

Get on Our Soap Box!



Issue 3 - Nov 2012 FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby

2012 NEW ZEALAND CHAMP TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF AKRON ADVENTURE

Gemma McDougall represented New Zealand at the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby's 75th World Championship Race Week this summer. Her trip to America was filled with sight-seeing, making new friends, participating in Derby activities and racing for the title of World Champ. After traveling 26 hours to get to Akron, jet-lag couldn't stop Gemma from packing in as much fun as possible.

Gemma, who just turned 11 and is in the sixth grade, lives in Auckland, New Zealand. She lives close to the waterfront and often goes biking and walking along the beach with her dog Max. She also plays touch rugby, tennis and netball. Waterskiing and snow skiing round out her active lifestyle.

In New Zealand, there are four regional races. The winners



Gemma McDougall (in the red shirt) with (from left) Debbie Knox, Shawn Dyer and Linda Rocca at the 75th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship. (Photograph courtesy of Linda Rocca.)

from those races compete in one national race to win the top spot and a trip to the World Championship. Gemma won the only trip to Akron, Ohio - a place in the Super Stock division.

Gemma raced with a team from her school, St. Ignatius Catholic School. The team was made up of four drivers and 10 pit crew members. Various sponsors for the team and Gemma's trip to Akron included the Rotary, Mr. Apple, CaroTrans, Pak 'n Save, Todd Group and many families from her school.

When she won the race in New Zealand, Gemma was so excited

she couldn't stop screaming. She couldn't wait to see America and the permanent track at Derby Downs. Outside of her home country, she had only been to Australia, Fiji and Rarotonga. The United States was her next stop.

Gemma started out in Chicago, IL, where she visited the "Bean" and John Hancock Observatory and took a double-decker bus tour of the city. She then touched down in Ohio, where she toured the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and checked out the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland. However, once she

(story continued on page 2, "Gemma")



Gemma McDougall celebrates her win in New Zealand. (Photograph courtesy of East & Bays Courier/Fairfax Media.)

Gemma

(continued from page 1)

landed in Akron, the excitement skyrocketed.

“It was such a fun Race Week,” said Gemma. “Everything was so new to me. I had never been to a baseball game or been so far from home.” Shawn Dyer, New Zealand AASBD Team Manager, and Debbie Knox, New Zealand Support Crew, were able to help Gemma and her mom Linda navigate Race Week. Their knowledge from past trips to the World Championships made the experience a little easier.

Gemma said she met “so many nice, friendly people.” On her first day in Akron, she made new friends whom she walked with in the parade. She made even more friends throughout the week. People would comment on her accent and ask to trade a button. They could not believe she came all the way from New Zealand.

On race day, Gemma was knocked out after her first heat. Her day would have ended, yet she still needed to compete in the International Championship Round. She raced against champs from Germany and Canada. After winning her heat, she headed back to the starting line to race against the winner of the other international heat. After flying across the finish line, she had won. She screamed in excitement. At the awards ceremony later that evening, she was awarded a trophy.

Gemma will probably never forget her trip as an international Soap Box Derby champ. The derby in New Zealand does run a Masters

race, but they do not send the champ to Akron at this time. Gemma hopes to continue to be as involved as she can be with the race back home.

When she is older, Gemma wants to work at a zoo. She likes helping little kids and wants to own a puppy. With her spunk and positive attitude, there is no telling where this champ will go in the future. It is sure to be further than Akron.



Gemma practicing in New Zealand before her trip to Akron, OH. (Photograph courtesy of Linda Rocca.)



Gemma and her car handlers waiting for a trial run during Race Week at Derby Downs. (Photograph courtesy of Linda Rocca.)



Gemma about to race her mini Soap Box car at the Topsy Show during Race Week. (Photograph courtesy of Linda Rocca.)



Gemma working on her Super Stock car during Race Week. (Photograph courtesy of Linda Rocca.)

SCHOOL TEAMS ARE NOW FORMING FOR GRC

Now is the time to contact your local schools and let them know about the Gravity Racing Challenge (GRC). It is a cool, fun way to learn and apply the STEM (science, technology, education, mathematics) Initiative in K-12 educational programs.

The GRC school team competition will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio. School teams should start forming now.

