



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Speedway Motorcycle Racing returns to the National Orange Show Events Center**

- WHAT:** The Inland Motorsport Speedway (IMS) will celebrate its grand re-opening at the National Orange Show Events Center with the John LaDouceur Championship as the opening night feature, named in honor of the man who built the original Inland speedway track in 1975.
- WHEN:** **Friday, June 19, 2009**  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Racing begins at 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** The National Orange Show Events Center  
(Enter off Arrowhead Ave at Gate 9)
- WHO:** All ages welcome
- COST:** Adults \$13  
Juniors (13-16) and Seniors \$10  
Kids (6-12) \$5  
Kids 5 and under FREE

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (June 17) – Fast-paced, exciting Speedway Motorcycle racing will return to the Inland Empire when the new Inland Motorsport Speedway holds its grand opening at 8 p.m. Friday, June 19.

The streamlined, lightweight motorcycles have one gear and no brakes and are powered by methanol-burning, 500cc motors that enable them to reach speeds of up to 70 miles an hour on the short straightaways. The races consist of 4 laps of a dirt track between 800 and 1,500 feet in length, with four or five riders spending most of their time sliding through the turns, and the top-level Division I riders need less than a minute to determine a winner.

Speedway has been called the original Extreme sport and drag racing in a circle, and it's been absent from the Inland Empire since 2003. It's return is due to the persistence of former professional hockey player Jason Bonsignore and veteran speedway

rider Shawn McConnell, of Brea, who in early April signed a five-year lease agreement with the National Orange Show and began building a track and finalizing a schedule.

Bonsignore has revived and operates Speedway Motorcycle tracks in New York and has been laying the groundwork for the new IMS for the past five years.

The track has been designed as a replica of the famed Inland Motorcycle Speedway and sits on land approximately 300 feet from the site of that facility. The new Inland Motorsport Speedway is on Arrowhead Avenue, adjacent to the NOS Sports Center, with entry through Gate 9.

Admission is \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors and juniors (13-16) and \$5 for children 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. Parking also is free.

Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. with racing getting under way at 8 o' clock and concluding around 11 p.m. There is a midnight curfew. The end of racing is just the start of a party, however, with a live band performing in the National Orange Show Sports Center.

The opening night feature is the John LaDouceur Championship, named in honor of the man who built the original Inland speedway track in 1975 and made it one of the top venues in the nation, and most of the top First Division riders are expected to be in the 24-rider field.

That will include McConnell, a movie stuntman who last season won the U.S. Open, the King of US Speedway series and the Industry Speedway championship, former IMS promoter and San Bernardino resident Charlie Venegas, and former Riverside resident Gary Hicks, who has regained his championship form and already won six main events after sitting out last season with physical concerns.

Others who've indicated they'll be on hand are 2006 California state champion Josh Larsen, Dukie Ermolenko, Bobby Schwartz, Tommy Hedden, Mike Faria, who won the final race at the original IMS in September, 1987, and Jim Fishback Jr. whose father, Jim "The Animal" Fishback, was one of the most popular riders ever to compete at the track.

There also will be racing in the Second and Third Divisions and youth classes.

Friday's event is the first of 16 on the schedule for Inland Motorsport Speedway, which will have racing every Friday night through Oct. 10, with the exception of Sept. 4, the start of Labor Day weekend.

**Release courtesy of Jim Short ([jimshort65@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimshort65@sbcglobal.net))**

### **About the Inland Motorsport Speedway**

Affectionately referred to by most as IMS, the new Inland Motorsport Speedway was re-built as a replica of the old IMS facility and is just 300 feet from the site of the original location.

The priority of the IMS is to provide a fun, fair, affordable and entertaining venue, while doing its best to bring back past history and create many more years of new history for the great sport of motorcycle racing. The facility will also used as a full-time practice facility for motorcyclists. Speedway rentals and instruction will be available. Contact Jason Bonsignore or Shawn McConnell for info at [eastcoastspeedway@hotmail.com](mailto:eastcoastspeedway@hotmail.com)

### **About the National Orange Show Events Center**

The National Orange Show Events Center is the Inland Empire's premier source of entertainment and all-inclusive event solutions. The center's multi-use, 120 acre facility offers 150,000 square feet of indoor space, a state-of-the-art satellite wagering center, the IMS motorcycle speedway, and the Best-in-the-West auto speedway. With the historic tradition of the annual citrus fair at the heart of the organization since 1911, the National Orange Show Events Center is at the forefront of the events industry while working to maintain strong community connections. For more information, visit [www.nosevents.com](http://www.nosevents.com).

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