the family and not worry about any shenanigans from boisterous fans in the stands," he said earlier this week. "You're in a gated community with its own security and you can really enjoy yourself."

Ecklund went on to say this area for racing fans with RVs has a lot of amenities, including its own clubhouse. And he improved on this situation, now organizing many activities

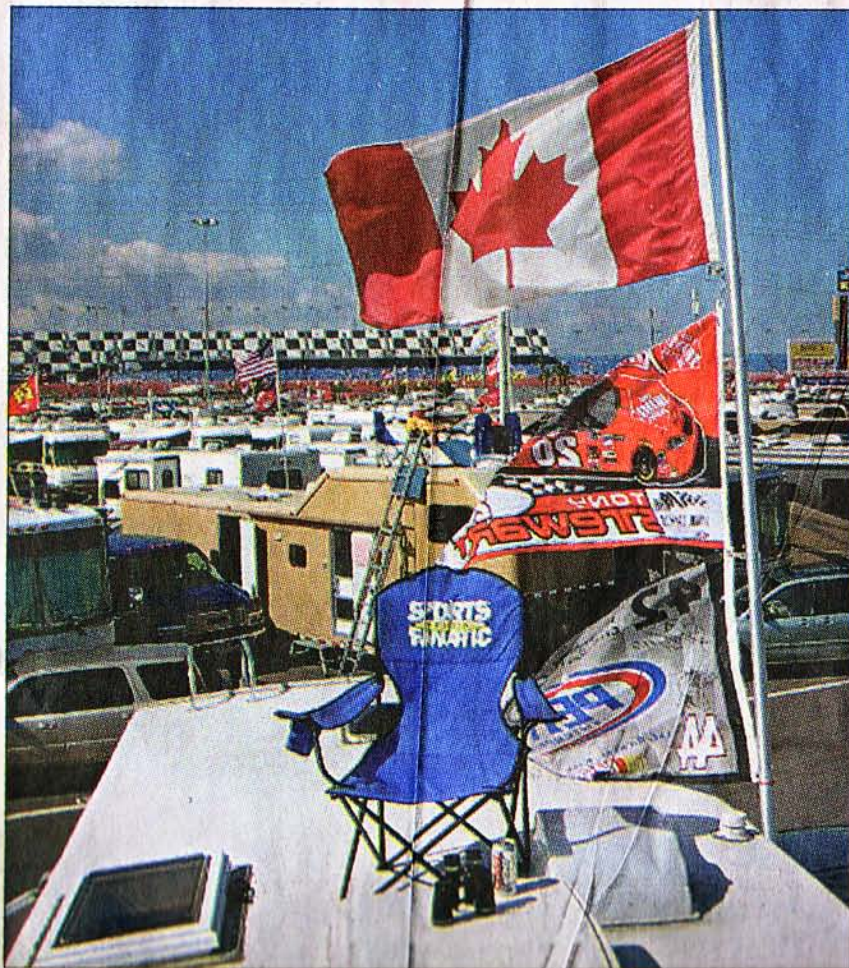
for the people who park in these 300 spots by the side of the infield lake.

"In 2005, we had our initial meet and greet for guests at Daytona," said Ecklund, adding that pool tournaments, karaoke sessions, and Valentine's Day socials are just part of the off-track activities during Daytona's Speed Weeks.

One of the most important of these off-track activities is providing a day at the races for those less fortunate and the website is affiliated with the Speedway Children's Charities, the NASCAR Foundation, and the NASCAR Foundation Volunteer Network.

Now Ecklund organizes events for fans who show up in their RVs at most NASCAR tracks across the U.S. and he encourages his fellow fans to submit photos, stories, and information to nascarcamping.com, a very professional looking and user-friendly site spearheaded by Ecklund.

With content and hosting by volunteers, the site is a great resource for NASCAR fans who would rather experience racing in the comfort of their own home on wheels, whether it's a fifth-wheel trailer or a full-blown



SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR
Canadian race fans can get a few tips from a new website before heading south to watch their favourite NASCAR events.

motor coach.

As Ecklund puts it, no matter how

you get to the track, all fans have a common bond and that's to experi-

ence NASCAR racing.

"Most RVers are social animals," he said, "especially when he comes to NASCAR. It's the ultimate experience for fans. You can really let your hair down."

III

Canadians fared well in last weekend's Koni Challenge Race at Daytona as part of the 2007 Rolex Series.

Driving for the Blackforest Motorsports team, Toronto's David Empringham co-drove with Tom Nastasi of CT in their Mustang to win the 64-lap race. And taking second place in the 102-car field was the Mustang GT entry of Hyper Sport with co-drivers Scott Maxwell of Toronto and Joe Foster of GA. Both were in the GS class. The Blackforest Mustang started in third and the Hyper Sport entry started on the pole.

Quebec's Patrick Carpentier was a team driver in the SAMAX Pontiac Riley in the DP class for the Rolex 24 at Daytona and the team placed second with 668 laps to its credit.

Co-driving with Carpentier was Milka Duno of Venezuela, whose second place result was confirmed by Grand-Am officials as the highest finish by a woman driver in the event's 45-year history.

And Champ Car's Paul Tracy of Toronto was a driver in the Michael Shank Racing entry, driving a Lexus Riley which finished 26th overall after starting in 10th.

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