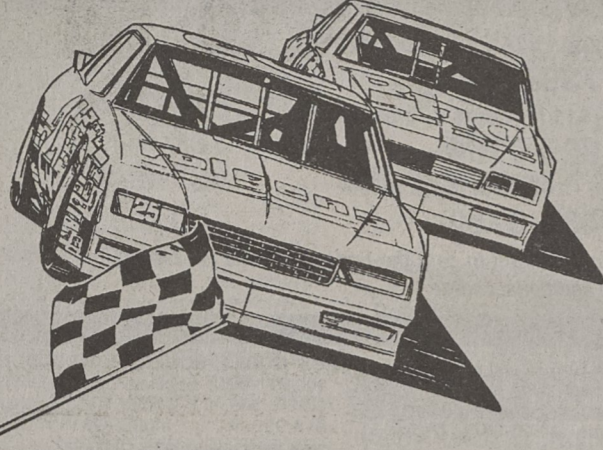


Racing Editor, Mike Cearley  
August 25th & 26th, 1999



# Inside Dirt Track

Mike Cearley  
Racing Editor



## Wayne Dellinger turns season around

A new engine, an added sponsor and a 25-lap prayer made the difference for Wayne Dellinger when he ended Jimmy Galloway's six-race win streak at Carolina Speedway two weeks ago.

Dellinger, son of former NASCAR crew chief Freddie Dellinger, used an engine his father rebuilt last week to record his fourth win of the season and his first ever at Carolina Speedway.

The following Saturday, Dellinger got another first — a weekend sweep — as he won the late model feature at East Lincoln Speedway for his fifth win of the season.

Galloway, who had been forced to start each race from the rear of the field since winning his third straight, charged to a second-place finish. But he couldn't catch Dellinger, who almost checked out on the field before a caution tightened the pack.

"Old Galloway, he's tough," Dellinger said. "Now he won't have to start from the rear. It'll be interesting if we both start up front."

Besides the regular winner's share of the purse, Dellinger collected a \$100 bounty for beating Galloway and a \$200 bonus from new sponsor Dave Watts.

Watts, of Dave's Auto Salvage, joined sponsors Abernathy's Garage and Lowesville Automotive Warehouse on Dellinger's car two weeks ago.

"We had some bad luck down there at Carolina the last couple of races," Dellinger said. "We didn't start two races because we had trouble qualifying."

"Dad put another motor together for me. It was actually an old motor, but he changed some stuff and it ran good. We picked up another sponsor, and he told me he would bring me luck."

Dellinger, who set a new track qualifying record at East Lincoln Speedway earlier this season, started on the inside front row alongside Tim

Sigmon. He got the jump on Sigmon on the first lap, and held the lead from then on.

"I started praying on the first lap, and I prayed every lap that I would stay up front," Dellinger said. "Then I started praying for that white flag."

## Final edition

This is the final edition of "Inside Dirt Track" for this racing season.

The space normally used for this section will be dedicated to local high school football coverage.

However, we will still provide results and stories on local dirt track racing until the season ends in October.

And we are still interested in comments or story ideas on local drivers. Please contact Mike Cearley at 825-0580.

"Inside Dirt Track" will resume when the 2000 season starts next March.

Mike Cearley

## Former promoters join forces for Cherokee Sizzler

Former dirt track promoters Terry Brotherton and Mike Johnson have joined forces to stage a special super late model race Sept. 5 at Cherokee Speedway in Gaffney, S.C.

The Sunday Night Sizzler will feature a 60-lap super late model race as the main event. The winner will take home \$5,000 out of a total purse of \$25,000.

Brotherton, the former promoter at Cherokee Speedway, now serves on the Lincoln Board of County Commissioners. Johnson, former owner of 311 Speedway in Madison, now owns a Ford dealership in Madison.

The two have leased the track from owner Edgar "Rock" Gault for the event. The program will also feature main events in the limited late model, limited sportsman and rookie four cylinder divisions.

The Sizzler is expected to draw a healthy field of super late models, including Phil Hall,

Tony Hicks, Larry Blankenship, Dan Breuer, Billy Hicks, Johnny Stovall, Art Wooten, Jimmy McCormick, Ray Tucker, Phil Sink, J.T. Shelton, C.S. Fitzgerald and Pete Broughton.

Cherokee regulars such as Dennis Franklin, Mike Duvall, Ricky Weeks and Steve Phillips is also expected to compete. Former NASCAR driver and 1984 National Dirt Racing Association champion Rodney Combs said he will be there too.

"When you add a dozen or more track regulars, there's no doubt the entry list will exceed 30 super late models," Brotherton said.

Combs, 130-year racing veteran, hasn't raced that often at Cherokee, but is looking forward to competing.

"As long as I have been racing on dirt tracks, it's odd that I've only raced at Cherokee a few times," Combs said. "The locals are tough to beat, and it's a challenging track, but I look forward to the test."



