

Operation Motorsports- Notes of Beneficiary

By Renee Wilson

Still reeling from the Pirelli World Challenge 27-29 April, slumber was my friend that week. When my alarm went off at 0400 May 5, I knew it was going to be another exciting weekend with Operation Motorsports. Fellow beneficiaries Dewayne, Hairam, Alex and I were all meeting at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for the Crash and Burn course. NaroEscape Motorsports President and Lead Program Manager, Nadine Saville joined us, as she and her husband Bob Saville, Owner/President of

For instance, the Black flag has 3 three meanings and only used at the direction of Race Control. If the black flag is furled or closed, shown in the course of Race Control at Start/Finish, primarily to warn the driver that they have been observed driving in an unsafe manner. As described by the instructor, "Imagine your mother waving her finger at you warning you of the trouble coming your way if you do not stop." The "meatball flag" or mechanical black flag seemed to be everyone's favorite solely for the name. It's black with an

NaroEscape Motorsports made it possible for us veterans to attend.

I walked into the media room filled with perfectly rowed tables and chairs. I look to the front of the room there is a gray, and blue checkered wall with a podium in the squares are the Charlotte Motor Speedway Twitter handle and what I assume are sponsors of the speedway. I spot my group chatting, signed in and made my way to the OpMo table. I named it that in my mind, of course. As I approach the group, I see the familiar beard of Alex, the cool haircut on Hairam, and the ever so ready to call me short joke

orange ball in the center and is held motionless. This flag means something is wrong with a particular driver's car and they need to proceed to the pit at a reduced speed. This portion of the class was eye-opening as I saw the flags at the Virginia International Raceway the past weekend but didn't know their meanings.

Now was time to practice but first, FIRE!! We went out to a section of the track where a team of firemen and other experts await us to teach us how to put out a car fire. We each had a turn taking the fire extinguisher to dispel the controlled fire. Removing the pin, aiming the nozzle at the

itching to come from Dwayne as I make my way to my seat.

So, let us get to the “Crash and Burn.” I had no idea what type of day we had ahead of us.

The day started with introductions, most of the people in the class are Sports Car Club of America(SCCA) members. Some of our classmates have memberships older than my 35 years of age. It is like when an enlisted member says, “When I came in the Army in 1979...,” my first thought is always, ‘I was not even a twinkle in my daddy’s eye!’ I digress, I leaned over to Nadine to ask if this was a small community like the

base of the blaze, in this case at the center. That was a different experience compared to being ready to extinguish pooh bins in Iraq! Tee hee! (please note I’m going off a horrible memory and an open book. Forgive me if I mess up the order, I promise they gave us excellent instruction)

Army as some of the other attendees mentioned working with other. The class began with going over arm signals and flags. Would you know there was more than just the checkered flag in racing! I surely didn't and how you hold or wave it has a significant meaning.

Next was hands-on with flags. They had it set up where two cars would perform a faux race, lucky drivers, I say! Moreover, we students would react to the situations that would arise. For instance, if an emergency truck were needed on the track to pick up a vehicle with a flat tire one flagger on the mic and headphones would announce



**Beneficiary Dewayne
enjoying a laugh with
Photographer John**

white flag, 2nd flagger would hold out a solid white flag motionless until said car was out of their section and in the next part. If the emergency truck were moving flagger would continue to hold the flag in place until the slow-moving vehicle stops on or off the track, it is then covered by appropriate use of the yellow flag. We each took turns being the flagger, 'lead' flagger wearing headphones and just observing asking our instructors questions.

Once everyone had a chance to participate we continued back inside with a test and a final overview of the course. All in all, I would say the day was a success,



I finally got a photo of the photographer, I present to you beneficiary Alex.

and I gained another experience that I can add to my toolkit. I hope to use this and participate in a race as a flagger one day; everyone was amicable in giving us information of upcoming races we could join in and letting us know our families could participate as well. Thank you once again for Operation Motorsports and a special thank you to my class neighbor Nadine! Thank you guys for taking care of us crazy Vets!



Reflecting on the future to come and the awesomeness that OpMo will provide.
Beneficiary Me(Renee)



Beneficiary Hairam standing
watch.



Look at that ride!!



Beneficiary Dewayne being his silly as we get ready for our group photo.