Racing divisions with the suggested grade levels are:

Stock, grades 3 to 5; Super Stock, grades 5 to 12; and Masters, grades 9 to 12. Each team is made up of two adult coaches and four to 10 students: two to four pit crew members, a driver and alternative driver, and media specialists, such as a photographer, reporter and marketing director.

School teams will also have the opportunity to participate in a mini Soap Box Derby car race and photography, writing, infomercial and other rewarding competitions. During the Gravity

Racing Challenge, universities, businesses and other community organizations will have booths available with STEM-related educational activities.

The 2012 GRC event had 65 school racing teams and over 400 participants from Ohio and North Carolina.

For additional information, please contact Linda Hubbell, Education Director, at (740) 817-0345 or linda@asbd.org.

Lone Star Fraternity Partners with AASBD

Lone Star Fraternity, from The University of Akron, has partnered with the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby. The fraternity is the oldest local fraternity in the United States. It is also the only chapter in existence.

Lone Star Fraternity held a Founders Day Ball and Fundraiser on October 13, 2012. Members were able to raise \$2,150.00 for the Derby. Over 130 people attended.

Myron Fedeckyj, Chairman of the Lone Star Founders Day Ball, said, "The brothers of Lone Star Fraternity are excited that one icon in the Akron community, Lone Star Fraternity, has decided to partner in support of another icon in our community, the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby."

Mark Mourton, a member of the fraternity, said, "The reception by Lone Star Fraternity alumni and active members in sponsoring the FirstEnergy All-American Soap



Joe Mazur (middle left) is presented a donation from Lone Star Fraternity by Myron Fedeckyj (middle right). Also pictured are Lone Star Fraternity members Mark Mourton (far left) and Bob Fritz (far right).

Box Derby was greatly received. Virtually all alumni brothers have great memories of the Derby and are excited to move forward with derby-themed activities, as we plan to increase our participation and support of the AASBD."

Partnering with Lone Star Fraternity, a historical, local organization, will be an exciting venture for the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby.

Get on your Soap Box & Give Thanks!

What are People in the Derby World Thankful for this Year?

DANNY HUGHES:

Grove City, Ohio

National Control Board; Ultimate Speed Challenge Board; Greater Columbus Board; works on mini Soap Box kits

"I'm thankful for having a loving and understanding wife that puts up with me and my interest in the Derby. I'm also thankful for our daughter Danielle; she is a great young lady. I would like to thank everyone we have raced with or worked with throughout the years. I have made many lifelong friends because of the Derby. I've enjoyed every minute and hope to do so for a very long time."

ALLEN DIXON

Ephrata, Wash.

Soap Lake, WA Race Director (new race city!)

"I'm thankful for the derby and its ability to teach children. They laugh, they cry, they learn to be a winner and experience how to lose. Kids learn good sportsmanship. Some of our most memorable experiences can be created from Soap Box Derby. These memories could shape the rest of our lives."

ERIC GRIFFIN

Winter Park, Fla.

Sanford, FL race director; Region 7 director; 1970 Albuquerque, NM local champ

"I am thankful that the Derby has been a part of my family's lives. We still remember our car trip to the World Championships in 1970. The time spent with my sons going to rallies and Akron is priceless. After my sons aged out of racing six years ago, I became the local director in Sanford, FL, as well as the director for Region 7. My wife, parents, sisters and sons still enjoy helping run the races while spending time together as a family. I'm grateful for the renewed leadership, interest and sponsors that are leading the AASBD toward many more years and generations of families enjoying the time together in Soap Box Derby racing."

KEN MORROW:

Mogadore, Ohio

Competition Committee; National Control Board; Rally Commission; Ultimate Racing Commission; Honorary Board of Directors

What is Ken most thankful for? Gravity.

EVAN MAVES, 8:

Madison, Wis.

current Stock Rally racer

"I am thankful for my dad and his help with building my car. I'm also thankful for my Papa, who drives us to our Soap Box races in his camper, and Mimi for cooking all of our food. She and my mom are my #1 supporters."

LOGAN MAVES, 10:

Madison, Wis.

