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Spring/Summer 2016

LAKE NORMAN

OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE

Local Maps • Dining Guide • NASCAR Shops • Attractions

WHAT'S INSIDE

Favorite Lake Norman Restaurants

Fun and Educational Attractions

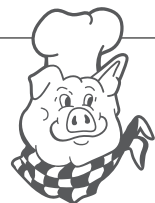
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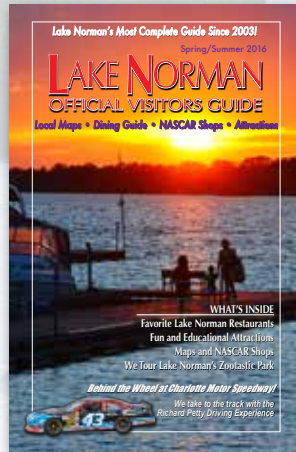
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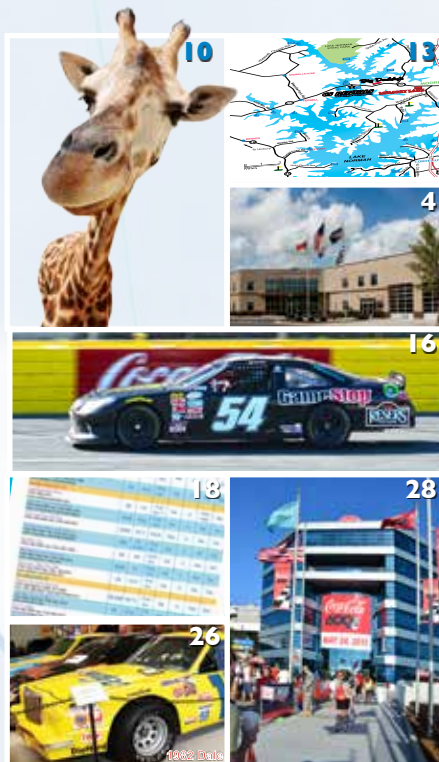
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About the Cover

A brilliantly colored sunset marks the end of another beautiful day on Lake Norman. This particular sunset over a Cornelius marina illustrates what it means to live here: fun, family, beauty, recreation and more—all in one photo. Douglas Foland, Publisher doug@lknguide.com



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Jetton Park on Lake Norman 106-acre Mecklenburg County lake-side park. Amenities include walking trails and picnic areas, lighted tennis courts, a gazebo, playgrounds and a sunning beach. There's a bicycle rental shop and a concession stand. Waterfront Hall can be reserved for special events. 19000 Jetton Rd. off exit 28. (704) 896-9808

Lake Norman Miniature Golf 18-hole course at Exit 28 18639 Statesville Rd. (704) 892-9800 www.lknminigolf.com

Ramsey Creek Park This 46-acre, waterfront, Mecklenburg County park has boat launches and docks, a fishing pier, nature trail, picnic shelters, sunning beaches and a playground. 8441 Nantz Rd. off exit 28. (704) 896-9808



Downtown Davidson

Davidson

Historic Downtown Davidson is the perfect place to spend the afternoon on a stroll past turn-of-the-century buildings and picturesque Victorian style homes on tree lined streets. Main Street is lined with unique shops to browse and an old-fashioned soda shop where you can get a great hamburger. There's also a local cafe that offers a few sidewalk tables. On many summer Sundays live music flows from the Town Green that plays host to local events and concerts throughout the spring and summer. The downtown is also the home of the beautiful grounds and structures of Davidson College. For more information visit: www.downtowndavidson.org or call (704) 940-9622

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Rural Hill The 1760 homestead of Major John Davidson was once one of the most prosperous plantations in the region. The site offers cultural events, educational programs, and history tours. Featured events are the Rural Hill Scottish Festival, the Amazing Maize Maze, and the Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials. 4431 Neck Road, www.ruralhill.net (704) 875-3113



Mooresville

Race City USA www.racecityusa.org

Carrigan Farms 120-acre farm offers fresh fruit and vegetables, a beautiful quarry for special events. Educational tours and hayrides. 1261 Oak Ridge Farm Hwy. (704) 664-1450 www.carriganfarms.com

Kasey Kahne Racing The home of USAC World Of Outlaws short track teams and retail store where you can buy Kasey Kahne merchandise, die-cast cars and even browse a trophy case filled with Kasey's trophies from his career. 265 Cayunga Drive. www.kaseykahnestore.com (704) 660-3903 ext. 0

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JR Motorsports/Jr. Nation Store

A retail store devoted exclusively to Dale Earnhardt Jr. and his JR Motorsports brands. The store offers a wide variety of merchandise and collectibles. Inside the store is a life-size Dale Jr. wax figure sculpted by world renowned Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and a large viewing window into the race shop. The store is also home to the Dirty Mo Radio studio where you can catch live recordings of various podcast shows hosted by our own JRM personalities and drivers. All DMR podcasts are available to listen for free @ DaleJr.com & other podcast-catching networks such as iTunes & RSSRadio. The retail store is open from 8:30-5:00 Monday -Friday, 10-3 on Saturday and closed Sundays. Shop tours are available on Thursdays and Friday by appointment, email shopstours@jrmracing.com to schedule. 349 Cayuga Rd. Talbert Industrial Park Center www.dalejr.com 866-JRM-8883

The Lazy 5 Ranch is a privately owned exotic animal drive thru park that offers a 3.5 mile safari, petting areas, a blacksmith shop, gift store, horse barn, playground and picnic areas. You can see these animals from the safety of your own car or call for reservations for a horse drawn wagon ride. 15100 Hwy 150 East, Mooresville. (704) 663-5100

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Richard Petty Motorsports NASCAR team co-owned by NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty. Located in the heart of Race City USA the team fields NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race cars prepared in their facility. See the race team prepare for the upcoming race and visit their pro shop for racing memorabilia. You just might get lucky and bump into The King or one of his racing drivers. richardpettymotorsports.com

Penske Racing One best area shops for fans to visit. You can view cars being prepared for the next race from the "Fan Walk" just above the shop floor and tour the gift shop. Open Mon-Fri 9:00am to 5pm. Located on Penske Way just north of Downtown Mooresville. (704) 664-2300 penskeracing.com

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Other Area Attractions

Zootastic An affordable, interactive zoo that creates a unique, fun, and educational experience for families or large groups. Take a walk through our Western Town to see fennec foxes, coatimundi and others. Take an adventurous wagon ride where you will meet and feed watusi, blackbuck, wildebeests, bison, llamas, alpacas and more. Interact with a Patagonian cavy, camels, kangaroos, porcupines, goats and donkeys in our Barnyard Petting Zoo. Explore the rest of the park to see our tigers, lions, hyenas, ring-tailed lemurs, gibbons, Siberian lynx and so much more! 385 Ostwalt Amity Road, Troutman NC 28166 www.zootasticpark.com (888) 966-0069

Concord Motorsport Park Worlds fastest paved 1/2 mile Tri-Oval. From Go-Carts to powerful Late Models race throughout the season. Call (704) 782-4221 for a schedule of events. 7940 Hwy 601 South Concord. www.concordspeedway.net

Charlotte Motor Speedway The Speedway is home to NASCAR, World Karting and Legends Car Racing. The Coca-Cola 600, one of NASCAR's premier racing events, is held here over Memorial Day Weekend culminating an entire month of racing activities. Concord I-85 at Exit 49 on Hwy. 29 (704) 455-3200

Hendrick Motorsports 15,000-square-foot facility filled with the cars and memorabilia of Kasey Kahne, Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. Offers race fans the latest in team-related apparel and merchandise. View live pit stops. Self-guided tours, pit practice and admission to the Hendrick Motorsports Museum and Team Store are free of charge. 4411 Papa Joe Hendrick Boulevard, Concord (877) 467-4890 www.HendrickMotorsports.com.

