

Martinsville Speedway News

## Over 100 Cars Show Up For Bailey's 300 Test At Martinsville

Sep 20, 2006 - updated Sep 20th, 2006 6:59pm



2005 Bailey's 300 race photo

*Web posted by Mike Smith*

Martinsville, VA -- September 20, 2006

The reputation of the Bailey's 300 at Martinsville Speedway was ratcheted up a notch or two Wednesday and the race is more than a week away.

One-hundred and seven teams showed up Wednesday for an open test session in preparation for the Bailey's 300 Late Model Stock car race on Sunday, October 1. Only about 75 teams were expected and the 107 was by far the most cars ever to show up for the test date.

"Everybody wants to come to Martinsville," said veteran Late Model driver Stacy Puryear, explaining the large number of cars testing Wednesday. "The Bailey's 300 is the Daytona 500 of Late Model racing. This is the race everybody wants to come to."

There was no official timing and scoring on Wednesday, so all times were the result of hand-held stop watches, and obviously were open to error and bias.

But at the end of the day, most every stopwatch watcher pretty much agreed on the same handful of drivers turning in the top laps of the day. Former Martinsville winner Phillip Morris and his Clarence's Steakhouse teammate Puryear were atop the charts all day, along with another former Bailey's 300 winner, Jamie Caudill, ***and perennial race contender David Triplett.***

"I feel like the best two cars for sheer speed were Phillip Morris and Jamie Caudill," said Puryear, who is from South Boston, VA. "My car was really consistent. I was about a half a tenth (of a second) off of Phillip, but I feel real good about the car, though. It would stay there 15 or 20 laps and still run good times and that's good for next week."

Caudill, who is from Four Oaks, NC, is always fast on Martinsville's treacherous half-mile, but he says there's no big secret to his success.

"I think a lot of it is confidence here," Caudill said of his solid Martinsville runs. "In 2003 when we came over here and won ... well, that does a lot for your confidence

level, when you know you can come in and win.

"I think we're pretty good. A couple of cars ran quicker than us today, but we never got the good clean lap with all the cars on the track."

Defending Bailey's 300 champion Timothy Peters, who signed earlier this week to run the NASCAR Busch Series for Richard Childress Racing in 2007, was off the mark a bit in Wednesday's test.

"We struggled in the morning but after lunch we made some gains," said Peters, who has been a regular on the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series the past two seasons and makes just two or three Late Model starts a season.

"We'll go back and think about it and work on the car and come back next week and hope to contend for the win."

Practice and qualifying for the Bailey's 300 is set for Saturday, September 30. Admission is \$5. The fastest 22 cars will make the field through qualifying on Saturday.

On Sunday, October 1, the remaining 20 positions will be filled through four, 25-lap heat races, with the top-five finishers in each race advancing to the feature, which will begin at about 3 p.m.

Admission to the Bailey's 300 on Sunday, October 1 is \$20. Tickets may be purchased by calling 877.RACE.TIX or online at [racetickets.com](http://racetickets.com). Tickets may also be bought at the ticket office on the day of the race.