

Full slate of racing action at Salem Speedway

Written by George Browning
Tuesday, 21 January 2014 00:00 -

Salem Speedway Fueled by the Hoosier Lottery enters its 68th year of existence with an exciting lineup of 12 events scheduled to take place during the 2014 season.

The diverse slate of events includes a mix of national and regional programs, featuring the .555-mile high banked oval, the quarter-mile infield track and the "Roval" road course.

"We believe that our 2014 schedule is one that will provide unlimited excitement and great racing action all season long," said track general manager Richard Deaton.

Among traditional events returning to the high banks in 2014 are spring and fall visits by the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards and the 55th annual Joe James/Pat O'Connor Memorial, featuring the Must See Racing Xtreme Sprint Series.

The Federated Auto Parts ARCA 200 is set for Sunday, April 27th and the Federated Car Care ARCA Fall Classic will take place under the lights on Saturday, September 13th.

The spring race will mark the 95th appearance of the ARCA Racing Series at Salem. No track has appeared more on the series schedule through the years than Salem.

New Jersey's Tom Hessert and South Carolina's Kyle Benjamin visited victory lane in ARCA competition last season at Salem.

The Scott County Visitors Commission Joe James/Pat O'Connor Memorial, one of the most historic and longest running memorial races in the nation, headlines August action at Salem. The 55th annual sprint classic is set to unfold on Saturday night, August 9th.

The honor roll of past James/O'Connor victors reads like a "who's-who" in open wheel racing history with such names as Bob Sweikert, A.J. Foyt, Parnelli Jones, Mario Andretti, Bobby

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Unser, Pancho Carter, Rich Vogler and Tony Stewart gracing the list of former winners.

Indiana's Brian Olson held off a determined Brian Gerster to win his second consecutive James/O'Connor Memorial in 2013, thus becoming the first back-to-back race winner in 33 years.

The JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour late model series returns to Salem on Saturday night, June 21st for the Midwest 150.

"The JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour features some of the top young talent in the nation," said Deaton. "Drivers such as Chase Elliott, Erik Jones, Kyle Benjamin and others have honed their skills competing with the JEGS/CRA series."

Ohio's Cody Caughlin, a highly touted 17-year-old, captured the 2013 JEGS/CRA race at Salem.

The Lucas Oil Great American Stocks are in the spotlight on several occasions during the 2014 season at Salem, including serving as the support division for both the spring and fall ARCA races, the James/O'Connor Memorial and the Midwest 150.

Salem Speedway Fueled by the Hoosier Lottery will once again pay tribute to our nation's military on Armed Forces Day with the Spring Speed Fest on Saturday night, May 17th, with free grandstand admission for all active duty military personnel and veterans. This is also dollar beer and dollar hot dog night at the track.

The Thompson's 20th Season Celebration presented by Ace Hardware of Salem unfolds on Saturday, July 26th and features a night of racing action, plus other fun-filled activities to be announced. 2014 marks the 20th season for Salem Speedway Fueled by the Hoosier Lottery under the ownership of the Owen Thompson family.

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Other traditional events planned for 2014 include the 25th annual Firecracker 200 presented by the Scott County Visitors Commission on Friday, July 4th and the 26th annual Smoker Friendly Discount Tobacco Halloween 200 on Sunday, October 26th.

Road racing action is set to unfold on two occasions in 2014 with the Salem Roval Grand Prix on Sunday, June 1st and the Redneck Enduro 100 on Sunday, Nov. 2nd. Both races feature the Portland Recycling Front Wheel Drive Cars competing on a circuit utilizing the infield short-track and a portion of the half-mile high banks with both left and right-hand turns.

The 2014 Salem Speedway Fueled by the Hoosier Lottery season kicks-off on Sunday, April 6th with the fourth annual Short-Track Festival. The O'Reilly Auto Parts Pure Stocks and Portland Recycling Front Wheel Drive Stocks headline the afternoon of racing action, that includes the inaugural figure 8 race for the Front Wheel Drive cars at Salem.

Additional information concerning the 2014 activities at Salem Speedway Fueled by the Hoosier Lottery, including ticket information, may be obtained by calling (812) 883-6504 or toll free 1-888-246-7223 or by accessing the Speedway web site at www.salemspeedway.com.