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ISSUE

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VOLUME 17
MARCH
2010

Westwood Karting



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2010 MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2010 in order to keep receiving this newsletter and have voting privileges at club meetings. Make your racing more enjoyable by having a say in how the club operates!

SPONSOR A BARRIER

Want to advertise your business right at the track to racers and spectators? Like to have your family's name proudly displayed as supporters of the WKA? Contact Aaron Laithwaite to purchase safety barriers around the track at MRP.

New Season, New Look

This racing season will be the first of a new decade, and racers will see a lot of new developments with the club this year. The most obvious is the return of Westwood Karting News, which was last published in 2007, when after years of hard work by Archie Henderson, various issues led to its demise.

We also have a new president, as Daryle Redlin takes over from Rich Frost. Rich will still be actively involved though, in his role as a new member ambassador. Thanks Rich!

Our club will remain under IKF sanction this year, but the possibility of dual sanctioning with ASN is being looked into, as well as holding a BCKCA regional race to go along with our Gold Cup event.

will have some variety this year as we will be at two, or maybe even three different tracks! In addition to our track at Mission, there will also be two events at the new SIMA facility in Sumas, Washington, and hopefully a road race on the big track at Mission as well.

The demonstration race that was staged at the B.C. Custom Car Show at Tradex last year will also see a return to our schedule.

Finally, we will see two new classes: the new Junior 2 class and the Open class.

2010 should be a very exciting year for all Westwood Karting Association members, as we move forward and build as a club. Read on for more information, and enjoy.

On the racing side of things our season



Upcoming Club Events

Club Meeting Night **April 13, 2010**

Westwood Karting Association's meetings are held on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month.

Meetings are held at the Walnut Grove White Spot at 20077 91A Ave in Langley, across the street from the Colossus movie theatre. Start time is 7pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Westwood Club Sprint Events

April 3&4	Club Race #1 - MRP
April 17&18	Club Race #2 - MRP
April 24&25	Demo at BC Custom Car Show, Tradex
May 22&23	Club Race #3 – MRP
June 11-13	Club Race #4 – MRP (Gold Cup)
July 10&11	Club Race #5 – MRP
July 31, Aug 1	Club Race #6 – SIMA
September 11&12	Club Race #7 – SIMA
September 25&26	Club Race #8 – MRP
October 15-17	Club Race #9 – MRP (Road Race)
November 6	Awards Banquet

MRP – Mission Raceway Park

SIMA – Sumas International Motorsports Academy

IKF REGION 6 Sprint Gold Cup

March 27&28	Tri-Cities, Washington
April 24&25	Tri-Cities, Washington
May 29&30	Spokane, Washington
June 11-13	Mission, BC
July 24&25	Chilliwack, BC
August 7&8	Tacoma, Washington
August 21&22	McMinnville, Oregon
September 4&5	Boise, Idaho
September 18&19	Sumas, Washington

IKF REGION 6 Road Race

April 10	Grass Valley, OR (Sat)
April 30, May 1	Bremerton, WA (Fri/Sat)
May 15	Portland, OR (Sat)
June 4&5	Spokane, WA (Fri/Sat)
June 19	Portland, OR (Sat)
July 17	Seattle, WA (Sat)
September 10&11	Bremerton, WA (Fri/Sat)
October 2	Portland, OR (Sat)
October 15&16	Mission, BC (Fri/Sat)

Check Us Out On the Web!

www.westwoodkarting.org

Or on Facebook.

Errors can happen!

Hopefully the information here is correct, but if you notice something is listed incorrectly, please contact me to let me know. I want the newsletter information to be as accurate as possible, and any help is appreciated.

Thanks!

don@westwoodkarting.org

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISING POLICY

All Advertising must be pre-paid.

Classified Ads are for non-commercial use by members and non-members.

The current rate is \$10 for 2 consecutive insertions of **25 words** or less. Extra words are 10 cents each.

To place a classified ad, email me at don@westwoodkarting.org

Commercial advertising in the Westwood Karting News should be directed through our VP of sponsorship Aaron Laithwaite at aaron@westwoodkarting.org

****All advertising should be submitted BEFORE the LAST DAY of the preceding month for publication in the next month's issue.****

KARTS

2009 Italkart Rapido V

125cc chassis, 1 Race on frame, Large Iame radiator, Douglas mags, Italian Motors tm K9B.
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2008 Italkart Supersonic V

6 race old 125cc chassis complete with front brakes, My-chron, seat, Freeline mag wheels.
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\$4000
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mgregoracing@shaw.ca or 604-290-8250

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WE WANT YOU TO GET YOUR NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE MOVED, FILL THIS IN AND LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!
Non-members wishing to subscribe may also use this form to receive the Westwood Karting News by mail. The cost for non-members is \$15/ year (6 issues) or FREE with your membership in the Westwood Karting Association

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DRIVER PROFILE

Continued from Page 5

In order to keep sharp for his job racing prototypes, Michael continues to drive karts on a regular basis and races his TaG ICC and Leopard on a regular basis at WKA club events as well as Gold Cup and occasional national events, and as always, is right at the front.