Photo by Mike Cearley  
Dennis "Rambo" Franklin won his second straight super late model race at Cherokee Speedway Saturday night. Rambo will join other super late model drivers for the Sunday Night Sizzler on Sept. 5.

## LOCAL TRACKS ROUNDUP

### Dellinger Enterprises to sponsor Super Mod Shootout

Dellinger Enterprises of Belmont will sponsor the Super Mod 4 Shootout at Carolina Speedway this Friday.

Owner Greg Dellinger, who started driving in the four-cylinder divisions this season, said the event should attract top super mod 4 drivers from North and South Carolina.

"We're hoping to get some people in the stands for this race," Dellinger said. "It should be a very competitive race with a strong field of cars."

Dellinger is looking for his first win in the super mod 4 division after back-to-back top five finishes.

"I'm trying hard to get that first win," he said. "I really thought we had it last Saturday at East Lincoln."

"Two weeks ago at Carolina Speedway, I won my heat race, but it started missing during the main event because of a fuel pump. Maybe we can get there soon."

### Drivers to appear at Apple Festival

The Lincoln County Apple Festival is set for Sept. 18, and several local dirt track stars will be on hand for a car show and autograph signing.

The special event is sponsored by Speedway Photos. Drivers and their cars will have a special display area across from the Public Library on Main St.

They will be signing photographs that will be distributed free to the fans, courtesy Speedway Photos.

"We want to get people riled up about dirt track racing," said Speedway Photos owner Valerie Milburn. "We're heading down the stretch and all the points races will be decided in the next few weeks."

Valerie's daughter, Jennifer Rice, is coordinating the event.

### Rainouts prevail on Friday

The much-needed rain that moved across the area last Friday night washed out the action at area dirt tracks.

Carolina Speedway and Thunder Valley Speedway were both forced to postpone their programs.

Both tracks will be back in action this week.

### Martin wins three in a row

Shawn Martin won his third straight thunder & lightning main event at East Lincoln Speedway last Saturday.

Martin will have to start this week's main event in the rear.

Rob McLaughlin made a strong charge to finish second, and was protested by third-place finisher Mike Walker. McLaughlin's car was declared legal following an engine inspection.

Billy Thompson won his second straight in the pure stock 8 division.

### Buddy Smith takes Cherokee win

Cherryville's Buddy Smith was back in the winner's circle at Cherokee Speedway last Saturday after another classic battle with rival John Pursley.

Pursley finished second and Chris Steele was third.

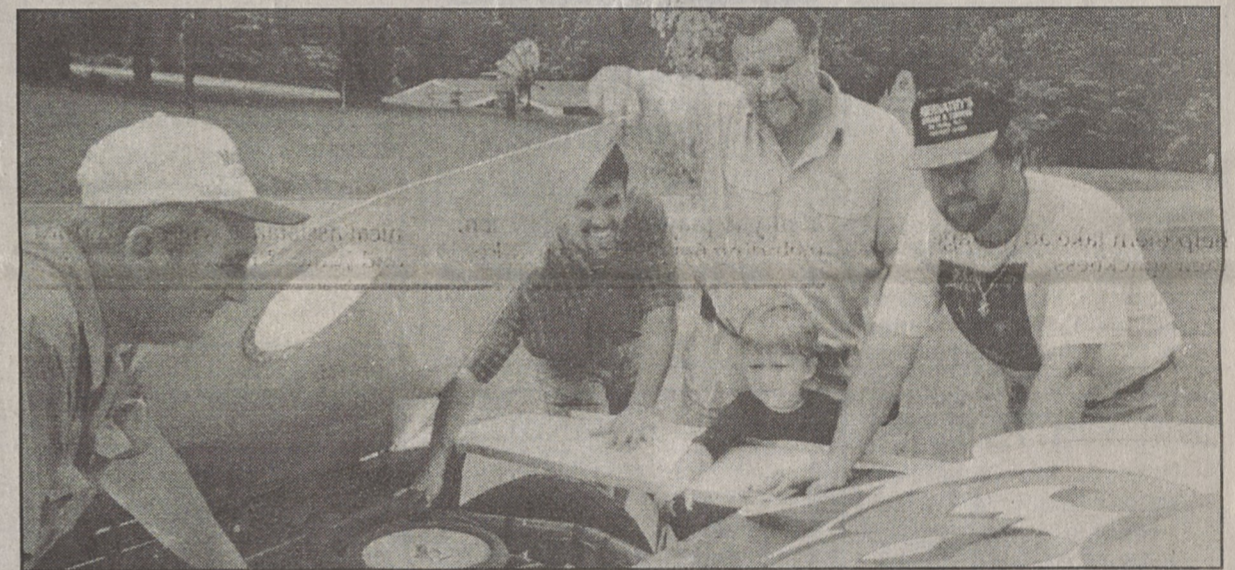
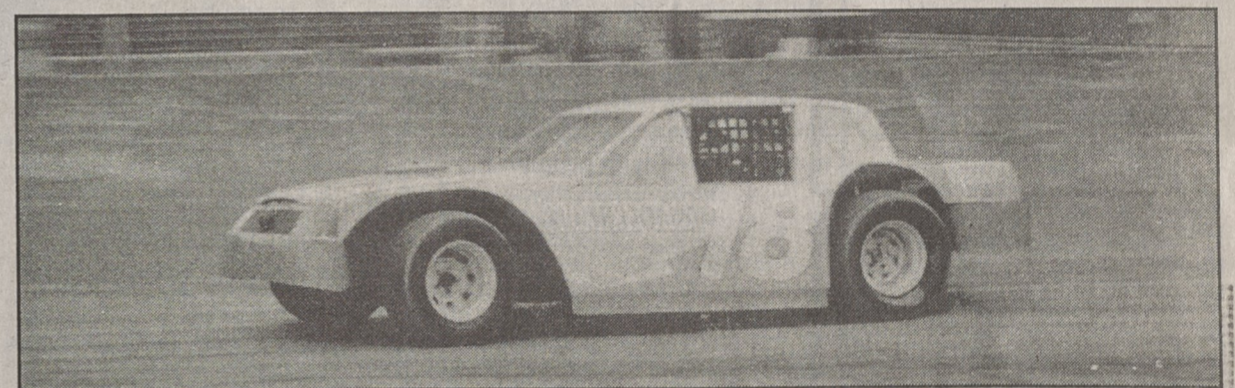