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Stewart-Haas Racing the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series team co-owned by three-time Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart and Haas Automation founder, Gene Haas. 6001 Haas Way, Kannapolis www.stewarthaasracing.com (704) 652-4227

Lake Norman State Park The park includes 13 miles of Lake Norman shoreline is within this 1,300 acre state park's border. Here you can swim, camp, hike, mountain bike, or fish in the beautiful lake front woodlands. 33 campsites can be rented on a first-come, first-served basis, each including tent pads, picnic tables, and grills. Camping for groups up to 25 people is available by reservation. A boat launch is available free for boaters while pedal boats and canoes can be rented at the swimming area bathhouse. The lake front swimming area is the only public swim-

ming area on the lake and boasts a sandy beach, diving platform, and a roped off swim area. Picnic tables are scattered throughout the park with two larger picnic areas available that can be reserved. Enjoy a hike along nature trails that wind along the shore and through the park. To reach the park take Exit 42 west off I-77. (704) 528-6350 or visit: www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/lano/main.php



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Landmark Galleries Features watercolors, photographs and even books by one of Lake Norman's most celebrated artists "Cotton" Ketchie. Inside the gallery you can browse paintings and photos of historical Lake Norman landmarks and beautiful scenery from around the United States. Downtown Mooresville at 159 N. Main St. www.landmark-galleries.com (704) 664-4122 (800) 842-8604

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Is your business missing from our Guide? Call (704) 230-8706 to be included next season!

One Of Lake Norman's Most Popular Attractions

ZOOTASTIC PARK

OF LAKE NORMAN

Story and photos by Doug Foland

The first thing you notice upon arriving at Zootastic Park

isn't the animals, it's the children. Happy children are everywhere you look. The sounds of laughter, giggles and gasps of excitement fill the air. This is a place where learning is fun, exciting and interactive.

No place is this more evident than the giraffe exhibit, the first stop on our tour. The elevated platform was filled with captivated children petting and feeding the two friendly giraffes. The young giraffes, a one-year-old named Jigsaw, and a two and a half year old named Melman, were just as interested in the kids and enjoyed all the attention.

Our tour guide for the day, Scottie Brown, the park's owner and founder, told the kids that the giraffes give kisses. He put a cracker between his teeth, and much to the delight of the kids, the older giraffe took it in his soft lips exposing its dark purple tongue. This was such a hit that a girl of about 10 or 11 volunteered for a giraffe kiss of her own.

With an annual attendance of around 100,000, Zootastic Park is one of Lake Norman's most popular attractions. Spread across 60 acres of rural countryside just north east of Lake Norman, over 300 animals call the park home. In addition to viewing the animal enclosures, admission includes a covered wagon ride through 44 acres populated with over 150 animals. On the ride you will encounter buffalo, bison, watusi, llamas, alpacas, waterbuck, blackbuck, oryx, zebras, emus, wildebeest and more. Just your average Lake Norman safari!

Zootastic Park is Scottie Brown's ambitious vision and his pride in the facility and love of the animals is evident as he guides us around. With over 30 years experience working with exotic animals, his lifelong dream became a reality when the park opened in 2010. And that vision is still growing. There are many exhibits and improvements under construction or planned for the near future.

From the giraffe exhibit, Scottie leads us down a gravel path that bisects the entire compound. Animals line both sides of the path. We saw Zebra's, kangaroos, wildebeests, and more.

At the end of the path is the petting zoo and the boarding platform for the wagon ride. At the petting zoo more delighted kids are introduced to a variety of friendly animals, including several species of goats, pigs, llama's and sheep. Our favorites were the curious little pigs running through the legs of the larger animals and the Jacob sheep whose domestication dates back to biblical times, and is the only 4-horned mammal in existence.

Next to the petting zoo Scottie pointed out the new Lemur Island exhibit that's under construction. To keep its future residents ringtailed and black and white ruffed lemurs in check, the island is surrounded by a 10-foot wide moat. Scottie assured us that Lemurs don't swim.

Another exhibit opening soon will allow guests to walk with a variety of parakeets and parrots.

One of the park's most popular residents is a young



Zootastic covered wagons take guests thru a 44 acre preserve featuring over 150 animals.

white Siberian tiger named Elsa. When we arrive at her home the Tiger is nowhere to be found. A few calls from Mr. Brown, and the "baby" tiger, who is already bigger than any dog, ambles from its artificial cave to greet him.

Mr. Brown's affection for animals in his care is evident throughout our tour. Like many of the animals in the park Elsa is very attached to him. The moment Scottie steps into the enclosure she wants attention and is ready to play.

As we walked, Scottie Brown demonstrated his special relationship with each of the animals. Every animal we met on the tour came when he called, and looked for his attention. Perhaps the special connection Mr. Brown has with animals was best demonstrated with the park's two hyenas. When we walked up to their enclosure the nocturnal animals were tucked away in their lair. Although more closely related to cats than dogs, spotted hyenas have a reputation as one of the most vicious mammals on earth, but when Scottie called they came to him begging for attention like a couple of puppies.

Zootastic Park's residents include many young or baby animals that Scottie and his family are personally raising. In addition to the young giraffe and Siberian tiger, we were introduced to an adorable baby kangaroo, a liliger cub (a cross between a male lion and a ligress) and an adorable baby hyena. There were twin baby lemurs as well, but they were too shy to show their faces.



Leaping Lemurs!

With leaping and climbing abilities that Spider Man would envy, these white and black ruffed lemurs are two of the stars of the Animal Encounter that we highly recommend. If you think a barrel of monkeys is fun, spend a few minutes with these guys!

Our tour culminated with a lemur encounter. We stepped into the room and four lemurs, two ringtailed and two white and black ruffed, bound in, literally bouncing off the walls. Curious about my camera, two of them bounce onto my head and shoulders. Light as a cat, but with baby soft hands and fur, these endangered animals are truly remarkable creatures, and we highly recommend seeing them up close like this.

A day at Zootastic Park is both fun and educational. The interactive zoo is the perfect attraction for Lake Norman visitors, schools, families, church groups and even birthday parties. Kids and adults will enjoy the Western Town, Safari Trail, Wagon Ride, Petting Zoo and Animal Encounters with lemurs and other amazing creatures. There are also picnic areas and a playground. If you are in town during the Holidays, don't miss the park's Wonderland of Lights with over 3.5 million lights on display!

