

SIR ready to get loud for Cruise Weekend

By Jarrett Smith, The StarPhoenix August 20, 2010

It feels each year there's something special about late August in Saskatchewan. While the sun doesn't shine in the sky for as long as it did in June,

daytime temperatures can reach 30 C as kids get set to go back to school. And, of course, there's also Cruise Weekend and the popular events at

Saskatchewan International Raceway.

Of all the racing throughout the season, the Friday night street legal race and the alcohol car feature this weekend are events people have marked on

their calendars. With all the classic hot rods invading the city, who can resist the urge to see cars going 230 m.p.h.

Starting off the weekend at 5:30 p.m. on Friday are the grudge matches in street legal racing. This event is a favourite among street legal racers as there

is always a fantastic turnout of both racers and fans. As the sun sets earlier in the evening we will be turning on the lights in order to allow racers to

compete well into the night.

As a veteran of this event, I know there's something special about flying down the 1/4-mile straight at night with the track lights guiding your path.

This is the one street legal event per year where mufflers are mandatory for all cars in the race. If your car is not equipped with a form of street legal

mufflers or registered to be driven on the street, you will not pass the technical inspection.

After the action on Friday night, the track crew turn their attention to preparing for the alcohol funny car and dragster feature event.

Saturday starts off with racer gates opening at 9 a.m. and time trials beginning at 10:30 a.m. Spectator gates open at 2 p.m., with sportsman racer

eliminations starting at 4:30 p.m. The feature cars make their appearances on the track at 6:30 p.m. and racing continues well into the night with

champions being crowned in all classes as well as the International Blown Alcohol Association.

SIR has done an excellent job bringing in high calibre cars and talented drivers for the annual event.

In Saturday's race for the first time in a few years will be John Evanchuk of Edmonton. Evanchuk is the current record holder for speed in SIR alcohol

funny car at 241.39 m.p.h. and will look to run the first five-second alcohol funny car pass in SIR history.

Alongside Evanchuk will be Edmonton's Nathan Sitko, who is also capable of running record numbers based on his performances around the country this

year.

Sitko went 243 m.p.h. at an event in Mission, B.C., in May.

Also shooting for the record books will be Greg Sereda of Spruce Grove, Alta. Sereda is the track ET and speed record holder in top alcohol dragster.

Sereda ran 231.74 m.p.h. in 6.12 seconds at SIR. However, he is running a new engine setup this year and earlier this season ran 5.70 at 255 m.p.h.,

also in Mission.

Adding to the show are the ever popular International Blown Alcohol Association cars that have a pre-set index time of 7.5 seconds. These cars have

provided exciting racing for years at SIR and feature local flavour with Sherri Bodnarchuk and Dwayne Treleaven.

Rounding out the feature cars is Gary Urlacher, who will be hauling his Pro Modified 1963 Corvette in from Alberta. Urlacher's car is powered by a Pat

Musi 632-cubic inch engine with two stages of nitrous, capable of getting Urlacher down the track in under seven seconds at more than 200 m.p.h.

Take a close look in the pits at Urlacher's paint job. His framework has more than 1,000 hand airbrushed skulls and is a sight to see.

On a sombre note, SIR sends its sympathies to the family of dedicated racer and friend Kelvin Polonich, who died Aug. 9. Kelvin will be missed by all

who knew him.

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