



CHASE'N RACE'N

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NEW GA DIRT OPENS IN CARNESVILLE



TAKE ME DOWN TO PARADISE CITY

TRI-STATE KICKS OFF WITH ALL FEMALE HEADLINE ACT



INSIDETRACK
with Phil Combs

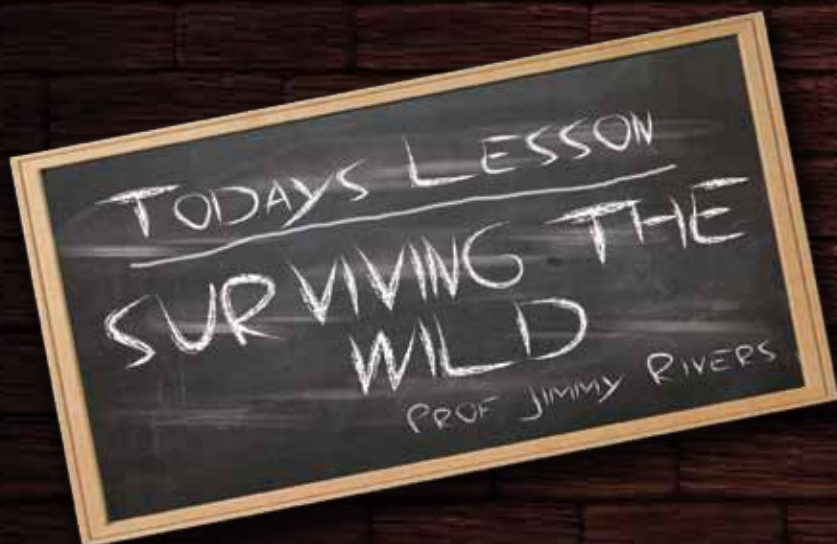
**SPEEDWAY DIRT
DRIVER
RANKINGS**



Speed Shop Scholar
Surviving the Wild

Bonus Coverage:

OVKA Swap Meet / BMI Indoor Speedway
6th Annual Icebreaker @ GMP
Plus More!!!



SPEED SHOP SCHOLAR

Welcome to another edition of the "Speed Shop Scholar". This month we are going to discuss the tools and other items that are necessary to survive a day at the track.

You got the kart, you got the engine, you got the tires, and you have the driver. What else do you need?



Well, we are going to help you with that.

Let us set up our pit area first. Kart stand, definite necessity. Choices range from a couple of sawhorses up to high end rolling toolboxes with the kart on top. Make your



choice upon your budget and needs. Keep in mind a rolling stand that you can use to transport your kart from your pit to the grid, and back from the scales is a major plus.

Some tracks it almost becomes a must have item.

A small table can provide a home base for all your tools and can bring order to a somewhat chaotic pit area. It offers an area to place your toolbox and gives you a space to do your trackside repairs and maintenance.

Speaking of toolbox, let's look inside the box of a prepared racer. A cordless impact wrench is the single most appreciated item to today's racer. Take it from someone that was racing before they came along, it's worth every penny. Removes tires, weights, and almost anything else you need removed. Bring a charger and a spare battery. A good quality 6 point socket set will finish it off. A basic wrench set that ranges from 1/4" to 3/4" will cover most every nut and bolt on your kart. Some sizes, namely 7/16", 1/2", 9/16" and 3/4", it is a good idea to have a second. Jamming weight nuts, ad-



justing toe, and camber take a second wrench to complete the work.

Clone engines and the Animals have metric fasteners. This requires a few more additions to the wrench



drawer. A 10, 12, and 13 mm wrench will cover almost any situation, no real need to buy a complete set, but be sure to check pricing, sometimes you can purchase a kit for the same price as a few individual pieces.

Allen wrenches are also needed to work on your kart. Wheel hubs, gear hubs, and motor mount clamps all carry fasteners that require an allen wrench. A set of long handle loose allen wrenches and a quality set of t-handles will fulfill your needs. Make sure the t-handles have the ability to turn onto the side and apply increased torque to the bolts that need it.

A selection of screwdrivers is needed to do everything from replacing tach batteries to changing the air filter. On occasion they serve a multiple purposes as a mud re-



mover or "prybar". Add a couple pair of pliers of varying size and a pair of wire cutters. Handy to remove safety wire, trim zip ties, and to help with bending items like header braces.

Now that our tool box is complete, let's move on. We know we are going to need to clean our tires, and to prep them before further on track action. A plastic wash tub, available at most home stores, with the addition of water, a bit of tire wash and a good sponge gets the tires nice and clean. A good pair of chemical resistant gloves, and a few wax applicator pads will help us get our tires ready.

Tire pressure, tire size, and tire hardness are all

critical factors. To check and keep track of these you will need a quality air gauge, tire tape, and a durometer. Com-



ing to the track without any of these is almost as bad as leaving the kart at home. In other words, definitely must have items. A small air tank is a handy method to inflate your tires.

Most auto parts stores carry a small waste oil container to drain your used engine oil into at the track. Many have a resealable lid in case you have to take the oil with



you. A graduated oil bottle, or small funnel will help get the fresh oil back into the engine.

Chain lube, bearing oil, and filter spray will cover the lubes, while brake cleaner and window cleaner will cover most of our cleaning tasks. Be sure to bring a bag of shop rags and a roll of paper towels.

Rome wasn't built in a day, neither was the pit box of most racers, however the above items are critical to any kind of success at the track. Use the above guide to outfit your pits with the tools and parts that will turn your day at the track into a much better day at the track. Good Luck, and God bless, see you next month!