

Fishing Tournament at the Daytona International Speedway, February 18

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Hot Rod and Reels Event

The Darrell Gwynn Foundation will hold its Spectracide "Hot Rods & Reels™" Charity Fishing Tournament at the Daytona International Speedway, February 18

NASCAR Drivers team up with Champion Drag Racer Darrell Gwynn for a Fun Day of Fishing to Support Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injuries

DAYTONA, Fla. — The Darrell Gwynn Foundation will hold its **Spectracide "Hot Rods & Reels™" Charity Fishing Tournament at the Daytona International Speedway on Friday, February 18 at 8 a.m.** The event will pair NASCAR Drivers with foundation supporters and racing fans for a day of exciting fishing during the Daytona 500 weekend in Daytona, Fla. The Darrell Gwynn Foundation's mission is to **provide AWARENESS, PREVENTION, SUPPORT and ultimately a CURE for paralysis.**

Approximately 20 fishing boats and a large-mouth bass-stocked Lake Lloyd inside the Daytona International Speedway await participants who will fish at the annual Spectracide "Hot Rod & Reels™" Charity Fishing Tournament with the likes of NASCAR personalities Darrell Waltrip, Clint Bowyer, Carl Edwards, Tony Stewart, Ryan Newman, team owner Richard Childress, Martin Truex, Scott Wimmer and many more whom have participated in past Hot Rods & Reels events. All tournament proceeds will benefit the Darrell Gwynn Foundation.

"This event has become a staple at the Daytona 500 race weekend, says Darrell Gwynn, president and founder of the Darrell Gwynn Foundation. "We had one of our best tournaments to wrap up the NASCAR season in Homestead last year and I know drivers and participates are excited to get back on the lake at Daytona. This event is a lot of fun and helps us raise money to support individuals living with spinal cord injuries."

The tournament will take place at the Daytona International Speedway infield lake located just behind the Gecko Grounds. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. Those who are interested in participating in the fishing tournament or sponsoring the event should visit www.hotrodsandreels.com or call **Colleen Robb** at **954-792-7223 x.116** or email colleen@darrellgwynnfoundation.org for more information.

A champion drag racer and successful racing team owner, Gwynn, who sustained a spinal cord injury during an exhibition race in Great Britain, created the Darrell Gwynn Foundation with his wife Lisa in 2002. Since its inception, the Gwynn's have remained committed to supporting those diagnosed with spinal cord injuries and preventing spinal cord injuries from occurring in our youth.

At the event, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will donate a brand new custom built wheelchair to an individual in need through its **Wheelchair Donation Program**. In addition to raising spinal cord injury awareness and purchasing custom wheelchairs for children and young adults, a portion of the money raised from the event is donated to the "Speediatrics" unit at the **Betty Jane France Pediatric Center at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach**. The Speediatrics® program is supported by the Darrell Gwynn Foundation's **Paralyzed Assistance Fund**. This special unit, which is brightly decked out in a racing theme helps children and families feel more comfortable amid what can be stressful circumstances.

The **Outdoor Channel**, America's Leader in Outdoor TV, will team up once again with the Darrell Gwynn Foundation to produce a half-hour TV special on the annual "Hot Rod & Reels™" celebrity charity fishing tournament. Outdoor Channel will go behind-the-scenes to capture interviews with NASCAR drivers, additional celebrities and other event participants, including Gwynn and the recipient of a new wheelchair that day donated by the Darrell Gwynn Foundation.

"The tournament is a terrific opportunity for fans, company officials and sponsors to fish with NASCAR pros and enjoy the thrill of a lifetime," Gwynn said. "My deepest thanks to the Daytona International Speedway, all our sponsors, celebrity participants and patrons who make this such a special event."

About the Darrell Gwynn Foundation

Founded in 2002 by Champion Drag Racer **Darrell Gwynn** and his wife Lisa, the **Darrell Gwynn Foundation** is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide **AWARENESS, PREVENTION, SUPPORT** and ultimately a **CURE** for paralysis. In an effort to create more awareness about spinal cord injuries, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation successfully lobbied for an established **Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week** with a resolution passed by the Florida Legislature in 2006. The foundation operates an **Education & Prevention Program** directed to high school students to educate them on the dangers of risky behavior that can lead to spinal cord injuries. This rapidly growing program reaches over 10,000 students annually at over 50 high schools. The foundation's primary support program is its national **Wheelchair Donation Program**. With this program the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has donated custom built wheelchairs to hundreds of individuals in need. The foundation also maintains a model **Paralyzed Assistance Fund** offering support services and tools at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado with aspirations to expand this model to several hospitals nationwide. Additionally the foundation provides financial support through its **Fast Track Laboratory** with the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis aimed at finding a cure for paralysis. With tremendous fundraising partners such as Barrett-Jackson, the NHRA, NASCAR and many more generous sponsors, individual supporters and donors, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation continues to evolve as a leading foundation for those with spinal cord injuries. For more information please visit www.darrellgwynnfoundation.org or www.facebook.com/darrellgwynnfoundation.

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