**For more information visit: www.zootasticpark.com
The park is open 365 days a year 9am to 5 pm Monday thru Saturday, and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday.**



Owner Scottie Brown and Elsa



Liliger Cub

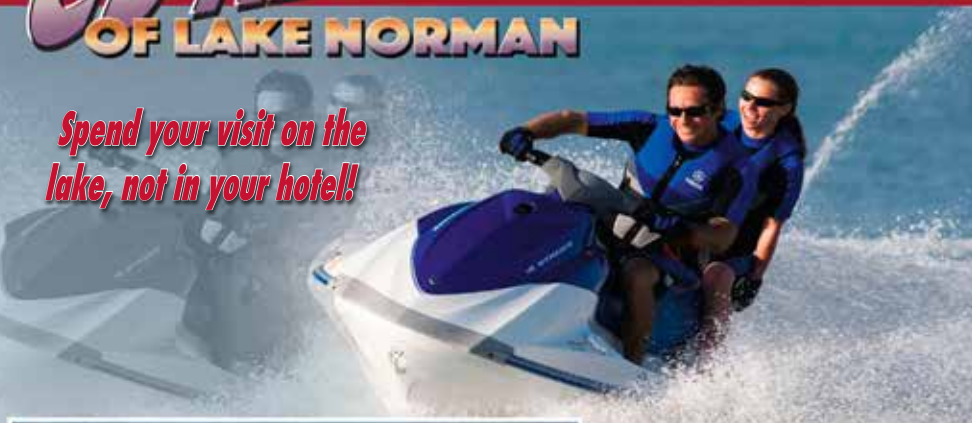
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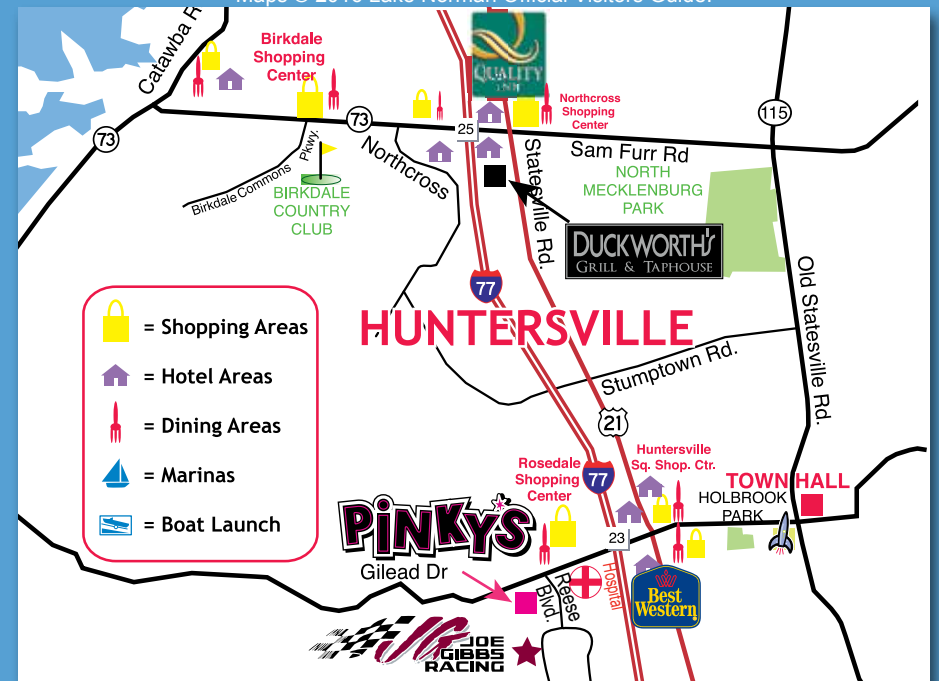
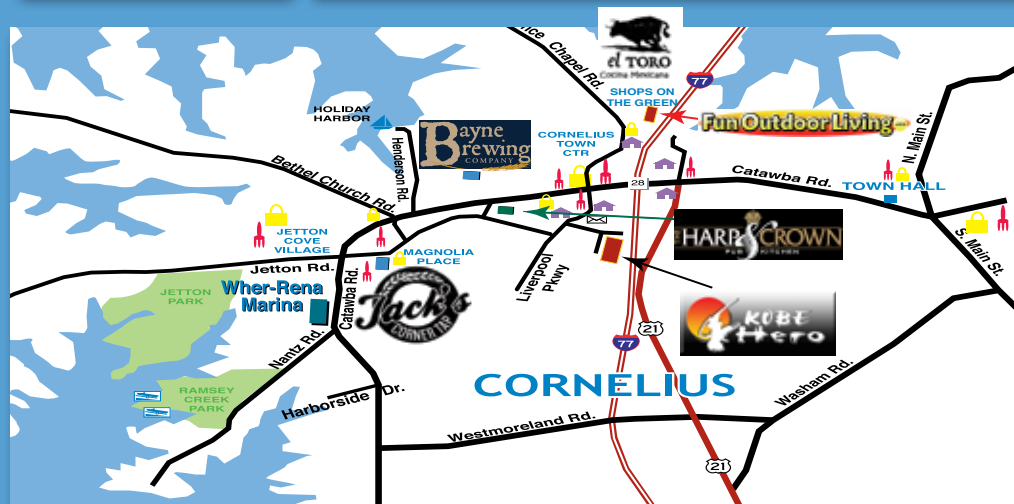
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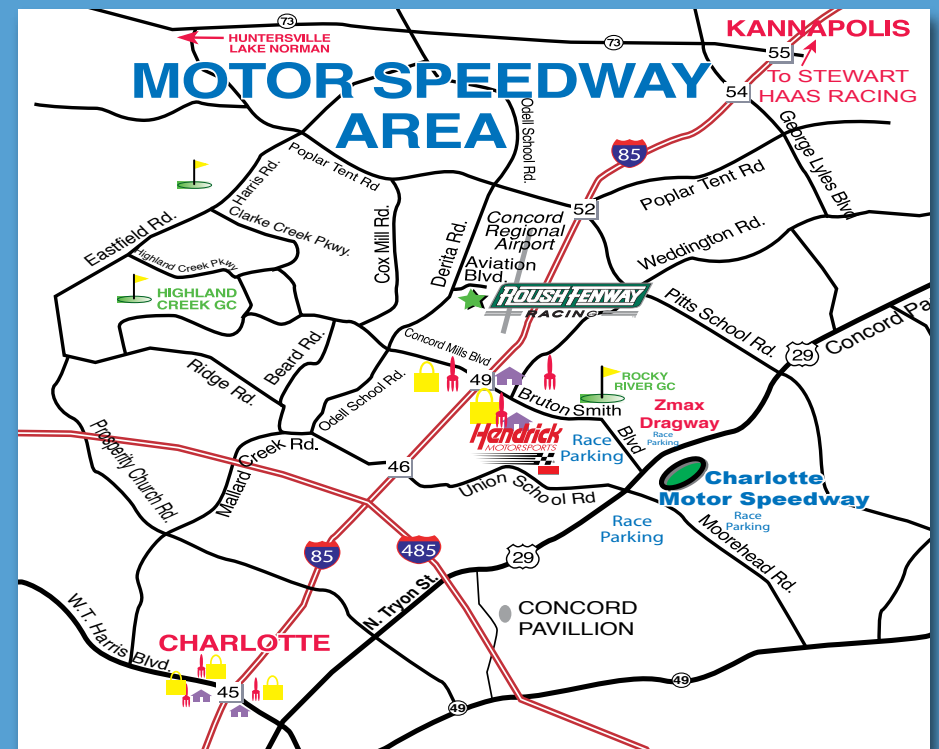




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On Pit Lane waiting for the green flag!

