

33rd Annual Peach Bowl Speedway Reunion

Story: Cindy Brett, staff writer/Photos: MSA Staff

In late January I had the opportunity to attend The Peach Bowl Speedway Reunion in Austell, GA.

Guys, this track was home not only to some great racing action, but it held some of racing's greatest stories. I sat and listened to guys in their 70's and 80's tell stories of things they got away with that would have a driver banned for life if attempted today.

I spent much of the day laughing and just shaking my head. This place ran in the late 40's and from what I heard—it was magical. I saw



MSA NEW STAFF MEMBER-CINDY BRETT

pictures of greats from long ago and I was in complete awe.

On the way home I had a watershed moment. Something tells me that not a single regular racer at The Peach Bowl Speedway ever imagined in its hey days that one day it would close its gates and the racing would be nothing more than old black and white photographs, and memories shared over food and sweet tea.

It makes me ponder this question, if they could have seen the future what would have been done differently? In the grand scheme of things whatever led to its closure, was the track really worth losing a piece of racing history. Was it worth a number of race fans losing the track that they called home, (this track ran two nights a week). Was it worth the people who worked there losing that extra income? It pinged my heart to think of what I see happening in our sport.

As I visit tracks all over the place I see families, I see fans, I see folks, all doing the same thing, loving racing. It makes my heart hurt when I see a social media post calling for



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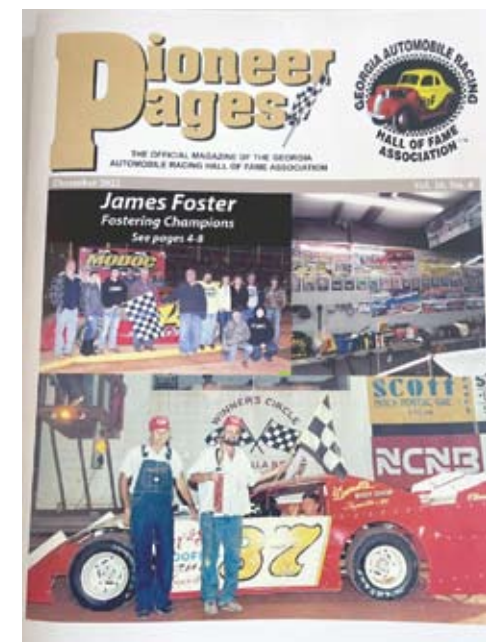
a track to close because of selfishness from hurt feelings and dented pride. I see dang good folks throwing in the towel and locking gates to amazing ovals of red clay because it's just not worth the daily battle of dealing with the hurt feelings of a call made on a split second decision on any given race night.

I've said more times than I can count "this sport has given me more than it has taken". I'll sup-

port it with all the passion that I can muster—reason being, I love dirt track racing!

Man, can you imagine how amazing it would have been to have been able to have had The Peach Bowl Reunion at the track on a Saturday afternoon before the cars took the track for another night of amazing racing. Just sayin!

— Follow Cindy Brett, My view from the stands at facebook.com/ilovedirttrack



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