

NEWS RELEASE SPORTS/MOTORSPORTS

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**RACING RETURNING TO U.P. FAIRGROUNDS IN 2010**

ESCANABA, Mich. – Since 2001 the sounds of race cars have been absent from Escanaba. Race fans in the area will be able to rejoice in 2010 as the rumble of the engines will reignite excitement at the U.P. Fairgrounds.

The management team of the U.P. State Fair Authority, the Delta County Commerce Center, is working with several former board members of the U.P. Racing Association to stage three exhibition events this season and analyze the prospects of reopening the speedway on a full-time basis in 2011. The three Saturday dates scheduled are June 12, July 31 and Aug. 21.

While plans are still being finalized for participating divisions at the fairgrounds on those dates, a former board member of the UPRA is drafting rules for local four-cylinder drivers to participate. Rules, registration and information will be available shortly at [www.deltami.org](http://www.deltami.org).

The U.P Racing Association sanctioned races at the fairgrounds before its closing in 2002, and may be able to supply financial assistance to the project. The Commerce Center is also exploring options for stimulus dollars including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help in track development.

“Since the day that racing ended in Delta County, there has been a constant request to bring racing back,” said Vickie Micheau, Executive Director of the Delta County Chamber. “Our objective is to develop a business model that will support future racing events.”

The group’s plan for 2010 is to use the existing track to create an abbreviated course for the three exhibition races. By hosting the events, they hope to gauge interest in returning racing to the fairgrounds and, with limited expenses, deposit funds to help support non-fair events such as racing.

To help the sport get back on track in Escanaba, the group has consulted Doug Strasburg, who has been involved in short track racing for over 40 years. Strasburg is volunteering his time to help guide the groups through the process. He and his wife Julie, who live in Fort Atkinson, Wis., near Madison, are the owners of the Mid-American Stock Car Series, which returned to the Upper Peninsula last June for an event at Norway Speedway. The couple also served as track managers of I-44 Speedway in Lebanon, Mo.

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## FAIRGROUNDS RACING (2/2/2/2/2)

In December Strasburg attended Racing Promoters Workshop in Reno, Nev. With information from the workshop, Strasburg said he hopes to help champion the future success of racing at the venue. “The long-term goal is to have a successful short track at the fairgrounds. I look forward to working with the people from Delta County, the management team and U.P. State Fair Authority to help guide this project.”

No plans for 2011 have been finalized. Jim Gale, president of the Authority said, “The groups involved are working to do a cost analysis to assess which track configuration and type of surface will best support the racing community and benefit the UP State Fair.”

For more information on the racing events planned for 2010, contact Boyd Widdis at 906-450-5112. For information related to the events at the U.P. Fairgrounds or facility updates, visit [www.deltami.org](http://www.deltami.org).

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