

Insider
For June 4, 2008
Cedar Falls Edition
By Kim Burger

It's off to the races! Cedar Falls Raceway, formerly known as Neita Raceway, has been an entertainment staple to the area for many years and exciting new things are happening at the track these days! Scott Gardner is a relatively new owner to the attraction, but brings many years of experience as he also owns and operates the Eddyville Raceway in Oskaloosa and Cordova Drag Strip in Cordova, Illinois. He and Dan Driscoll, manager of the Cedar Falls Raceway, worked hard last year to make numerous track and equipment improvements and have plans for several more. They have also stepped up promotions and prize money, bringing more and better racing to the track with each season.

They have, in fact, doubled the attendance at many of their events from previous years. The bulk of their patrons come from come from Black Hawk County and surrounding areas, but they are also pulling in many spectators around the Midwest, mainly the Minnesota area.

In addition to the spectators, the number of drivers coming to compete has also doubled. Driscoll tells us they bring many from the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, as well as all over Eastern Iowa. This summer's schedule is packed with exciting events too numerous to mention here, but a visit to www.cedarfallsraceway.com will put you in the know. Besides their regular weekly events, they are making their mark hosting some national events like the National Hot Rod Association's Division 5 Nationals that were held in May.

This weekend on June 7th, they will hold their first annual Night of Thrills event featuring two jet funny cars, Benny the Bomb and Jim Brewer and His 44 Willys. 200 racers and 3,000 to 4,000 spectators are expected. Racing takes place all day with the thrilling feature race beginning at 6pm. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for kids 6-12.

The Night of Fire Race is another big one that takes place July 26th. Last year's event drew in 200 racers and over 5,000 spectators.

We're particularly excited about the Hot Rod Magazine's 14th Annual Midwest Power Drag Tour coming up on Thursday, June 12th. The Tour is easily considered one of the best tours in the world and is a rolling testament to what HOT ROD magazine is all about. The seven-day, seven-city tour kicks off June 7th and will wind its way through the mid-west and will generate a nationwide buzz in the automotive enthusiast market! We're told to expect 1,700 to 2,000 street legal show cars to roar through town as they make their way from Ames to Rochester. The Cedar Falls Raceway is the only drag race stop on the tour and scores of spectators are expected. We anticipate 600 cars will actually race and could be arriving as early as 9am and will likely head for Rochester at around 1pm. This promises to be quite a site so don't miss it!

Other big dates include Midnight Mania on June 28th, August 2nd and September 27th. Generally 300 high school drivers come out for these races, which are intended to provide some good clean fun for area youth. Harleys and Hot Rods is another fan favorite planned for August 23rd.

A number of opportunities exist for you to add Cedar Falls Raceway to your entertainment list this summer. For a complete listing of their events, stop in at the Visitors Center and pick up a copy of their brochure, or check our web site at www.cedarfallstourism.org.