2012 World Stock Champion;

current Super Stock Rally racer

"I'm thankful for my family. My Papa got us into Soap Box Derby racing, my dad puts a lot of work in to my car, and my mom and Mimi cheer on the side of the track. I'm also thankful for the Derby, which gave me the chance to meet a lot of new people from around the world and become a World Champion."

ELIZABETH KIMBALL

Aledo, Ill.

Region 5 Director

"God has blessed me and my family! I am thankful for the wonderful family and good health that he has given me. I am especially thankful for my two beautiful, supportive children. They make being a mom the most rewarding experience ever! I am thankful for the extended family that I have through Soap Box Derby. This is a wonderful sport. I have been able to develop lifelong friendships with the many people that I have met. They have become part of my family, and for that I am thankful!"

Sponsor Spotlight

Golden Corral

Golden Corral has become a sponsor for the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby's 2013 World Championship Race Week. The corporately owned restaurant on Arlington Road in Akron, Ohio had been a sponsor for this year's 75th Race Week.

Joe Mazur, President and CEO of the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby, and Bobby Dinkins, the Director of Marketing, met with Pam Lawrence, General Manager of the Golden Corral, and Todd Kaufman, District Manager at Golden Corral on October 24,

2012. During the meeting, they discussed ways to increase the restaurant's level of sponsorship.

In addition to providing food during Race Week, Golden Corral will dedicate a private banquet room as a derby-themed room in the Arlington Road location. The room seats about 50 to 60 diners and can be used throughout the year. The Derby will be able to provide decorations such as Soap Box cars and memorabilia.

During the 75th Race Week, Golden Corral served food

to racers and their families. On Tuesday and Wednesday, food and drinks were free, and donations were accepted. When Brenner Furlong, the Super Stock champ from Kenai, AK, wrecked his car during a trial run, Golden Corral used the money they had collected to help repair his car.

With their generosity and kindness, as well as their creativity in ways to expand their sponsorship, Golden Corral has a promising partnership with the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby.

Want to Become a Sponsor of the AASBD?

The FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby is always looking for new partners. If you or your company would like to discuss partnering with the AASBD, please contact Bobby Dinkins, Director of Marketing at (330)733-8723 ext. 34 or bobby@asbd.org.



Mini Race Week and Other Activities Encourage Local Participation

Would you like to attend a race week featuring a swimming party at the heat drawing, an adult race, a family cookout, a race at a permanent track, and an awards banquet? This isn't an exciting new layout to the AASBD World Championship Race Week. Instead, it is Lancaster's race week before their local race.

Lancaster, Ohio has been an official race city since 1955. The city has a permanent race track and a museum that features current champions' Soap Box cars. Various major sponsors support the race. Committee members put out a bi-monthly newsletter. Throughout the year, the derby holds various activities for the racers in the area and those interested in Soap Box Derby.

Lancaster Soap Box Derby Association holds a few Fun Runs every year. The races are a way to gain interest in the derby and keep the local racers involved. Everything is explained to the kids and their parents: how to put together a kit, how the races are run and more. The kids also take a trip down the track. In the end, Lancaster gains about five to six new racers every year.

In the off-season, the local racers and the derby committee get together for bowling and skating parties. They are also involved in the community. For example, they participate in parades by entering a Soap Box car and passing out information about the program.

Brian Hunt, the race director, is very involved with all of his racers. His daughter used to race, and both of them now volunteer during the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby Race Week every July. Hunt helps his racers build their cars if they need assistance. He makes sure he shows an interest in each racer's goal and gives them personal advice. He wants all of the racers in Lancaster to do their best.

When some of the Lancaster Rally racers were not able to get a ride to the Columbus, Ohio rally in September, Hunt stepped in. He drove four racers to the rally race. Even though his daughter no longer races, Hunt makes sure the children that are currently racing stay as involved in the Soap Box Derby as they can be.

A lot of planning goes in to Lancaster's race week. Each racer is sent a packet of information. The packet includes a schedule, order forms for T-shirts, rules and other items pertinent to the race and race week.

Sponsors are very important to the Lancaster derby. The racers are given a letter that invites their sponsor to race day. They are also given a plaque to present to their sponsor. The sponsors are even invited to the awards banquet.

