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Karters get down and dirty

KART RACING

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A short while ago, we looked at one of the many kart chassis available for bitumen racing. With significant numbers of these being sold each year, it begs the question: "What happens to the old karts?"

Well, now we know. It's dirt kart racing. Specifically, the Wheatbelt Dirt Kart Association, a relatively new segment of kart racing in WA, formed

about six years ago. Starting with a small group of farmers, the association now has nearly 250 members, with circuits at Dowerin, Bencubbin, Mukinbudin, Wongan Hills, Goomalling and Jurien Bay.

While the farmers are still racing, many of the increasing numbers come from Perth and surrounding areas. This begs another question: "why would people travel relatively long distances to get dirty?"

The answer is low-cost fun. Club membership is \$35 per year and a race meeting entry is \$5. For first-timers, the clubs offer two trial race days at \$10. No typos here, these

numbers are correct. Combine this with the use of grooved second-hand slick tyres, discarded by the bitumen karters, and second-hand chassis, this would have to be the absolutely lowest cost form of motorsport in Australia.

OK, there are no frills such as trophies or prizes but what you do get is fun. With six races and a feature final on a race day, sliding sideways and full lock drifts virtually everywhere, this is great fun. The sort of fun that has you grinning from ear to ear.

In the main, there are three classes. Seniors use the Yamaha KT100S



Karters line up on the grid for another fun-filled, low-cost day of racing.

Clubman engine, juniors use the Yamaha KT100J engine and the midget/rookie age group use a 5.5hp Honda engine. Although the engines can be modified, a standard engine is all you need because the focus is on driving, rather than having more power than you need.

As with the other forms of karting,

this can be a real family affair, sometimes with dad, mum and one or even two kids racing.

Want to find out about having some fast fun in the dirt? If so, call the association president Brendon Williams, on 9631 1267, or the secretary Bruce Hill, on 0427 515 201.

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