Photo by Mike Cearley  
Greg Dellinger is looking for his first win in the super mod 4 division. His company, Dellinger Enterprises, is sponsoring the Super Mod Shootout at Carolina Speedway this Friday. Engine builder Leroy Shelton (left) checks out the motor with the company of (l-r) Dellinger, Wayne Abernathy, Lee Abernathy and Andy Abernathy.



SPEEDWAY PHOTOS  
Jason Rice turns a hot lap at East Lincoln Speedway. Jason competes in the thunder & lightning division at East Lincoln and Carolina Speedway each week.

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**Friday, August 27th Super Late Models**  
Also UMP Modifieds, Limited Sportsman, Stock 8, Stock 4, Mod 4 & Rookie 4  
Gates open at 5pm  
Races begin at 7:30pm

**Area dirt tracks**  
Carolina Speedway, Highway 274 South (Union Rd.), Gastonia 704-869-0313 Promoter: Dewey Stump Racing: Friday nights, Admission: \$10 grandstand, \$15 pits. Divisions: late model, thunder & lightning, limited sportsman, super stock 8, modified 4, pure stock 4.  
Thunder Valley Speedway 248 Old Statecoach Rd., Lawndale 704-538-9666 Promoter: Ernie Elkins Racing every Friday night. Admission: \$10 Grand Stand; \$16 Pit. Divisions: super late model, late model, thunder & lightning, UMP modified, limited sportsman, mod 4, stock 4, rookie 4.  
East Lincoln Speedway, 1873 Mariposa Rd., Stanley 704-263-5347 Promoters: Boyd Knight, Richard Meabon Racing every Saturday night. Admission: \$10 grandstand, \$15 pits. Divisions: late model, thunder & lightning, pure stock 8, open mod 4, mod 4, pure stock 4, sprints.

**Racing Results August 25th & 26th**

Cherokee Speedway			
Super Late Model			
1.....Dennis Franklin	3.....Doug Davis		
2.....Mike Duvall	4.....Bo Mace		
Modified 4			
1.....Richard Crow			
2.....Jeff Cook			
3.....Jim Blackburn			
4.....Scott Childress			
Limited Late Model			
1.....Buddy Smith			
2.....John Pursley			
3.....Chris Steele			
4.....Roger Hamrick			
Stock 4			
1.....Ronnie Gofarth			
2.....Andy Mattison			
3.....Jeremy Clements			
4.....Jeremy Leagon			
Rookie 4			
1.....Freddy Neal			
2.....Butch Chapman			
3.....Greg Butler			
4.....Justin Reid			
East Lincoln Speedway			
Late Models			
2.....David Sigmon			
3.....Jim Wyatt			
4.....Neal Lunceford			
Mod 4			
1.....Jonathan Warlick			
2.....Mark Treasway			
3.....Mike Bills			
4.....Darrell McLaughlin			
Pure Stock 4			
1.....Travis Childers			
2.....Tony Brown			
3.....Charlie Lunceford			
Sprints			
1.....Brian Roseman			
2.....Asa Epperly			
3.....Jennifer Venezia			
4.....Tim Allen			
Super Mod 4			
1.....Damon Crump			
Thunder Valley Speedway - rained out			
Carolina Speedway - rained out			

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Gates open at 5pm - Racing at 8pm  
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