

marketplace

- » JOBS
- » AUTOS
- » REAL ESTATE
- » APARTMENTS classified
- local shopping
- newspaper ads
- coupons
- phone book

gilbert

- City Guide
- Crime Reports
- School Info
- Sports
 - Golf
 - High Schools
- Opinions
- Columnists
- Traffic
- Conditions
- Obituaries
- Maps
- Venues
- Scanners
- Message Boards
- Email Newsletters
- More E. Valley Local Coverage
 - Ahwatukee
 - Chandler
 - Mesa
 - Scottsdale
 - Tempe

gilbert republic

» Print This » Email This » Most Popular » Larger Type » Smaller Type » Subscribe to The Republic

Double Trouble racers rollin' to Akron

Michelle Woo
The Arizona Republic
Jun. 2, 2005 12:00 AM

The inspiration came when Karla and Krista Osborne were watching *Miracle in Lane 2*, a Disney movie about soap box racing.

Wishing they could experience that same rush of adrenaline, they decided to take the driver's seat.

Now, when the 14-year-old twins from Gilbert put on their helmets, they become Double Trouble, a soap box-racing duo that travels from city to city, racking up more trophies than can fit on the display mantel in their garage.

advertisement



In July, they will take on a 954-foot racing track at the All-American Soap Box Derby Championships in Akron, Ohio.

Perhaps a need for speed is in their blood. Their father, Carl, who has been racing motorcars since he was 12, spent many weekends in the garage assembling the cars, which were delivered in a kit and cost about \$500 each, not including paint.

While watching their dad, the girls got to practice using a few tools. Karla said she remembers that a ratchet is the "one that looks like a hair dryer."

"It's good family bonding time," said Carl, who has built six cars for Karla and Krista since they began racing about two years ago.

In recent races, Karla has been driving a red super-stock car jazzed with a silver lightning bolt. Krista races a black and silver masters car, lying down inside it while driving. The cars are only a few feet long and are fueled by gravity.

The girls have traveled about 16,000 miles to and from local and national races. The family car lugs a shiny black box trailer with the words Double Trouble blazing across its side.

At competitions, sometimes called rallies, the twins will study the track and watch the strategies of other racers.

How drivers sit, lean and position their weight all have an effect on the car's speed.

Sometimes, before a race, they will see kids rolling tennis balls down the track to analyze its surface.

Drivers race two or three at a time, reaching speeds of up to about 30 mph. At times, the twins

must race each other.

"They're so close that they don't care who wins," Carl said.

Karla keeps a Gumby figurine and some rocks and flowers in her car for good luck. Before each race, Krista kisses her lucky pig.

At the weeklong competition in Akron, Karla will compete in the superstock division, and Krista will compete in the masters division. Both girls won first place in their divisions in the Superior Soap Box Derby in April.



Enlarge this image

Dave Cruz/The Arizona Republic

Karla Osborne (left) and her twin, Krista, are 14 years old and Double Trouble.

Email alerts

Enter your email address to get **Gilbert Republic (weekly)** newsletters.



News as it happens

- Board lets water park talks ride, hears foes
 - Grads met challenge
 - Strike halts construction on Santan
 - Pinal County considers master trails system
 - Mesa seeks lunch-line workers
- more »

top coupons

Tempe Mission Palms
\$109 per night

Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa
Summer Special \$165

Best Western Central Phoenix Inn & Suites
"Taste of Phoenix Art & Culture" package

Copperwynd Resort And Club
Dinner for 2 & Room \$229 - Spa for 2 & Room \$329

Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort
Rooms from \$75 per room, per night

Johnson's Cleaners
Laundered Shirts for \$1.35

More coupons »

Want more business? Put your coupon here »

"One of the best parts is meeting other people," said Karla, who keeps in contact with kids she has met at races through her computer's Instant Messenger.

The girls, who just finished eighth grade at South Valley Junior High, said they hope to continue racing when they enter high school. They said they also enjoy dancing, gymnastics and performing with the school orchestra.

Special offer: Get 3 months of The Arizona Republic home delivered for the price of 2!

Sponsored Links
Go kart racing. Go kart racing online Save at Target.com www.Target.com
Full Suspension Karts Off Road Durable Child/Adult Karts 45 Day Money Back Guarantee! www.FamilyGoKarts.com
Aero Fiberglass Co. Go Karts, Pedal Cars, Hood Scoops, Luggage Trailers, Golf Carts & Kits www.aeroglass.com

SITE MAP [azcentral.com](#) | [main](#) | [news](#) | [sports](#) | [money](#) | [entertainment](#) | [family](#) | [health](#) | [food & home](#) | [photo/video](#) | [shopping](#) | [español](#) | [weather](#) | [classified](#) | [jobs](#) | [autos](#) | [real estate](#)

CUSTOMER SERVICE [terms of service](#) | [contact The Republic](#) | [subscribe to The Republic](#) | [Newspapers in Education](#) | [The Republic in your community](#) | [about The Republic](#) | [jobs at The Republic](#) | [jobs at KPNX-TV](#) | [about KPNX-TV](#)

PARTNERS [USA Today](#) | [Gannett Co. Inc.](#) | [CareerBuilder.com](#) | [Cars.com](#) | [Apartments.com](#) | [REAL Cities](#) Network Member

Copyright © 2005, azcentral.com. All rights reserved.