All cars are turned in the weekend before race day. Then, there is a heat drawing and swimming party. Trial runs and alignments occur for the next two days. In the middle of the week, there is

an Adult Powder Puff/Old Man's Race for those who want to experience the thrill of the hill but are slightly over the age limit.

On Friday, the day before the big race, all of the families get together for a cookout in the park. A Derby Queen is crowned. The newly appointed royalty will be an additional ambassador for the Lancaster derby and participate in all derby-related activities. She is introduced during the parade before the race on Saturday.

Race day is all business. After a full day of heats, three new champs are awarded trophies. The next day, the Stock, Super Stock and Masters champions are given information on attending the World Championship Race Week in Akron. The rest of the racers pick up their cars.

A few days later, everyone gets back together for an awards banquet. Families bring dishes to share, and they reminisce over race week.

The Lancaster Soap Box Derby Association is able to promote the derby all year long. But they are not just promoting Soap Box racing. They are fostering friendships that will last long past day. The kids get to know each other better, and they feel like a team. Supporting the derby is good, but only when it supports the people who are a part of it.

To learn more about the Lancaster Soap Box Derby Association, visit their website at www.lancasterderby.com.

10 Things to do During the Off-Season

by Alexis Cozadd, Fall Public Relations Intern

With winter being right around the corner, the racing season is starting to slow down. In some places, this means months of agonizing wait for the snow to clear, so you can get back to racing. But don't fret! There are plenty of Soap Box Derby related things you can do during the off-season.

1 Explore a Race City You've Never Been To

With over 130 race cities across America and the world, there are plenty of opportunities to visit a place you've never been to. Why not take a weekend trip to explore the city and see where other kids race?

2 Have a Derby-Themed "25 Hill" Watch Party

What better way to reminisce about Race Week than to watch the Derby-inspired movie "25 Hill." Don't own the movie? Visit www.25hill.com to find out where you can pick up a DVD.

3 Become Pen-Pals with a Racer in another Race City

You can swap race stories, give each other pointers, or even plan to meet-up in Akron for Race Week!

4 Have an Outing with Other Racers

Talk to your race director and round up some other racers. You could go to the movies, go ice skating or even simply have a pizza party! For more ideas, check out page six to find out how the racers from Lancaster, Ohio have fun together.

5 Make Derby-Themed Holiday Cards to Send to Friends & Family

Why not try cutting them out in the shape of your Soap Box Car? Or, you could decorate it to look like a past World Champ's car.

6 Help Others who are Less Fortunate in Your Community

The holidays are right around the corner and so is the season of giving. Find a non-profit organization in your community, and ask if you can get involved! You could have a canned food drive, a Toys for Tots drive, or simply volunteer your time. The possibilities are endless.

7 Have Sled Riding Races

Still have the itch to race? Round up your friends and head to the nearest snow-covered hill! You could even decorate your sled to look like a Derby car!

8 Join the Rally Program

If you still want to feel the rush of racing, there are some Rally races going on in cities near and far. Regularly check out the Rally Race calendar at www.aasbd.org.

9 Design T-Shirts for You & Your Racing Crew

Nothing says "we're a team" like a uniform - even as simple as matching shirts. Visit your local craft store for a wide variety of sizes and colors of T-shirts. You can paint or tie-dye them or use iron-on transfers to decorate your shirts. You could even make matching hats or tote bags!

10 Recruit a Friend to get into Derby Racing

Birds of a feather flock together, so why can't they race together too? Get a friend involved in Soap Box Derby racing. You can help them build their kit, come up with a design for the shell and share insider tips.

Whatever you decide to do during the off season, keep in mind that we want to see you race next year. So stay safe and use adult supervision when needed. Be sure to take the "thrill of the hill" with you wherever you go.

Derby President/CEO leaves Akron to visit Rally Races



Joe Mazur speaks to members of the Junior Committee in Culpeper, Va.

Joe Mazur, President and CEO of the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby, visited two Rally races in the month of October. He spent one weekend in Hancock, Md. and another in Culpeper, Va. Mazur was able to talk to the race directors and organizers, as well as the racers and their families. He learned a lot and was able to see the future of the Rally program and the AASBD.

On October 20th and 21st, Mazur went to the Hancock, Md. race. He said it was run very well by Scott Fox and his committee. Mazur talked to racers and their families. Many are excited about the new Rally race that will occur during next year's 76th World Championship Race Week.

