

The American Red Cross is in Minneota today, Wednesday, July 1st, for a Summer gathering. The unit will be at the Minneota American Legion from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Greg Biffle, driver of Roush Fenway Racing's No. 16 Ford Fusion, has signed on again as a Red Cross spokesperson this 2009 racing season to help raise awareness among the 75 millions NASCAR fans across the country about the ongoing need for blood donations.

Thanks to a generous donation by 3M, Biffle, a Red Cross blood donor and member of its National Celebrity Cabinet, will wear the Red Cross fire suit and drive the No. 16 Ford Fusion with the full Red Cross paint scheme at the Spring Cup Series races in Atlanta, GA, on Labor Day weekend.

"I'm proud to be an American Red Cross donor," said Biffle. "I give blood because it's easy to do and helps support the community. I hope NASCAR fans across the country will join me this racing season by giving lifesaving blood as often as they can."

American Red Cross blood donors and supporters can participate in the Red Cross Racing donor rewards program by accruing points for a variety of activities including giving blood and/or platelets, and recruiting other blood donors. Registrants have the chance to get points and exchange them for NASCAR-themed prizes, such as limited edition die-cast cars. Fans can join the program by visiting redcrossracing.com.

The Red Cross is also engaged with NASCAR through a number of initiatives, including partnerships with Clorox, Lowe's Home Improvement, Sunoco, the NASCAR Foundation and the multiple drivers and race tracks that hold blood and bone marrow collections.

Last year's efforts were a great success as more than 28,000 people joined Red Cross Racing, resulting in nearly 22,500 blood donations.

You don't have to be a NASCAR driver or enthusiast to get involved. But being aware of your community, and the need for blood all year long, is a great motivation to join your friends in giving this life-saving gift.

Summer is notoriously the slowest time for blood giving, while accidents often require more whole blood and platelets. So make plans now to stop at the American Legion on Wednesday to be a donor.