



COMPETITOR BULLETIN

February 2012

As we lead up to another great year of Drag Racing at Hidden Valley we have plenty of things happening that we would like to share with you. It was a busy year in 2011 and this year is shaping up to be just as big. There are plenty of new vehicles arriving and others being upgraded so it's sure to be exciting racing all season long.

MORE EVENTS

That's right, you have asked and we have listened. We have extended the Track Championship Series to include a 7th Round of racing for 2012. Starting in April and ending in September we have continued the traditional season but squeezed in another date. Remember if you want to see more racing at Hidden Valley we need your support by entering these events. Be sure to check out the website for event specific details as they are released.

NEW RACING TIMES

Considering the increased number of entrants we received in 2011, and the late nights we had, we are bringing the racing schedule forward. This of course is a big change to get used to but with bigger fields and more family participation we want to ensure we can finish events at a respectable hour.

We have also looked at the stats for 2011 and found that very few competitors were using the full 3 rounds of qualifying so we have also condensed the qualifying sessions down to 2.

Gates open	1:30pm
Scrutineering	1:30pm – 4:30pm
Qualifying sessions	2:30pm – 5:00pm
Feature Racing	6:00pm – 10:00pm

Be sure to check out the specific event schedules which will be released the week leading up to each event for changes. If you print out a copy you will know exactly when you are scheduled to race.

2012 SEASON CALENDAR

Apr-06	Off Street / Test & Tune
Apr-28	Season Opener
May-11	Beat the Heat Off Street
May-19	Track Champs Round 2
Jun-22	Beat the Heat Off Street
Jul-14	2012 NT Titles
Jul-27	Beat the Heat Off Street
Aug-04	Track Champs Round 4
Aug-18	Track Champs Round 5
Sep-08	Track Champs Round 6
Sep-14	Beat the Heat Off Street
Sep-22	Season Finale
Sep-28	Beat the Heat Off Street

2012 MEMBERSHIPS

We have gone electronic with our memberships to save you having to print out forms and fax them off or try to find a good old stamp. Register a new account and log into the Competitor Area on the website. There you will see a 2012 MEMBERSHIP event that you can register for and pay via credit card. We will receive your entry and can then arrange a 2012 membership pack to be posted out to you.

WORKING BEE

Sunday 11 March from 8am
Hidden Valley Drag Strip

Hidden Valley Drag Racing Association

Hidden Valley Rd, Berrimah, NT
GPO Box 3726, Darwin NT 0801
Ph (08) 89471320
mail@hiddenvallydrags.com
www.hiddenvallydrags.com

NEW ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM

Two of the most common queries that we received last year were why do I have to type in the same information every event, and why did I click submit but I get an error? Jay has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes to develop a revamped website and an updated competitor entry system. The new website is now hosted in Australia on what we hope to be a more robust service to ensure a seamless experience. As part of the website revamp there is now the capability to save all your details so you don't need to type the same information in every event.

You will need to register a new account to be able to log into the Competitor Area. This allows you to fill out all your important contact and vehicles details. Once you are logged in you will be able to enter any event at Hidden Valley Drag Strip. The only fields that need to be updated for each event are your bracket, vehicle class, crew names and HVDRA membership number. This should make it even easier to enter for events.

LATE EVENT ENTRIES

In 2011 we were very lenient on late competitor entries as we appreciated that it was a new process for everyone but it was a great burden on the committee as we had to continually revise paperwork as late entries rolled in. We are very proud that we had nearly 100% of competitors use the online system for the Track Championship Series, a fantastic effort for the first year.

This year however we will strictly enforce entries closing at 5pm on the Friday one week prior to each Track Championship event. Major events such as the NT Titles will close 2 weeks prior to the event. This is essential to ensure we can effectively plan the event schedule and issue pit allocations if necessary – and it saves us having our hair turn grey. If you try to register after that time you will automatically incur a \$100 late fee.

SCHEDULED QUALIFYING SESSIONS

Last year with the new timing system we had to implement scheduled qualifying sessions. This is because every bracket is entered in a completely different file and we need to swap files as the

brackets change. For one reason or another we had a lot of problems with competitors towing out whenever they felt like. You can only imagine the confusion this causes when we have to keep swapping brackets with every pairing.

Each event will have a schedule issued the week leading up to race day which will tell you when your bracket is scheduled to run. We will be trying to utilise the PA system more to call brackets and inform you of any schedule changes so we hope to give you plenty of time to get prepared. You can assist by bring a copy of the schedule with you and making sure that you only head out to the staging lanes when your scheduled session is about to start.

SEEDED RACING

Last year we tried a new format of non-seeded racing. We thought it may make it more enjoyable and mix up the racing a little but the feedback we received strongly suggested that both competitors and officials preferred the structure of seeded bracket racing. We have taken this on board and this season we are going back to the traditional seeded Chicago Shootout format with fastest vs slowest.

You will need to bear with us though as this will be the first time we have run seeded racing with the new timing system. All the bracket marshals are sure to be working their hardest to get the brackets seeded and ready to race at 6pm.

Because we are going back to seeding it is very important that you let the tower know if you break during qualifying. We can only assume you will be racing unless we get told otherwise. We simply will not have the time to re-seed brackets multiple times if you don't tell us you are out.

DIAL IN BOARDS

Over recent years we have put the onus back on you the competitor to have your dial in written on your windscreen so the race director can call it up to the tower. This has saved our amazing bracket marshals from running kilometres every night with the old dial in sheets. A by-product of this has been that it has been difficult for bikes, altered, Junior Dragsters



and other vehicles without a front windscreen to write their dial in somewhere.

As of 2012 we will be making it compulsory for all vehicles that do not have a front windscreen to run a dial in board. This is a very cheap way of allowing you to clearly display your dial ins. These need to be visible from the front and/or right hand side of the vehicle.

We appreciate that you may not be able to get it in time for the start of the season so we are giving a 3 meeting grace period with it becoming compulsory as of the 1 July 2012.

For sedans, if you still want to write your dial in on your window please do so but make sure it is clearly legible from the front and right hand side of the vehicle. The officials may not always be handy with a spare marker but the markers are readily available from stationary supply stores for only a few dollars, the perfect addition to your toolkit.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

What have we been doing during the off season you may ask? Other than the usual tireless planning we have also made another capital improvement. We have now purchased a dedicated track ute for the track crew to use for preparation and clean-ups. We are also hoping to have a golf cart by the start of the season to help with transport for officials. After seeing the kilometres young Adam, our motorsport chaplain, clocks up every meeting we needed to give these guys and gals an easier way to get around.



We expect these improvements to help save time and effort for our officials who all volunteer their time to allow everyone to race (just keep that in mind throughout the year and be sure to give them a big thank you at the end of the night – some of them have been there since 6am). Even though our running costs continue to increase, we have been able to maintain the same competitor and spectator entry costs yet still carry out these capital improvements. The improvements have only been possible due to the fantastic support we have been receiving from all our sponsors so be sure to also support them in return.

We also have three other pet projects that we want to do. They may not be completed by the start of the season as we are waiting on Government approvals but we would like to restructure the staging lanes to provide more space and make it easier for tow vehicles to move around. We would also like to improve the track lighting, and upgrade the emergency braking area. These are obviously relatively large projects so we will keep you updated with their progress.

RACER PROFILES

We have received a few calls in recent weeks asking if we could publish details of a competitor's car. We are always looking for stories. We need a good quality photograph of the vehicle and some words, or at least some details. If it's newsworthy you may even be lucky enough to see it in one of the many Darwin and National media outlets that we send to.

If there is enough interest, we may even establish a Racers Profile section on the website.