

## Post Event Press Release

Before taking to the half-mile oval at Pocono Speedway, several ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards drivers practiced their skills in go-karts and went wheel-to-wheel with Pocono-area children.

ARCA drivers and RAD Racers Larry Barford, Jr., Zoe Mattis, and Shawn Umphries signed autographs and met with children and families before taking to the track to race. Chief Harry W. Lewis, PMRPD, State Representative Rosemary Brown, and SSgt. Duke Elliott-Harmon of the Pennsylvania National Guard Civil Ops program spoke to the kids about the dangers of drugs at S&S Speedway Thursday night.

This was all a part of a special go-karting event hosted by the National Center for Prevention and Research Solutions and ARCA Safety Initiative sponsors RAD Racing Team and *Stay on Track*.

Each driver had the chance to race go-karts with and sign autographs for the kids, and all four introduced themselves and spoke briefly about being healthy and safe in all walks of life. SSgt. Elliott-Harmon demonstrated the effect of alcohol on one's vision and balance using Fatal Vision Goggles designed to simulate impairment.

Larry Barford, Jr., RAD Racing Team Spokesperson, described his experience as an advocate for the cause. "Feels good to know how lucky I am to be a professional racecar driver and to have the freedom to go from town to town and race... This is a great opportunity for me to use my free time and likeness when I go to these towns to get into the community and spread the word about being drug free!!! Whether it's go-karts or fishing... Feels good to make friends!"

The RAD Racing Team is a network of volunteers dedicated to promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle to our nation's youth. RAD provides a framework for motorsports professionals and enthusiasts to incorporate a drug free message into their racing interests, allowing them to advocate and serve their communities. RAD spokespersons are role models who educate, inform, and encourage kids to make responsible choices, set appropriate goals, and refrain from abusing drugs or alcohol.

*Stay on Track* is a motorsports-themed, drug free, healthy lifestyle curriculum developed by the National Center for Prevention and Research Solutions, a recognized leader in the prevention arena for over 20 years. *Stay on Track* provides children with the tools needed to make good decisions, maintain a positive "pit crew" (network of friends), improve their communication skills, and live healthy, drug free lives. Since 2006, NCPRS has reached over 400,000 middle school students with the *Stay on Track* curriculum in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Costa Rica.

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