"NEW TRACK OPERATOR AT HICKORY SPEEDWAY!"

Newton, NC. Hickory Motor Speedway announced today a change in management at the historic track.

Sherry Houston Clifton, Track Operator since 2001, will be turning over operations of the Track, effective November 2, 2008.

The new Leaseholder and Track Operator will be Kevin Piercy, current owner of MTP Tires. Kevin has been associated with Hickory Motor Speedway since he began working on racecars at the age of 14, and has operated the Tire Store at the Track for the past eight years.

The historic Track has been in continual operation since June of 1951, and is a part of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. Known as "The Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars", Hickory Motor Speedway is legendary in the world of motorsports for the many drivers, crew members, officials, and press who have started their careers here and gone on to achieve success in the upper levels of the sport.

"I will certainly miss my extended family and friends that I have made over the years here at Hickory Motor Speedway" said Clifton. "I am very proud to have been a part of the history at this Track, and pleased at the improvements we have made over the past eight years. The return of NASCAR sanctioning, physical improvements to the property, and regaining the reputation as a safe, family-friendly, and fair place for our fans and racers has been most rewarding."

Clifton will stay on at the Track in an advisory capacity for the next few months, to ensure a smooth transition.

"Kevin and I have been working hard together on the 2009 Racing Schedule and setting plans into motion for next season."

Piercy is ready to roll up his sleeves. "We've got a lot of work to do to get ready for the 2009 race season. I appreciate the opportunity that Benny Yount has given me to continue in the great traditions of Hickory Motor Speedway. We're excited about the new challenges ahead and look forward to future success for the track, the racers, the fans, and the community."

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