Richard Petty Driving Experience Puts You Behind The Wheel Of A Real NASCAR Race Car!

Ever wonder what it's like to scream down the backstretch at 150mph, feel the g-forces of the high banked turns, or race to the finish line at Charlotte Motor Speedway?

If you love the roar of an 800hp V8, and the whine of high performance impact wrenches is music to your ears, and the smell of high-octane fuel and burning rubber is almost as alluring as the aroma of Thanksgiving dinner, you are a true NASCAR fan. And what fan doesn't dream of getting behind the wheel and racing around the track with the throttle down. Making those dreams a reality is exactly the business Richard Petty Driving Experience is in. Operating at more than 16 major speedways across the country, RPDE puts regular drivers, like me, "in a NASCAR race car for an adrenaline pumping thrill of a lifetime." In other words this is about as close as you can get to driving a NASCAR race car without having to qualify.

My NASCAR dream came true on a beautiful day in March at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, at least part of my NASCAR dream. Turns out, for safety rea-



Final Instructions



Story by Doug Foland Photos by Drew Foland

sons, passing both Busch brothers on the last lap at Miami to win the NASCAR Cup Championship, is not available at RPDE. Oh well.

The experience started with an instructional video hosted by Kyle Petty and an introduction by the King himself, Richard Petty. In the video, Kyle gave us a quick description of the 600hp car I would be driving. He explained that drivers are in radio contact with our ride-along instructor and pointed out white and orange marks on the track that helps drivers stay in the racing line. He also explained that there were no "governors" on the engines to restrict the driver's speed, but the ride-along instructor could dial the engine back by remote control if he sees a problem. Kyle also said we were allowed to pass slower cars, which got some applause from the drivers in the group.

After some more track-side instructions and watching a few other drivers take their laps, I'm escorted to my #54 black Toyota, which happens to be next to the #11 FedEx Toyota. At this point I'm faced with the first difficult maneuver of the day. Climbing into a NASCAR race car and wearing a helmet and Hans devise is a real challenge that NASCAR drivers make look easy.

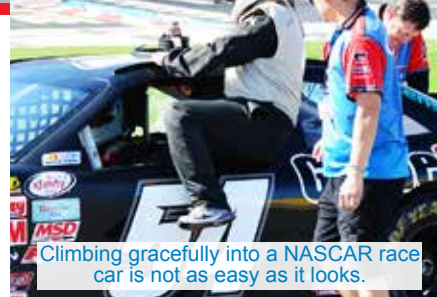
Once in the cockpit, I meet my ride-along instructor, James, a great guy with an accent right out of central casting, and am strapped in very tightly by the crew. As we waited to leave the pits, I must admit, there were a few butterflies in my stomach. I wasn't scared of going fast. After watching another driver race down the front straightaway at under freeway speeds, embarrassing myself with slow lap times was my biggest fear.

Finally my turn comes and the engine rumbled to life. Believe me, 600hp at your command is a very satisfying feeling. We roll out of the pits, burnouts are not allowed, and as instructed drove under the white line through turns 1 and 2. Finally the car we were waiting for went by and my ride-along instructor gave me the green light. I shifted into fourth and floored it.

The initial acceleration down the backstretch was awesome. In just a second we reached the strategically placed orange cone entering turn one and I was off the gas. It didn't feel like I was going that fast yet, but as instructed, I coasted into the turn. By the third lap I was in a groove and going much faster. On one lap James admonished for not getting close enough to the white line at the apex between turns 1 and 2. What can I say, the car was working better higher in the turns. I floored the gas and the car screamed out of turn 3 and up near the wall on the backstretch. Blurred racetrack rushed under the hood as I reached the fastest section of the track. At the orange cone I lifted



My #54 Versus the #11



Climbing gracefully into a NASCAR race car is not as easy as it looks.

off the gas, dove hard into turn 3, and felt the very satisfying pull of g-forces as I accelerated out of turn 4.

Since the cars are set up to pull to the left, coming out of turn 4 you steer to the right and aim for the dogleg between the grandstands and the grass. The goal is to hit the dogleg only a few feet from the grass, streak past the start finish line and move to the outside to set up for turn 1. This was harder than it looks, but amazingly satisfying when you do it right!

Perhaps the most exciting part of my experience was lap 6. As I came off turn two I could see the #11 on the backstretch in front of me. The sight of another car fired my competitiveness. I lift a little later going into turn three and stay on the gas just a little. Then, pedal to the metal, I come off turn 4 and I can read the FedEx logo on the back of car ahead of me. I'm closing fast as I flash past the start finish line. Setting up for turn 1 I can almost imagine the TV announcer describing the great run I have on the #11 car and the roar of the crowd as I close the gap. I'm about to blow by on the outside when... the ride-along instructor dials back my horsepower. He waits just a moment for the other car to get lower in the turn then unleashes the motor again. And, imagining it's Denny Hamlin at the wheel, and not a chemical salesman from Charlotte, I blow the doors off the #11 FedEx Toyota. You can't imagine the thrill as I sped down the backstretch with the other car in my dust.

After that, the last few laps go by fast, literally. My



times improved each time around the track. I felt comfortable at the speed I was going, and yes, if my ride-along hadn't insisted I let off the gas completely, I may have gone a little faster through the corners. But as Kyle Petty said in the video, these cars are designed for safety, not to drive on the edge like a NASCAR pro.

Then, way too soon it's over and I'm coasting into the pits.

Waiting for my lap times, I'm guessing I was going 160mph or better. Turns out I had one of the best runs of the day, averaging just over 132mph with a top speed just under 150mph on my best lap. Which really makes you appreciate the incredible skill of a NASCAR driver. Average lap speeds for top qualifiers at Charlotte Motor Speedway in an unimaginable 190mph-70mph faster than I was going! That's free-way traffic passing you at a standstill and they reach these speeds with 39 other cars on the track!

P.S, I never noticed the white and orange marks on the track. Probably too focused on the absolute thrill of the

For more information about creating your own driving experience visit:

www.drivepetty.com or call 1-800-237-3889



Don't want to drive? Ride-alongs also available.



Nearly 150mph On The Backstretch!

