



Guide for the new kart racer 2009

What is Kart Racing?

Kart racing is the fastest growing and most economical form of Motorsports. It is very family oriented and extremely fun activity. At our home track, **3Flags Merrit Motorsports Park**, you will see moms, dads, brother and sisters working together on the family driver's kart or karts preparing for next on-track session. The driver could be any one or more of those family members. Karting is a great tool for learning life skills as well, including self-discipline, patience, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

These aren't your typical amusement park Karts are they?

The Kart that you can rent on any summer day at a local amusement park is of very different technology and has the speed restricted to a maximum of **35kph**, and is considered to be a toy when compared to a real Racing Kart.

Racing Karts use specifically designed racing engines mounted on sophisticated, highly engineered and certified factory built chassis that are capable of speeds from **60kph to 170kph!** Speed for the younger drivers is restricted per age group and class, and even at the slower speed range doubling that of a rental, wheel to wheel racing action is thrilling.

A Kart isn't a REAL Racecar?

This is the biggest misconception! Racing karts of today are in every way a REAL racecar! Karting is the undisputed starting point for any type of driver, as now the big team owners scout, recruit and mentor racers as young as age 8 years old who have a karting background. These drivers bring not only the all important seat time, but also an understanding of the technology in set up and race craft. **The ladder for a motorsports career has now been clearly defined. Every top driver in F1, CART, IRL and NASCAR started their career racing karts. Why?**

Karting is accessible for just about anyone and every budget. Karting can be found in every major center in Canada with two very active clubs and tracks in the province of Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Kart Racers and our club. **Karting is an affordable sport when compared to racing a car or when compared with the costs of other popular sports such as hockey and motocross, and is far safer!**

What age can I start racing?

Drivers can start racing at a club level as young as 8 years of age. You are never too old to race either. A recent survey conducted indicates the second largest group to start karting is ages 35 years and up. Dad or Mom can get the racing bug as too.

What are the different classes and how fast do they go?

Racing classes can vary slightly from club to club, however, all clubs structure classes based on age and ability. The SSKC first group is for drivers aged 8-11, or Junior 1 which uses the Honda GX160 K1 four cycle motor restricted to speeds of 60-70 kph,

The next step is Junior 2 for drivers aged 12-15, who can use either a Junior ROK or Rotax TAG motor. A strong national series with substantial awards program is available for those who wish and can afford the higher level of competition.

The last group is for senior drivers over the age of 16 where you can start with a Spec class 125cc TAG motor. For the advanced drivers, there is two National Pro classes with either the Rotax Max or Vortex ROK engines with top speeds of 170 kph.

Which is the best class to start racing?

Simply, the higher the level of competition, the higher the cost and commitment level. All new senior drivers are required to start in the 125cc Spec Class, while the Juniors start on either a Honda for ages 8-12 or 125cc Junior TAG class. Remember “every” driver, being a senior or junior, will go through the “learning curve” of the sport. It is important to set realistic goals for yourself, as this is the main fault when coming to the sport. Everyone believes they are the best and will take the sport by storm. Maybe you will, but you still have a lot to prove to those who have been around for a lap or two. Be patient, and having fun is always the first goal!

What do I need to get started?

The first thing you require is a kart and engine to match your class and budget. There are usually a number of good used karts for sale within the club system, as members upgrade their karts on a regular basis. The karts are usually already set up for our classes, and most important, it is equipment that we know the history of. BEWARE the internet, it is full of beat up stuff that will cost you more to fix than one that we know about. Good used equipment is usually the best way to start. There are many good chassis on the market, but be careful, cheap is cheap, and there is always a reason why. As well, this prevents you from purchasing a kart that doesn’t meet class or safety standards.

It is also important to remember once you have the kart, you will need personal safety equipment including gloves, rib vest, racing suit, helmet neck collar and an approved helmet. It is highly advisable to talk to any club member or you can contact Keith at, ***K & M Motorsports (591-7038)***, before purchasing “any” equipment, as there are restrictions and classifications, which must pass the governing rules of Kart Racing.

How much will this really cost?

Your budget is based on what you can afford! Don’t blow your whole budget on a kart and then find out you can’t afford to race it. **Racing costs money**, but how and what you spend your money on is up to you. If you want to just look good, there are many gadgets and trinkets available to you, but they don’t necessarily make you go faster. Spend wisely and you will find that karting is affordable and competitive on any budget. The following is an example of a typical club member’s budget.

