

Rain forces SIR rescheduling

By Jarrett Smith, Special to The StarPhoenix June 25, 2010

Sometimes it feels we just can't win in Saskatchewan. We're spoiled by hours of sunshine, but get little rain. The area is brown with limited vegetation.

Then we have a spring like this year where it's rained more days than not. The trees are greener than ever, but farmers struggle to plant crops.

As you may have guessed, rain plays havoc with Saskatchewan International Raceway.

Due to the large amount of rain, SIR was forced to reschedule the Erin Beck Memorial season opener to this weekend. Originally slated for May 30, the

event was washed out. Racers had to wait until the next weekend and the jet car feature event to get their first crack at the track for the season.

Even at that, some racing was pushed from Saturday night to Sunday. Thanks to a late afternoon shower June 5, racing was delayed by several hours.

Members of the track crew worked hard to dry the racing surface so the jet funny cars and dragster could give an evening show for the fans. But there

wasn't enough time to run all the sportsman cars, which completed eliminations Sunday.

With all that has taken place this spring, SIR has decided to reschedule this weekend in a big way. It is giving racers and fans three solid days of drag

racing on the quarter-mile track.

Tonight's action features street legal racing starting at 6 p.m. with gates opening at 5:30 p.m.

For street legal racers who haven't run their cars in a while, note that SIR recently installed a state of the art timing system with an LED Christmas tree.

The timing is more in-depth and offers timing increments of 60 feet, 330 feet, 660 feet, 1,000 feet and the full quarter-mile.

Saturday features a test and tune event plus jackpot racing for points series competitors or any street legal racer who wants the opportunity to run on a

prepped racing surface. Action gets underway at 11 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m.

Sunday, racer gates open at 8 a.m. and quickly turn to time trials at 9 a.m. Eliminations start about 1:30 p.m. and run late into the afternoon.

Sunday marks the second points races of the year. Many veterans who had success at the jet car feature event will look to increase their point leads.

Congratulations to Fred Schwab (Super Pro), Gloria Pfeifer (Pro), Don Giesbrecht (Sportsman), Adam Knutson (Sport Compact), Mark Rawson (Street

Legal) and Matt Osemlak (Jr. Dragster), who all took home the plaques and the season point leads at the jet car event.

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Racers should keep a close watch on the racing schedule or check out www.racesir.com as July is scheduled to be a busy month at SIR. Three street

legal races are planned for Friday nights on July 2, 9 and 23. Four points races are scheduled on the weekends of July 10 and 11 and July 24 and 25.

July 10 and 24 are Saturday night races with time trials in the afternoon and eliminations in the evening.

Best of luck to racers this weekend. Let's hope the weather co-operates and we can see a full weekend of racing.

Jarrett Smith is a Saskatoon freelance writer.
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