Accommodations

Huntersville Exit 23	Cost	Rooms/suites	Breakfast	Restaurant	Handicap Rooms	Pets	Pool
Best Western Best Western Huntersville Inn & Suites (704) 875-7880 Fax (704) 875-0277 Res. 1-800-780-7234 www.bestwestern.com email 34169@hotel.bestwestern.com	\$\$	50/16	Cont. Inc.	No	4	Yes	Ext.
Comfort Suites (800) 424-6423 or (704) 875-6220 www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nc619 100% Smoke Free Hotel	\$\$	89 suites	Full Inc.	No	6	No	Int.
Super 8 (704) 875-1165 Fax (704) 875-1894 www.super8.com	\$\$	60/2	Full Inc.	No	3	No	Ext.
Hampton Inn & Suites (704) 947-5510 Fax (704) 947-5512 http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com	\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$	125/37	Full Inc.	No	7	No	Ext.
Huntersville Exit 25							
Candlewood Suites (704) 895-3434 www.candlewoodsuites.com	\$\$	75 suites	In room kitchen	No	4	Yes/Fee	No
Country Suites (704) 895-6565 Fax (704) 895-5456 www.countryinns.com/huntersvillenc	\$\$\$\$	5/82	Full Inc.	No	4	No	Int.
Courtyard by Marriott (704) 949-4900 Fax (704) 949-4901 www.marriott.com	\$\$\$\$	87/3	Full \$	Yes	5	No	Int.
Holiday Inn Express & Suites (704) 892-9487 Fax (704) 892-9402 www.hiexpress.com/huntersvilleNC	\$\$\$	91 suites	Full Inc.	No	8	No	Ext.
Quality Inn (704) 892-6597 Fax (704) 892-1628 www.choicehotels.com	\$\$	68	Cont. Inc.	No	3	No	No
Residence Inn by Marriott (704) 584-0000 Fax (704) 584-0001 www.residenceinn.com/cltrn	\$\$\$\$	78	Full Inc.	No	7	Yes	Ext.
Sleep Inn Lake Norman (704) 766-2500 Fax (704) 766-2501 www.sleepinn.com/hotel/nc316	\$\$	107/1	Full Inc.	No	8	No	No
Cornelius Exit 28							
Clarion Inn Lake Norman (704) 896-0660 or (888) 207-0666 Fax (704) 896-8633 www.clarionhotel.com	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$	80/10	Full Inc.	No	4	Yes	Ext.
Comfort Inn & Suites (704) 896-7622 Fax (704) 896-7623 www.comfortinn.com	\$\$	45/20	Full Inc.	No	4	No	Ext.
Econo Lodge (704) 892-3500 Fax (704) 892-6473 www.econolodge.com	\$	80/10	Cont. Inc.	No	5	Yes	Ext.
Hampton Inn Lake Norman (704) 892-9900 Fax (704) 896-7488 www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com	\$\$\$	117	Cont. Inc.	No	4	No	Ext.
Microtel Inn (704) 895-1828 www.microtelinn.com	\$	60	Cont. Inc.	No	5	Yes	No
Days Inn (704) 892-9120 www.daysinn.com	\$\$	116	Cont. Inc.	No	6	Yes/Fee	Ext.
Davidson Exit 30							
Homewood Suites by Hilton (704) 987-1818 www.davidson.homewoodsuites.com	\$\$\$\$	128 suites	Buffet	No	7	No	Int.
Mooreville Exit 33							
Hilton Garden Inn (704) 633-6468 Fax (704) 663-6489 www.hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com	\$\$\$\$	122	\$\$	Yes	12	No	Int./Fit Ctr.
TownePlace Suites by Marriott (704) 659-8600 (888) 235-6613 www.marriott.com/cltmo	\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$	116 suites	Buffet	No	7	Yes/Fee	Int./Fit Ctr.
SpringHill Suites by Marriott (704) 658-0053 Fax (704) 658-2317 www.marriott.com/cltmo	\$\$\$\$	107	Buffet	No	7	No	Ext.

Accommodations

Mooreville Exit 36	Cost	Rooms/suites	Breakfast	Restaurant	Handicap Rooms	Pets	Pool
Days Inn by Wyndham (704) 664-6100 Fax (704) 664-4666	\$\$	102	Cont. Inc.	No	4	No	Ext.
Fairfield Inn by Marriot (704) 663-6100 Fax (704) 663-6138 www.fairfieldinn.com	\$\$\$-\$\$\$	97	Cont. Inc.	No	6	No	Ext. Spa
Hampton Inn & Suites (704) 660-7700 Fax (704) 660-7712 www.hamptoninn.hilton.com	\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$	105/26	Full Inc.	No	6	No	Ext.
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites (704) 662-6900 Fax (704) 662-6914	\$\$ \$\$\$\$	52/22	Cont. Inc.	No	5	YES	Ext.
Quality Inn & Suites (704) 664-6556 Fax (704) 664-1662 www.choicehotels.com	\$\$	74	Cont. Inc.	No	4	No	Ext.
Sleep Inn & Suites (704) 799-7070 Fax (704) 799-7658 www.sleepinn.com	\$\$ \$\$\$	58/13	Cont. Inc.	No	4	No	Int. Spa
Carolina Inn of Lake Norman (704) 662-6188 www.lakenormanhotel.com	\$\$	58	Cont. Inc.	No	3	No	Ext.
Wingate by Wyndham (704) 664-4900 Fax (704) 664-4944 www.wingatehotels.com	\$\$\$	83/3	Hot Full	No	5	No	Int./Fit Ctr.

Vacation Rentals



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email: 34169@hotel.bestwestern.com

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From hotdogs to steaks and seafood to sushi, Lake Norman has a perfect dining experience for every visitor.

Huntersville

EXIT 23

Groucho's Deli Owned by JD Gibbs, President of Joe Gibbs Racing, and his wife Melissa. 100% of all proceeds generated by Groucho's of Huntersville will be donated to several local charities close to the heart of the Gibbs family and others that will be rotated on a quarterly basis. They hope that customers will embrace the idea of giving back to their community while enjoying the best specialty subs, sandwiches, and salads the South has to offer! 9931 Rose Commons Drive Huntersville (704) 948-4545 www.grouchos.com/locations/huntersville.html




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Pinky's Westside Grill An independent eclectic diner featured on the Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*. Serving world famous burgers and artisan cocktails. A Place where all walks of life come together over good eats, including vegan options. Offering daily food and drink specials. Fun and friendly atmosphere great for families. Locations in Huntersville and Charlotte. 9818 Gilead Rd. ste B-101 Huntersville, (704) 727.0142 www.eatatpinkys.com

Verde Urban Mexican Grill & Cantina Mexican Cuisine with a modern, urban flair. Full bar, and outdoor patio dining. 9818 Gilead Rd. Suite 107B Huntersville (704) 274-9224



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EXIT 25



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Hickory Tavern IS all things to all people. We're serious about eating, having a good time and watching the game! On the menu expect to find outstanding American Fare along with a few surprises. 9526 Birkdale Crossing Dr. www.hickorytavern.com