The Rally race runs right through downtown Hancock. Mayor Daniel A. Murphy and Chief of Police Timothy J. Buskirk - with whom Mazur also spoke - are very supportive of the race.

Hancock is the home of 2011 Local Super Stock World Champion Emily Fox. With an organized race

and supportive community, there are sure to be many more world champs coming from Hancock.

On October 27th and 28th, Mazur visited the race in Culpeper, VA. The race was run on a new permanent track. The Paul Bates Raceway opened earlier this year for Culpeper's Local race. The track was decorated with Halloween decorations. Racing pits were also decorated, and racers and fans wore costumes.

Mazur said he and his family were welcomed with open arms from Frankie Gilmore, Culpeper's Race Director, and her committee. Their kindness and hospitality was not limited to the President and CEO. They extend the welcome to all new racing families and those already established in Culpeper.

Culpeper's Rally race, other races, clinics and more are run by the Junior Committee. The committee was established after Frankie noticed the clinics could be run more effectively. The adults who were helping were doing their best to teach the new

racers. However, they didn't have all the information they needed. So, Frankie formed a Junior Committee of experienced racers.

The past champs and racers, as well as current racers, were able to help the new kids. The Junior Committee then went on to help with running the derby races. Frankie and her team were able to stand back and help when needed.

The Junior Committee is a way to keep former racers who are not able to race or who have aged-out involved in the sport of Soap Box Derby racing.

"The Junior Committee is growing these young adults into future leaders," said Mazur. "It is a way to grow and sustain the Soap Box Derby and enhance the lives of the young people involved."

After visiting two Rally races, Mazur is even more excited about the program and the ways the race cities are being run. In the coming months, he will be visiting other race cities. He wants to learn as much as he can about the people who run them and the kids racing in them. Mazur is envisioning a bright future for the AASBD's programs, and these are the people who will help see it through.

For more information on Rally races, visit www.aasbd.org; look under the "Events" tab. To learn more about the Hancock, Md. race visit Facebook and search for "Hancock MD All-American Soap Box Derby". For information on the Culpeper, Va. race visit their website at www.culpepersoapboxderby.com.

Upcoming Races

Rally Races:

November 10 & 11

- Sanford, FL (only on 12/10)
- Madison, WI (Indoor)

November 17 & 18

- Tallahassee, FL
- Silicon Valley, CA

November 24 & 25

- Ventura, CA

December 1

- Sanford, FL (race to be held in Lakeland, FL)

December 8 & 9

- Akron, OH (Indoor; Toys for Tots)

December 29 & 30

- Sanford, FL

> No Local Races are being held this month.

> Please check the AASBD website (www.aasbd.org) or with your race director for all updated changes.

Happenings @ Headquarters



Derby Downs is the perfect place to hold a company picnic, school event and more. Let us know what event we can plan for you!

Contact Adam Bozic,
Events Manager, at

(330)733-8723 ext. 13

adam@asbd.org

Derby Downs Detective

Who raced these iconic Soap Box Derby cars?
Find the answers below the photographs.



1



2



3

1. Karren Stead from Lower Bucks County, PA. In 1975, she became the first female World Champion.
2. Robert Gravett from Dayton, OH. In 1933, he raced "Old No. 7" in the first Soap Box Derby in Dayton, Ohio.
3. Robert Turner from Muncie, IN. In 1934, he was the first winner of the national Soap Box Derby in Dayton, Ohio.

Putting the T & E in STEM Workshop at Derby Downs on Oct. 12



Members of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association take a tour of Toppide at Soap Box Derby headquarters in Akron, Ohio.



Adam Bozic, Events Manager at the AASBD, shows workshop participants how to assemble a Soap Box kit.

Gravity Racing & STEM Workshop at Big Run Park in Columbus, Ohio on October 19



Members of the Central Ohio Educators Association wait in anticipation for a race down the Columbus Soap Box Derby track.



Workshop participants try their skills on the mini Soap Box car track.



FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby

789 Derby Downs Drive
Akron, OH 44306

www.aasbd.org

(p) 330.733.8723

(f) 330.733.1370

(e) soapbox@asbd.org