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kart package | Used | New |
| - Senior | \$3500 and up | \$6500-8000 depending on class |
| - Junior | \$2000 and up | \$3500-8000 |
| 2. Race gear | \$250 | \$1200 and up depending on grade |
| - Includes helmet, suit, gloves, and collar, which sometimes can be included with kart package!!! | | |
| 3. Membership and “club” race day fees | \$800 per year. Includes insurance, licensing and racing fees | |
| 4. Maintenance: Based on senior intermediate or a Junior 1 racing program. Pro level will be higher. | | |
| Senior | \$500.00 includes tires, chain and gears, gas and oil ect. | |
| Junior | \$300.00 includes tires chain, gas and oil, ect. | |
| 5. Total average start up junior, | \$2500 and up, senior \$4000 and up | |
| 6. Seasonal senior or junior, | \$1250 and up | |

Compare this to other sports;

| | Hockey Regina Pee Wee/Bantam Tier | Golf Regina Golf Club | Karting SSKC Club |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Membership | \$1800 per season | \$1800 per year | \$400 |
| Initiation Fees | | \$2500 (500 over 5 years) | |
| Day fees | | | \$400/season |
| Seasonal costs | \$500-1000 | \$500 and up | \$500 (average) |
| Total costs/season | \$2300 and up | \$2800 and up | \$1250 (average) |

Costs do not include start up costs for equipment! Prices are available via the internet.

Is this safe?

While there is danger in any sport, kart racing has an impressive safety record. Steps are taken by each member organization to provide the safest racing environment possible. When injuries do happen, they are usually minor bumps or bruises. Clubs and their members in Canada are required to race only on sanctioned tracks designed to meet the high safety standards and guidelines of ASN Canada. ASN Canada is affiliated with FIA/CIK, who is the international governing body for many forms of Motorsports including F1, WRS car racing, and karting.

A gentleman from California presented the following information to e-KMI who did the research as part of a legal presentation.

| Activity | Number of Injuries | Source |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Kart Racing (Fun Karting) | 7,700 | CPSC* – 1998 |
| Kart Racing (3.1%) | 239 | CPSC – 1998 |
| Kart Racing (3-8 Years Old) | 9 | CPSC – 1998 |
| Bicycling | 320,000 | NCIPC** |
| Playground | 200,000 | NCIPC |
| Soccer | 169,000 | NCIPC |
| Baseball | 116,000 | NCIPC |
| Snow Skiing | 81,787 | NCIPC |
| In-Line Skating | 67,000 | NCIPC |
| Swimming | 49,331 | NCIPC |
| Dancing | 38,427 | NEIS*** |
| Gymnastics | 25,500 | NEIS |
| Sledding | 8,500 | NEIS |

* U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission

** National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

*** National Electronic Injury Surveillance

Where do I find the rules?

The SSKC is a member of ASN Canada, who is the governing sport body for Karting in Canada. The official rulebook is available for download from www.asncanada.com. There are also some specific club rules that will be explained to you when you join the club.

Where do I find the Club?

The SSKC website is at www.saskkartclub.com. The best place to find the club is at the track on race days. A current schedule of events is posted on our web site. Our track, 3Flags Merrit Motorsports Park, is located 11 miles north of Regina on Highway #11 to Saskatoon, exit at Exit “C” just before the Lumsden Valley. Take Exit “C” from the right hand lane and turn left under the highway overpass. The track is located on the south side of the overpass.

See you soon!

Your racing career starts right here with the SSKC!

Western Canadian Kart Clubs and Tracks

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| BC | Westward Kart Racers | Cart BC | Chilliwack |
| | Costal Kart Racers | Cart BC | Chilliwack |
| | Interior Kart Racers | | |
| Alberta | Calgary Kart Club | Calgary Kart Track (Race City) | |
| | Edmonton and District Kart Racers | Stratotech Park | |
| Saskatchewan | South Sask Kart Club | K & M Motorsports Park | |
| | Saskatoon Kart Racers | Martensville Speedway | |
| Manitoba | Manitoba Karting Association | Gimli | |

3 Flags Merrit Motorsports Park

3 Flags Merrit Motorsports Park is located 10 miles north of Regina on Highway number 11 towards Saskatoon. Follow signs and exit at exit “C”, turn left and proceed under the overpass and you are there! Track Contact, Rod Ziegler @ 537-0655



K & M Motorsports



K & M is the Saskatchewan dealer for **CRG and Van Kart racing chassis**. We are the Authorized sales and service for Vortex ROK, Rotax Max and Yamaha Kart racing engines



K & M Motorsports is a proud sponsor and organizer of the Canadian Cup Pro kart racing series. For more information, contact Keith at kmmotorsports@acescomm.ca or (306) 591-7038