Brixx Pizza Wood-fired pizza, sandwiches, pasta, and beers. Birkdale Village (704) 894-0044

Clean Juice Organic juices and smoothies. Birkdale Village. cleanjuicebar.com (704) 997-3385

Smoke Modern BBQ Birkdale Village smokemodernbbq.com (704) 896-0233

Cornelius

EXIT 28



Bayne Brewing Company A family-owned nano beer brewery that specializes in making the highest quality brews possible by sourcing the best ingredients available. We utilize a two

barrel brew system which allows us to make top notch, small batch beers. Craft beer is something that is meant to be enjoyed with friends and family and we want to share that experience with our customers. 19507 W. Catawba Ave. (704) 897-6426 baynebrewingcompany.com

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The Harp & Crown Pub and Kitchen This Irish pub brings the authentic taste of Ireland to Lake Norman. Serving a selection of favorite Irish traditional meals and appetizers, all personally prepared by the owners. Or you can enjoy specialty burgers and more from their great menu. Dine outside on one of Lake Norman's largest and most attractive restaurant patios. And don't forget the beer! Like any great pub, the Harp & Crown has a great selection of import and domestic beers. If you want to experience a real Irish pub, without a trip to Ireland, then stop by for lunch or dinner, or just to enjoy some company and a Guinness at the bar. 19930 W Catawba Ave #130, Cornelius (704) 892-9641 www.theharpandcrown.com

Jack's Corner Tap Come let our friendly staff take care of you! Jack's Corner Tap offers a wide variety of menu items from sandwiches and burgers to grilled salmon and prime rib entrees and brunch on Sunday's. Jack's is family friendly and has outdoor patio seating to enjoy all summer long. Plus we have large TV's on every wall so you won't miss a moment of your favorite sport anytime of the year! Located at: 8301-1 Magnolia Estates Drive. (704) 892-4433 Jackscornertaplk.com



131 Main Offers fresh food and an inviting setting to meet friends, family and business associates. Join us for lunch or dinner and enjoy a welcoming atmosphere and unique offerings. 17830 N. Statesville Rd. (704) 896-0131

Kobe Hero Japanese Steak and Sushi Restaurant At Kobe Hero, you will enjoy the food and the show! Highly skilled chefs prepare your dinner right before your eyes in a dazzling display of culinary artistry! 16 hibachi grills and a large sushi bar will satisfy any type of appetite. **Sushi/Hibachi Lunch Buffet! Tuesday-Friday. All you can eat of our top quality sushi!** Full bar including all mixed drinks, beer and wine. Perfect for special occasions, parties and groups! Great early bird specials and drink specials every day. Birthday specials. Serving dinner seven days a week. 20465 Chartwell Ctr. Dr. Next to Lake Norman Hyundai. (704) 896-7778 kobeherolk.com

Port City Club Casual waterfront dining with meals created by one of Lake Norman's most popular restaurateurs. Large patio seating area overlooking the lake. Full bar with wide-screen TV's. 18665 Harbor-side Dr. (704) 765-1565 www.portcityclub.com



Find all our favorite
restaurants on the Lake
Norman maps!

Davidson

EXIT 30

Mestizo Contemporary Mexican Cuisine

Created by a host of families originally from Mexico City, Mestizo is a dining experience in a class by itself in the Carolinas. Our restaurant serves a litany of authentic and contemporary recipes from ALL over Mexico, that have been prepared for years in our own homes and handed down for generations. Cultured, warm, friendly, elegant, interesting, truly embracing; our restaurant is all of these things. Come and experience lunch or dinner at 121 N. Main St. www.mestizocontemporarymexican.com (704) 997-5933

Ben & Jerry's 202 S. Main Street. (704) 892-0604

Brick House Oak fired steaks, pizza and fish. 209 Delburg St. (704) 987-2022

Mooresville

EXIT 33

Jeffrey's Restaurant Offers casual fine dining with a unique character and an inviting setting. Rendezvous with friends at the bar before dinner, or enjoy an intimate meal listening to Jazz with a glass of fine wine and one of our signature entrees like stuffed pork chop, or filet mignon. Located at I-77 exit 33 in Mooresville. www.jeffreyslkn.com (704) 799-1110

The Prickly Pear Modern Mexican Cuisine at its authentic best. The finest fresh ingredients, wonderful lake views and a unique menu filled with rare entrees and appetizers offer a fine dining experience like no other. Full bar, and outdoor patio dining overlooking the lake. 637 Williamson Road, just west of I-77 exit 33 (704) 799-0875 www.pricklypear.net

EXIT 35

Famous Toastery Lake Norman's favorite location for breakfast and lunch, Famous Toastery is all about the experience. Extraordinary food, combined with a home-style atmosphere and exceptional service, will leave you in anticipation of your next visit. Come in, enjoy a great meal, get to know the staff and become part of our family. We promise to make your first visit the first of many. 134 Mooresville Commons Way (704) 696-8436 www.toastcafeonline.com/mooresville

Fusion Bowl Asian Bistro and Sushi Bar

Amazingly Fresh Sushi! Fine Chinese, Japanese and Thai cuisine. Fusion Bowl serves an eclectic mix of wonderful Asian inspired dishes. Each meal is hand-crafted and prepared with only the finest and freshest ingredients. Full service lounge serving Asian inspired drinks. Great daily food and drink specials and very affordable lunch menu. Conveniently located just west of I-77, Exit 35. 26 Mooresville Commons Way, Mooresville. (704) 664-5999 www.fusionbowlinc.com

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Blue Star Grill Fresh Natural Food! Blu Star Grill offers fine affordable farm-to-fork fare. Located at 120-A Market Place Ave, (704) 660-5577 www.BluStar-Grill.com

EXIT 36

Big Daddy's Restaurant & Oyster Bar Seafood, Steak and Prime Rib at its Best. Plus Lake Norman's largest and Best Oyster Bar. Excellent service and food in a warm friendly atmosphere. Banquet facilities for parties, reunions, and weddings. Opens at 5pm nightly. Great specials Sunday - Thursday. Take Exit 36 off I-77. Located 3 miles West on Hwy 150. www.bigdaddys.com (704) 663-4242

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Duckworth's Grill and Tap House We offer Award-winning Wings & Philly CheeseSteaks, Pizzas, Flatbreads and Hand Cut Fries, just to name a few. Our award-winning craft beer selections contain unique and rare beers that can't be found just anywhere. We have 5 locations in the Charlotte/Lake Norman area, 2 of which are in the lake area. 16609 Statesville Rd. Huntersville. **560 River Hwy, Mooresville (704) 799-2881 www.duckworths.com**

Davino's Queen's Pizza Serving the best Pizza and Wings South of Tonawanda. Everything at DAVINO's is **HOMEMADE** from fresh ingredients including homemade sauces and dressings. For over 20 years we've been creating authentic homemade NY Style Pizza with ingredients straight from New Jersey.

