



Racecar Driving: Experience the Thrill of Speed

[By Anique Gonzalez]

Of course watching NASCAR is exciting. The fast cars, the energized fans, and the desire for your favorite driver to win it all contribute to an exhilarating day. But every now and then, wouldn't you like to get behind the wheel and take one of those cars out for a 165 MPH spin? Now you can.

NASCAR, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, is fast becoming one of the most watched sports in the United States. In terms of television ratings, it presently only sits behind the National Football League juggernaut. With 75 million fans and nearly \$3 billion in license-generated revenue per year, it is no wonder everyone wants to be part of the action.

The Racing Experience, Inc., offers packages that allow you, too, to realize your dream of becoming a NASCAR driver. By purchasing the 50-Lap Championship Racing Experience, you not only participate in a 40-lap instructional session, but you also get to partake in "an actual 10-lap green flag race," driving a Nextel Cup stock car from a top NASCAR team. This is where your imagination can run wild; you can pretend

you're racing at the Daytona International Speedway in front of 168,000 screaming fans and then sing the lyrics to Cledus T. Judd and Toby Keith's song "I Love NASCAR" after you win.

In addition to this thrill of a lifetime, you also get to take home several items that will remind you of your extraordinary experience. Moreover, the gear you receive will confirm your status as a real NASCAR driver. Some of the items include a "nomex fire suit with your name, TRE logo, and sponsor patches; personal driver's helmet; gloves; shoes; and a personal racing equipment bag with TRE logo."

Before you can participate in the Championship Racing Experience, though, you must first partake in the 60-, 70-, or

80-lap program. During these programs, you will be taught various racing moves, including proper racing groove, drafting and passing other cars, and side-by-side racing, all of which will prepare you for your independent 10-lap race. And the entire experience will only cost you \$6,320. (This price includes \$2,495 for the 80-lap package and \$3,825 for the 50-Lap Championship Racing Experience.)

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