He also coaches and assists many young (and sometimes not so young!) drivers, passing on the knowledge and skill he has developed over the years, giving back to the sport that started it all for him.

Michael is a great example for all young racers, and a truly valued member of our club.



Turn 3b, Pacific Raceways

SHIFTING GEARS

Observations and Opinions by Don

- **I'm excited to be working to bring this newsletter back to life. I used to really enjoy having it to read, and I hope everyone enjoys its resurrection. I also feel confident that having some hard copy club info will help to attract more members.**
- **Since this is my first go at this, I hope everyone will allow me some time to improve. That said, comments or contributions will be welcomed.**
- **One notable change from previous editions is the addition of the "Driver Profile" section. I hope to make this a regular feature, so if you would like to be profiled, let me know.**
- **It is my intention to have this as a monthly newsletter, with race results and reports included, which should be fun for junior racers. And adults who still dream of being the next Schumacher.**
- **Are you reading this newsletter and finding out the club is changing in ways you like? Or don't like? Why not try coming to a club meeting so you can have a say in changes to the club? Every member's views are important, but if you don't make yourself heard at the meetings, the executive can only do what they think is best.**
- **Volunteers are always needed for club events. If you or someone you know would like to help out, please contact anyone on the executive.**
- **Shifter karts have returned as a big part of our club in the last two years, and it's hard to deny the excitement of watching (or driving) a shifter. This year looks very exciting for ICC type karts internationally, as there are a lot of new engines coming out. This class is more popular than ever in Europe, and chassis manufacturers like Birel, Maranello, and LenzoKart are developing their own engines, as is legendary engine maker lame.**

YOUR AD HERE

TO INQUIRE ABOUT COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN THE WESTWOOD KARTING NEWS, CONTACT AARON LAITHWAITE AT:

aaron@westwoodkarting.org

HELP YOUR BUSINESS REACH KARTERS AND AUTO ENTHUSIASTS AROUND THE LOWER MAINLAND!

BC CLASSIC & CUSTOM CAR SHOW

Once again this year Westwood Karting has the opportunity to showcase our sport to an audience much larger than we are accustomed to at our track. The 14th Annual BC Classic & Custom Car Show will be taking place at the Abbotsford Tradex Convention Centre from Friday to Sunday, April 23-25, and our club will be there in full force. We will have a static display booth and a temporary track where we can demonstrate what a real racing kart is capable of. This should help draw some new members to our club, and add some excitement to the show – although the lineup for the weekend is very exciting already!

Karters will want to check out the event even if they don't plan on being involved, as it will feature more than 250 of the Pacific Northwest's finest Street Rods, Muscle Cars, Classics and Race Cars. Also worth checking out will be the unveilings of custom creations from some of western Canada's top car crafters. Celebrities from the automotive world like Brett Wagner (host of 'Pass Time' on Speed), the 'King of Kustomizers' George Barris, and Chip Foose will also be attending the event throughout the weekend.

Friday and Saturday night starting at 8pm will be the 'Fuel & Fire' event which will feature Nitro Dragsters, Funny Cars and Fuel Altered's firing up their 3500+ horsepower engines, which should be music to any motor head's ears!

Also part of the event will be the Hot Rod Hotties and live entertainment from house band 'Hamilton Harvey', rock band 'Rythymfysh', and Canadian Idol finalist Karen Lee Batten. Brother Jake from Rock 101 will be on site as well, broadcasting live on Saturday from 11am to 3pm.

Show times are Friday 5pm – 10pm, Saturday 10am – 10pm and Sunday 10am – 5pm. Tickets are available on site - \$16 for adults, \$14 for Seniors, \$8 for youth 6-12, and free for kids 5 and under.

This event should be great for our club and a good time for all – make sure to mark it on your calendar!

New Racing Venue For 2010

Last season, Westwood made the move to a brand new track at Mission Raceway Park, and once again this year will see the excitement that only a new racing facility can provide.

Claudio Valiante of Italian Motors is constructing a brand new, world class track in Sumas, Washington, and we will have the privilege of racing on it in its inaugural season.

Located at 529 W Front St, Sumas, the track will be a 17 turn, ¾ mile course with a 30ft wide racing surface. Planned amenities include

proper washrooms, a scoring tower, restaurant and a meeting room. Individual garages will also be available for storage. This project looks to be a big positive for karting in the region, and an excellent opportunity for our club, as very few clubs can offer the variety of multiple venues.

Construction began on February 18, with a scheduled completion date in June. Race 6 and 7 of our championship will be held there this summer, so make your plans now to ensure you don't miss out.