484 A River Hwy (Hwy 150) **(704) 799-1493**

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www.lancastersbbq.com (704) 663-5807

Lancaster's Hawg Trawgh Saloon Ride in or drive in; you don't need a motorcycle to be welcome at the Trawgh. Cold beer and live music weather permitting. Outdoor seating and every Wednesday night is bike night until October. 515 Rinehardt Road.

www.lancastersbbq.com (704) 663-5807

Pomodoro's Italian American Cafe Casual, cozy and family friendly restaurant that specializes in Italian American favorites and authentic Stone Hearth pizza and baked goods. Uses only the finest quality ingredients receiving produce and meat deliveries every day. All sauces and dough are made in-house daily. Fully stocked bar. Just east of I-77 at 168 Norman Station Blvd. Suite A - across from Walmart. Look for our new Denver Location opening this summer! **(704) 663-6686 www.pomodoros.com**



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Downtown Mooresville

Mooresville Ice Cream Company Established in 1924 and still offers great quality ice cream in the same corner location. 172 North Broad Street **(704) 664-5456 www.delux1924.com**

Richard's Coffee Shop A very special coffee shop honoring American Vets, where even Bob Dole has stopped in for a cup of coffee. A Museum area filled with memorabilia and photos from the Revolutionary War to modern day conflicts. There's always someone at the shop to answer questions and give you a quick tour. At Richards Coffee Shop the history is always free. 128 So. Main Street Downtown.
(704) 663-0488 www.welcomhomeveteran.org

Smokey J's BBQ Traveling Food Truck serving sandwiches and platters of pulled pork and chicken as well as specials; brisket and ribs. Memphis Style BBQ with a "Carolina twist" blends the use of a dry rub in which the meat is smoked in a vinegar based barbecue sauce. To find the truck: **www.eatsmokeyjsbbq.com**

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to be included in our next edition!



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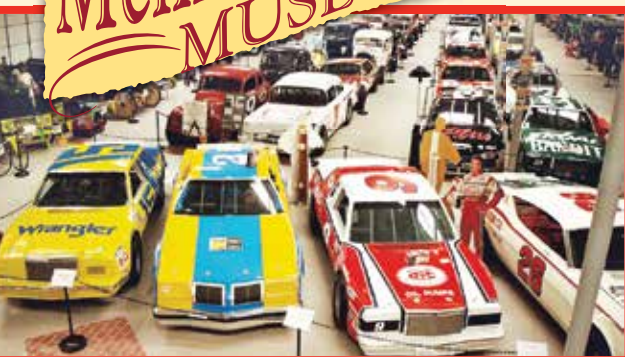
New to the area? We'll bring you a welcome basket filled with valuable coupons, gift certificates, maps & local happenings to acquaint you with the community. It's all FREE! Call Suzanne Meyer at the Welcome Committee to schedule your visit at **704-660-1155**.

TheWelcomeCommittee.net
Best Place to Work: 2007 through 2010

BEST PLACE TO WORK



Memory Lane MUSEUM



One of worlds largest private collections of historical automobiles and race cars is right here in Lake Norman

graduated from Davidson in 1973, he was well on his way to becoming a serious collector.

Hollywood Calling

As Beam's collection grew to legendary proportions, people all over the country began to take notice - including Hollywood movie producers. If you were producing a "period" or racing film, Alex Beam became the guy to call for your automobiles and prop needs.

Cars from Alex's collection have appeared in dozens of movies. He had 23 cars in the race movie, "Days of Thunder," starring Tom Cruise. Much of that movie was actually filmed in the area around Lake Norman including the old barn near the corner of Hwy. 150 and Morrison Plantation. If you watch closely you'll see it's where Robert Duvall set up shop to build his stock cars. In the film "Driving Miss Daisy" the first car that chauffeured Jessica Tandy was from Alex's collection. The 1922 Buick Oprah Winfrey drove in "The Color Purple" and the #26 Wonder Bread car in Will Ferrell's "Talladega Nights" the were both supplied by Alex. In 2008 more than 20 vintage 1920's vehicles from the collection starred in George Clooney's "Leatherheads." That movie was also filmed here in Mooresville and Statesville and you can see many of the cars still "in costume." Memory Lane even has mini movie set displays filled with period antiques, in addition to cars to help filmmakers find what they need for their next project.

A Dream Come True

Thirteen years ago the Beam family finally realized a life-long dream and built a museum that would allow Alex to consolidate much of his collection in a single location where people could actually come and enjoy them. Memory Lane Museum is now home to over 150 race cars, restored antique autos, and

rare vehicles. There are more vintage toys than you can count, perhaps the worlds largest collection of go-carts, peddle cars and even antique tractors. Surrounding many of the antique cars are amazing displays of memorabilia matching their time period, including old-fashioned gas pumps, service station signs, and period advertisements.

Every one of the cars you on display has a story. There's the very first compact car built in America, a 1930 Austin American Bantam coup. Several famous NASCAR race cars like Richard Petty's first racer, and several cars that only a handful are known to exist. But one of Alex's favorites is a Model T Ford that he found in a man's attic. The man had taken the car apart and put it there when hard times had made it too expensive to drive. Years later Beam had to remove the end of the house and use a block-and-tackle to get it out!

In addition to all the museum, Memory Lane includes a huge gift shop. Visitors can browse through race souvenirs and memorabilia, die-cast cars and more. There's also a high performance bicycle shop Alex's son has opened that has become extremely popular in the Lake Norman region.

If you are a racing fan you'll find 15 different types of race cars inside the museum. From Soap Box Derby cars and go-carts, to antique roadsters and historic NASCAR racers. You can actually trace the entire history of Stock Car racing on display, from the earliest moonshine runners, to the more modern machines of the



Rare 1938 Austin Bantam Roadster



1924 Packard Roadster

latest NASCAR eras. Many of these cars you might recognize from commercials for everything from Subway Sandwiches where Greg Biffle drove a moonshine runner to most major car manufacturers and national gas companies.

Alex's NASCAR collection includes cars that were driven by legends from just about every era of the sport. You'll find cars driven by Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt Sr., Bobby Allison, A.J. Foyt, Harry Gant, Alan Kulwichi, Cale Yarborough, Lee Petty, Darrell Waltrip, Bill Elliott, Rusty Wallace and more.

If you love cars, racing, movies, or are just a real history buff, Memory

Lane Museum is a must see when visiting Lake Norman. Every time you come you'll find something different.

