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Soap Box Derby start flag will drop in Superior

By Carrie White
Tribune



From left, Krista and Karla Osborne started racing soapbox cars last year after they visited a race in Tucson with their father, Carl. The twins have qualified for the National Soap Box Derby this summer in Ohio.

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Beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday in Superior, 32 children ages 8 and older will line up at 100 Mary Drive in hopes of securing a slot to the granddaddy of all soapbox derby events - the All-American Soap Box Derby International Championship that will take place July 31 in Akron, Ohio. (There's another qualifying race in Tucson.)

Among those competing in the Central Arizona Soap Box Derby, but who've already qualified for the international meet, will be Karla and Krista Osborne, 13-year-old twin daughters of Peggy and Carl Osborne of Gilbert.

Krista was the first Osborne to catch the racing bug. Well, actually, the second. "My dad always wanted to do it, but his dad wouldn't let him," Krista said. After seeing the Disney movie "Miracle in Lane 2," her father's soapbox fire was rekindled - with sparks flying Krista's way.

"I was a little scared that first time," Krista said of that initial race in her metallic purple vehicle a year ago in Tucson.

Sister Karla wasn't so much scared for her sister as she was intrigued by the race. "I thought it was really cool how kids could race each other," Karla said. Now she competes against her twin in a red vehicle stamped with a lightning bolt. Each Osborne has raced in 30 events and still finds thrills.

"I like meeting different people from different states," Krista said.

"I like competing," Karla said, noting that between her and her sister, "I usually win."

Other East Valley racers scheduled to compete are Apache Junction residents Adam Guzman, 8, and Peter Guzman, 10. From Mesa, Caleb Andrews, 11, Kari Burgheimer, 13, and Lauren Burgheimer, 10. From Scottsdale, Michael Bridges, 9. And from Superior, Curtis Long, 10, Kathleen Lucas, 10, Mario Padilla, 9, Andrew Vick, 8, Joshua Vick, 9, Damion Videl, 10, Nathan Villalobos, 11, and Suzanna Villalobos, 9.

Soap Box Derby racing has been around since 1933 with three rallies held in Superior in recent years. The Superior meet is free to spectators. For more information, visit www.aasbd.com [<http://www.aasbd.com>].

GETTING THERE

Superior is 48 miles from Mesa. Take U.S. 60 toward Globe. As you enter Superior, Mary Drive will be on the right. Turn right onto Mary Drive and follow it to Superior High School.



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