For more info visit www.simaracing.com or email info@simaracing.com



SUMAS INTERNATIONAL
MOTORSPORT ACADEMY

2010 Road Race Season Ready to Go

Well here we go with the 2010 Gold Cup road race season. We have 3 additional tracks slated for this season which combined with Pacific Raceways in Seattle, Portland International Raceway and Bremerton Airport, Bremerton Wa make up a total of 9 races at the Northwest's premier sports car circuits.

Westwood will be hosting a road race on the Mission Raceway Park (MRP) sports car circuit for the first time since 1991 at the famed Westwood circuit. This promises to be a terrific way to provide all our local sprinters with a finale to our club's sprint championship. Note the MRP sports car circuit is 1.3 miles long (several times the length of our MRP sprint track) so sprinters will need to gear up for the higher sustained speeds and longer duration of road races. All sprint classes from 12 years up are eligible to run. Road races depending on class are either 45 min or 30 min so extra fuel capacity may be required depending on your kart and class. Most road racers do not use chain oilers as we find that today's chain lube formulations will easily last the required time and higher speeds. Since there are higher ultimate speeds in road racing you may find that extra careful tire balancing is required. In order to provide our sprinters some MRP circuit time to gain familiarity, your executive is in discussions with circuit owner, the Sports Car Club of BC to arrange for 3 Friday afternoon practice sessions tentatively scheduled for the Fridays of April 2, June 25 and August 6th. We expect to have these arrangements finalized soon.

The next additional track is at the new Sports Car Club of America circuit in Grass Valley Oregon. This is a technical 3+ mile track with lots of elevation change similar to the famous Infineon Raceway in California. Since this new track is on the east side of the Cascade mountains about 1.5 hours east of Portland it receives only about 10 inches of rain a year, so we will be almost guaranteed a dry first 2010 event on April 10th. The other additional track is Spokane Raceway Park, fresh from its purchase by the county and flush with many upgrades. This track is the fastest we race on all year with a straight in excess of 1 mile long and speeds for the 250cc unlimited karts up to 160 mph.

So we have a full road race season planned and welcome any of our club sprint folks to come and try out the higher speeds, longer duration and laid-back atmosphere at any of the 2010 Gold Cup road race events here in the beautiful Northwest. You will find all road racers very willing to help with questions to make your experience safe and enjoyable. See the website 2010 Race Schedule for a listing of all the events and race day schedule. Please feel free to email me any set-up, track locations or other road race questions you have.

Stan Crocker VP Road Race, IKF Division 8 Governor/Coordinator

Changes to Class Structure

This season will see two new classes race with our club. Junior 2 will provide an intermediate step between Junior 1 and 3, and the Open class is aimed at new members or racers who haven't been out in a few years and have old equipment that doesn't fit other classes.

Junior 2 is not actually new, but has been completely revamped to reflect the Rotax class structure. It will see drivers 10 and up compete on cadet chassis with restricted lame Leopard engines. The engine has a small inlet and reduced exhaust, and will run the small one hole airbox. The weight is set at 265 lbs. This will allow someone to start with a Leopard at a young age and continue using the same engine all the way to senior classes by removing the restrictions.

Open will serve as a "run what you bring" class. Any chassis or engine type will be allowed, as long as it meets club safety requirements. There will be no weight limit for this class, and it will feature a reduced entry fee of \$50. Come out and try racing!



DRIVER PROFILE



It seems fitting that for the first edition of this feature we focus on the man who is definitely the top kart racer ever to come from the Westwood Karting Association, Michael Valiante.

Michael is a dedicated karter, who started out as a junior racer in our club, and still continues to race with us despite having a successful career as a professional driver in the Grand-Am Rolex Series.

As a senior racer, Michael showed his skills by winning Gold Cup, Canadian, and North American championships in the Formula A class. He also finished a very impressive 6th at the world championships, something very few North American pilots have ever even come close to. In 1998 he was also ranked as

the top shifter kart driver in North America by Shifter Kart Illustrated magazine.

As a direct result of these results and his skill driving a kart, Michael was awarded a full-season of racing in the Skip Barber National Series and won both Rookie of the Year and the overall championship. Young karters should take note of Michael's example – if you have enough skill and desire, karting can lead into higher levels of motorsports.

The next step was the Barber Dodge Pro Series, which was made possible by the Rio Big Scholarship, again due to Michael's proven ability. Success at this level led to a drive with Lynx Racing in the Toyota Atlantic Championship, North America's top open wheel development series. In his two full seasons in the series, he scored 6 wins and 10 podiums.

As a top young talent, Michael got the chance to run 2 indycar races in the CART series, finishing 14th in his first race at Mexico City and a strong 11th in Portland, before moving on to professional sports car racing. He has spent the last five year as a front runner in the Daytona Prototype class in the Grand-Am series driving for top teams like Chip Ganassi Racing, Suntrust/ Wayne Taylor Racing, and his current team Michael Shank Racing. He has scored many poles, podiums, and fastest laps, and is regularly the fastest driver in the series.

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