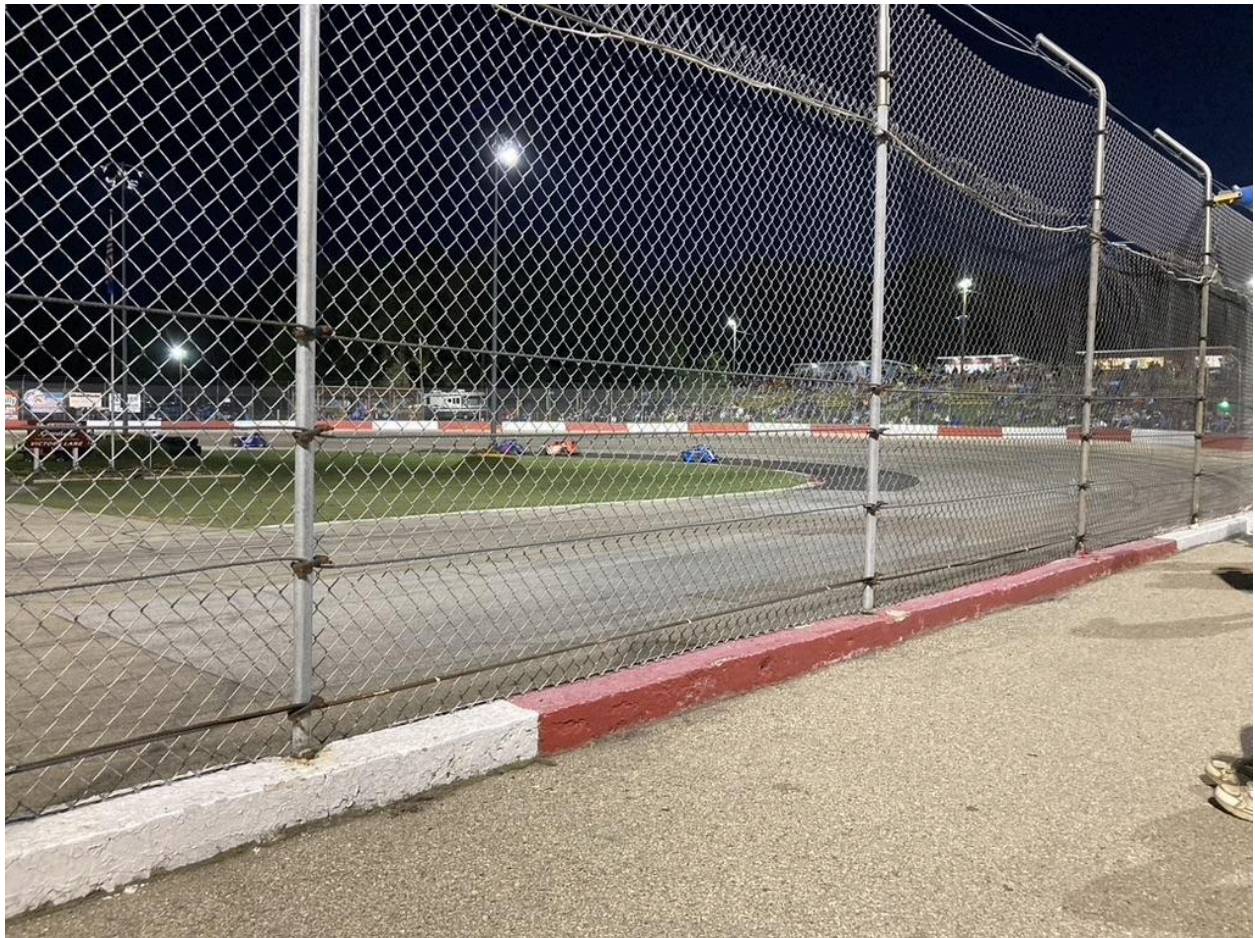


8-31-24: Jefferson Speedway

As I was in Milwaukee for the IndyCar races I was happy to have the option for several different tracks on Saturday evening, there were actually three that were all about an hour away, in each of the three possible directions. I would otherwise have gone to Plymouth Dirt Track since they were running the IRA Sprints but with the 5pm start time being the same as the start of the IndyCar race, it didn't seem like we'd get much of a show. I was going to go to Wilmot for a dirt race until I realized that Jefferson had the possibility of a double with their inner track, which made the decision clear.

The IndyCar race ended at about 7 so we got to the track a little before 8:30. The track seemed to be kind of out in the middle of nowhere but there were a lot of cars in the parking lot. Legends were on track when we got there and we watched the remainder of what I later learned was their LCQ from the front row of the stands right at the flagstand, which actually afforded a decent view, only obstructed by the flagger himself.



When there was a break in the action we walked around a bit and discovered that the stands in one and two were a great vantage point. The bottom area was grass and people had their lawn chairs and picnic blankets set up then there were benches built into the hill going up. The bottom row offered unobstructed views and were as good as anywhere as far as I could tell.



The lighting and PA were very good. The fence was tall and nice, though people were sitting very close to it and there was nothing other than the fence between them and the track.

