

## Buck Baker Racing School Will be Held at North Wilkesboro Speedway this Weekend

Written by Adam Hicks  
Monday, 22 June 2009 07:10

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After testing the racing surface at North Wilkesboro Speedway last week, officials with the Buck Baker Racing School said they will hold an event at the track this weekend.

Marketing Director for the Buck Baker Racing School, Thomas Heavey, said a great deal of interest has been shown by former students. Heavey explained he made the announcement on their website this morning and within fifteen minutes, he received his first phone call.

Heavey said the school will hold a series of hot laps from 8:00 Saturday morning until at least noon, depending on attendance. The school's website said hot laps include side-by-side driving, restarts, and other race simulations.

Last week, the owner of the Buck Baker Racing School, Jeff Bowyer, told High Country Radio, "The track is not in that bad of condition. It looks a little ugly because there's no paint on the walls, [but] as for the track surface itself, I've raced on worse."

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The North Wilkesboro Speedway measures just over a half-mile around, and is sometimes compared to another nearby short track, Bristol Motor Speedway. One glaring difference between Bristol and North Wilkesboro is that Bristol is banked and North Wilkesboro is mostly flat, so drivers must drive much slower and more carefully around North Wilkesboro. North Wilkesboro Speedway also seats around 40,000 fans, while Bristol Motor Speedway holds 165,000 spectators.

One of the instructional drivers who was testing the racing surface last week said the track isn't level. He said the frontstretch is downhill and the backstretch is uphill, which makes driving the historic track even more difficult.

The North Wilkesboro Speedway held races in NASCAR's top three series from the organization's inception in 1949 until the track closed in 1996.

Bruton Smith currently owns the track and has leased it to Charles Collins for three months.

Collins told High County Radio he plans on shooting a reality television show at the track and hopes to hold a late model race later this summer.

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Anyone interested in turning a few laps around North Wilkesboro Speedway this weekend can visit [www.BuckBaker.com](http://www.BuckBaker.com) or call Thomas Heavey at (704) 453-9328 for more information.

(Photos courtesy of Eric Herman)

