

5-13-11 RACING LAWMOWERS MAY BECOME LOCAL PASTIME

Source Karen Spencer



ROSEVILLE, CA. After the outrageously successful first season of lawnmower racing at the Placer County Fair last year, both the Fair staff and race officials received numerous requests for information on how to get in on the action. The Sunset Raceway was built in 2010 to accommodate the racing mowers.

The pros from USLMRA (United States Lawnmower Racing Association) climb aboard super-modified machines that can attain speeds up to 70 mph, but most backyard riding lawnmower jockeys aren't ready for the big time. So Bud Elmore and USLMRA President Bruce Kaufman have agreed to open a Local Stock Division for non-modified riding mowers. The blade must be removed and several other safety adaptations must be made. Details are on the Fair's website and more is available at www.letsnow.com.



Drivers will be required to wear full face helmets with either a shield or goggles, long sleeved shirts and gloves, long pants or race suit with over the ankle leather boots. SFI approved neck restraint braces will be available and are required on the track.

America's oldest organized riding lawn mower race was founded in 1963 by the Twelve Mile, Indiana Lions Club, which still takes place on July 4th each year. The sport became more well-known after it was featured on ABC-TV's Home Improvement season finale, with Tim Allen racing Bob Vila.

Lawnmower races will take place Saturday and Sunday on Sunset Lawn during the annual Placer County Fair June 23-26. For more information visit ww.placercountyfair.org.