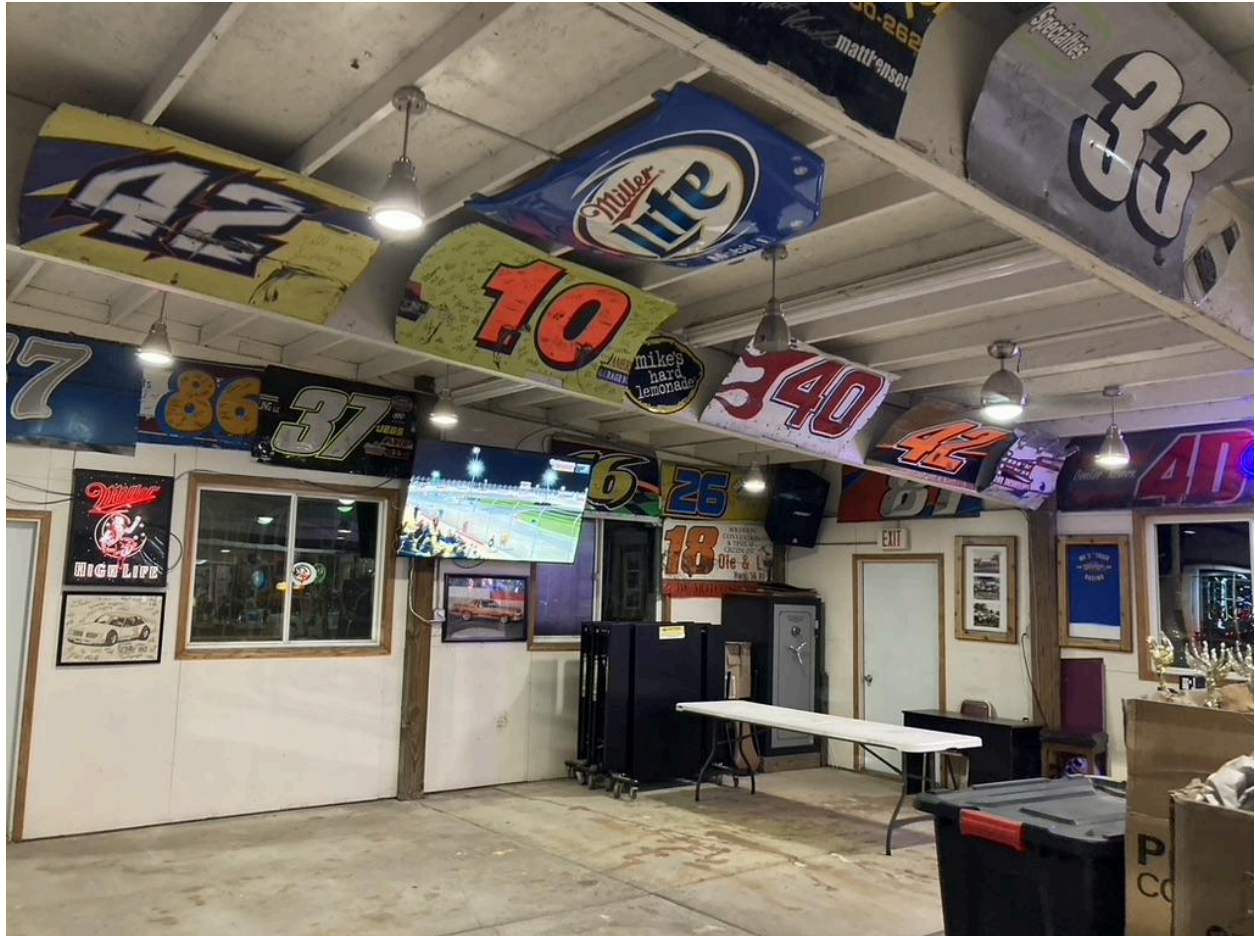


The track really seemed to slope up, with three and four being higher than one and two. I couldn't tell if it was an illusion due to the banking, but walking up and down the frontstretch I think it is actually sloped. It's quite a unique feature, though it isn't slanted to nearly the degree of North Wilkesboro, which is the only other track I can think of with such a feature.



They had a full bar inside a building behind the grandstands, complete with TVs showing the on-track action and full of sheet metal decorating the walls. The prices for drinks were crazy cheap, at least compared to what I'm used to coming from Boston.





We watched the legend and late model LCQ then went into features. The bandoleros ran the full track, there were 16 of them and they put on a decent show given that they're bandoleros. The bandits ran on what the announcer referred to as "the sandbox" and what I called a second countable track as they ran the inner oval, shortcutting turns three and four through the infield. They were four cylinders and there were 18 of them in the feature. They were two and three wide, no one was ever really free of other cars be it for position or lapped traffic. It went caution free but that was somewhat surprising.

They do victory lane in the infield but the winner brings a checkered flag that they sign to give away to someone in the grandstands through the fence which is a unique thing I haven't seen before.

The legends started 18 cars after running an LCQ so that must be their upper limit, which is weirdly low. I can't think of a full-size track that starts fewer than 20 cars.

The legends did a choose cone restart and had decent racing. It was close for the lead but not side by side, with some battles in the pack. They did set a new track record tonight.



The late models ran 50 laps. The second lane actually seemed pretty viable and there was a good bit of two wide in the pack. The leader was running half to a full lane up, and in fact chose the outside line on the cone restarts.

They ran a pretty efficient show except for a large number of hot laps they gave to the late models, including in the middle of the race after an extended yellow flag for an oil spill.

In what's a first for me, I'm pretty sure that the announcer ordered food from the concession stand over the PA system which is quite funny.

It worked out really well to get a double that I wasn't expecting until this afternoon and we even got most of a full show in as well. It's a nice facility and I like the grandstand setup, definitely worth checking out.