SIR all revved up for race weekend

By Jarrett Smith, Special to The StarPhoenix July 9, 2010

With two months of the racing season officially in the books, Saskatchewan International Raceway (SIR) now has its eyes squarely on the July race dates.

With any luck, July and August will bring an end to the rainy weather that has thrown a wrench into racing plans. Hot and dry weather tends to be the norm for July and August, but with unstable air moving over the province, a sunny day can turn into a storm in minutes.

SIR is scheduled to have three straight days of NHRA drag racing on the 1/4-mile track this weekend.

Tonight kicks off with a Street Legal event which has been a long time coming for some racers. The event was scheduled for last Friday, but as you guessed, rain ruined the plans.

Since the programs on Friday go until sundown, drivers can expect to get in a lot of races. The weather forecast for today expects some hot temperatures. So it's a good idea for racers to keep an eye on their coolant overflow tanks earlier in the evening when the air is still quite hot. The tanks will reduce the likelihood of liquid falling on the race surface.

SIR staff won't get much of a break. They'll be back at the track early Saturday morning getting ready for points race No. 3 in the season series. This weekend marks the first of two double-race events in July. That gives leaders in the points series a chance to pull away or for the others to pull closer.

Saturday's action starts with racer gates opening at 9 a.m. and time trials beginning at noon. Spectator gates open at 2 p.m., while race eliminations are expected to start at 5 p.m. and run late into the evening.

Saturday is also the inaugural NHRA provincial championship at SIR. Competitors in super pro, pro, sportsman, sport compact and junior dragster all get the opportunity to be the first-ever champions in this event and receive a special trophy for their efforts.

Sunday's points race No. 4 has the usual gate times. Racer gates open at 8 a.m., with time trials going at 9 a.m. Spectator gates open soon after at 10 a.m., with racer eliminations starting at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday follows the standard format in points races, with the champions in each class taking home the winners plaque, money and points.

SIR congratulates the winners at the rescheduled Erin Beck Memorial season opener June 27. Winners were Walter Fernets of Biggar in super pro, Brian Hebert of Regina in pro, Trevor Jacek of Saskatoon in sportsman, Shawn Kvass of Pitt Meadows, B.C. in sport compact, James Gordon of Dalmeny in street legal and Blayz Verge of Prince Albert in junior dragster.

Best of luck to all racers this weekend!

Jarrett Smith is a Saskatoon freelance writer.
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