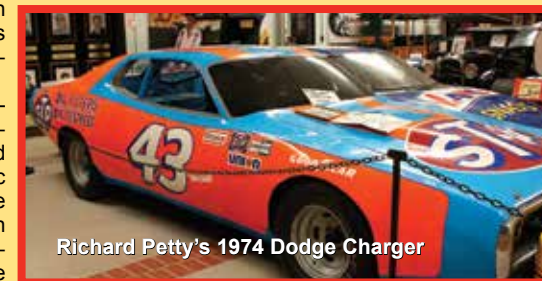
For more information and operating hours call or visit their website:

(704) 662-3673

www.memorylaneautomuseum.com



Movie Set



Richard Petty's 1974 Dodge Charger

May

April 30th May 1st

WWII Reenactment at Latta Plantation In honor of veterans see Allied and Axis forces recreate a battle in the French countryside. \$7 under 5 free. www.lattaplantation.org (704) 875-2314

6-7

6th Annual NC Brewers and Music Festival A celebration of North Carolina Brewing and Real Music. Ten hours of fun in beautiful and historic open farmland, complete with seven great bands and tons of North Carolina's finest craft brews. All the hand crafted ales and lagers you can savor! Over three hours of free tasting, a day packed full of great music, food, merchandise, children's activities and beer education. Learn about and interact with area non-profits. At Rural Hill 4431 Neck Rd. Huntersville. www.ncbrewsmusic.com (704)875-3113

14

Charlotte Dragon Boat Festival 40' Dragon Boat Races, Miss Asian Festival pageant, delicious food, crafts, dance performances, Asian cultural displays! 11am - 4:30pm Ramsey Creek Park, Cornelius. West of Exit 28. (704) 427-0267 www.charlottedragonboat.com

Hello Huntersville Arts and Music Festival

Free event displaying the talents of local artists. Will have something for everyone; chalk drawing, puppets, local schools displaying children's art, food, local businesses and much more! 10am - 2pm Downtown Huntersville (704) 766-2253

35nd Annual Race City Festival

Held on Main Street in downtown Mooresville. Outdoor street fair with over 100 exhibit booths of crafts, food, artwork and fun featuring the arts & culture of Lake Norman, local businesses, live music & other entertainment, an International food court, beer garden, plus a children's area with rides and activities. No admission charge. 10:00am to 5:00pm. Downtown Mooresville (704) 664-3898

21

NASCAR Sprint Sprint All-Star Race The stars of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series do battle on stock car racing's all-star night at Charlotte Motor Speedway in the 31st running of the NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race. 100 laps for \$1million! 7:30pm Concord (800) 455-3267

24

3rd Little 600 Want to get close to your favorite driver? This race will use the rental karts of the GoPro Motorplex and feature a full field of NASCAR drivers in the 15-lap main event as well as the inaugural "Little 600 NASCAR Spotters" race. A night of free entertainment for the whole family! The gates will open at 3 p.m. **GoPro Motorplex 801 Mazeppa Rd Mooresville** (704) 696-2926, www.gopromotorplex.com

26

Pole Night at Charlotte Motor Speedway NASCAR Sprint Cup Series drivers will take to the track for NASCAR's New Three-Round qualifying format to determine who will "go" and who will "go home" for the Coca-Cola 600. NASCAR Sprint Cup Series drivers challenge the 1.5-mile superspeedway to determine the 43-car lineup for the Coca-Cola 600. Adult tickets are just \$12 in advance. Children 13 and under are admitted free.

NASCAR Shop Fan Appreciation Days

Check out the websites of Hendrick Motorsports, Roush Fenway Racing, JR Motorsports, Richard Petty Motorsports, and other teams for special events all week long around Lake Norman.

26-28

21st Annual Speed Street 600 Festival NASCAR street festival featuring interactive exhibits, NASCAR driver autographs, live music and entertainment on four stages, NASCAR show cars and simulators. Uptown Charlotte 11am to 11pm (704) 455-8888 www.600festival.com

28

HISENSE 300 NASCAR Sprint Cup veterans battle the drivers of the Infinity Series for supremacy at Charlotte Motor Speedway. 7:00pm Concord (800) 455-3267

Happy Hour

Watch the final practice before the Coca Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

29

Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR Sprint Cup's Only 600 mile race and one of it's most prestigious events. Under the lights at Charlotte Motor Speedway. 6:00pm Concord (800) 455-3267

June

4

Davidson's Concerts On The Green 6pm - 8pm Listen to great music on the Davidson Village Green. Free event held all summer on the first and third Sundays of the month. (704) 892-7591

Warrior Dash of The Carolinas

Imagine a 3.08 mile race through 11 outlandish obstacles of mud and ponds and walls and fire and ropes. You can watch or sign up to participate. Historic Rural Hill 4431 Neck Road Huntersville. Benefits St. Jude Children's Hospital (704) 875-3113

17

Charlotte Symphony At McGuire Nuclear Station Free concert on the lawn of the EnergyExplorium. Everyone is invited. Concertgoers may pack a picnic and bring blankets or lawn chairs to enjoy the show. In addition, boaters may anchor in the EnergyExplorium's cove at the southern tip of Lake Norman. Starts at 8:15pm (800) 777-0003

July

3

Lake Norman Outdoor Concert & Fireworks Mooresville's largest annual event, and a holiday tradition for families in the Lake Norman community. Join in a full day of fun activities, music and local vendors. All the fun starts at 4 pm followed by fireworks. Lowe's YMCA 170 Joe Knox Blvd. Mooresville. West of exit 36 near Morrison Plantation for info call: (704) 716-4068

4

10th Huntersville July 4th Celebration Features parade, Fireman's face-off water challenge, children's activities, music, face painting, bike decoration station. Birkdale Village Huntersville. 10am - 1pm (704) 892-2118

23

18th Annual Charlotte Antique & Classic Boat Show Beautiful classic boats from around the country converge at Trump National Golf Club in Mooresville with public viewing from 10am-4pm. 137 Vestal Drive Mooresville. Boats will be launching from Stutts Marina located at 517 Stutts Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. www.charlotteantiqueboatshow.com

September

Wake The Lake Wakeboard Competition

The event should attract nearly 80 wakeboarders from around the country. Great way to end the summer on the Lake with entertainment, sponsor giveaways, and music. For more information contact Icy Wakes Surf Shop (704) 895-7873 actual dates TBD

10 Sept thru 5 Nov

Amazing Maize Maze 7 acres of corn maze with 2.5 miles of trails that create a labyrinth that is guaranteed to get you lost. Rural Hill Farm Huntersville. www.ruralhillfarm.org

16-18

NHRA Carolina Nationals Four days of the fastest accelerating machines on the planet in old-school, side-by-side drag racing. zMAX Dragway in Concord.

22-25

AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway The World's Largest Automotive Extravaganza returns to Charlotte Motor Speedway. The AutoFair annually attracts more than 100,000 visitors. More than 1,500 collectible vehicles of all makes and models will be available for sale in the car corral that rings the 1.5-mile superspeedway. The AutoFair will also feature a collector car auction. (800) 455-3267

24-25

Murray's Mill Harvest Folk Festival Celebrates Catawba County's agricultural heritage with an array of exhibits, craftsmen, and activities, including petting zoos, antique cars, tractors, and farm machinery, and traditional food preparations such as molasses making. Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel comprise the impressive band schedule. www.catawbahistory.org (828) 465-0383

30 Sept - 3 October

Annual Denver Days Fall Festival Music, dancing arts & crafts, food, vintage cars, carnival rides, and entertainment. A great day for the entire family. Downtown Denver on Hwy 16 and St. James Church Rd.

October

Weekends Oct. 8th thru Nov. 20th Carolina Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace An 18-acre circus, arts and crafts fair, jousting tournament, and a feast all rolled into one non-stop, day-long family adventure! (877) 896-5544

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