

6/11/2007

DREAM OF A LIFETIME

We left Kalamazoo to drive around Chicago, IL. We received a call from our good friends, Toni & Jim Byrket. Jim wanted us to meet them in Indianapolis, at the Speedway, to watch him ride in an Indy Car. We agreed to do so, and made plans to extend our trip route by four more days.

We found a wonderful County RV Park at the White River, about 25 miles from the track. It was so calm and peaceful that you could almost hear the river flowing!

Saturday morning we went to the Speedway and signed in to go down to the track. There were a bunch of people there, in fact, more than a hundred people had signed up for the experience. I was also amazed to see a lot of women had signed up.



The night before, it had rained, and we thought they would scrub the runs. We arrived and saw about 8 or so trucks and vans speeding around the track to dry it off. They ran about 3 to 4 hours.

The company doing this have two modified Indy cars, (\$650,000 apiece!) They rotated about 20 fire suits and helmets among the riders. Professional young drivers, a full pit crew for fuel and tire changes, and only one car around the track at a time. The passengers were strapped in like clockwork, one car leaving and one arriving into the pit area. They did three laps at about 180mph, not much more than the morning commute on Interstate 10 at home!

Being so close to the action was exhilarating. Jim was like a kid at a candy store. Where else could you live out your dreams at the Indianapolis Speedway!

Tomorrow we will head north to Duluth, MN, catching more Indians on the way.

Dave & Bonnie