

For Immediate Release

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2012 Cuming County Open

High school and college students from 16 schools will have a chance to shine in West Point April 7th on the racetrack. But, they won't be on the high school track, and they won't even be on foot.

Rather, the students will be in low slung, lightweight, electric cars on the paved streets at the Cuming County Fairgrounds. They will be competing in the Ninth Annual Cuming County Open. This year a total of 32 cars are signed up for the Power Drive event.

The electric cars will compete against each other in two endurance heats. The first heat will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will include standard, first year cars. The second heat will be made up of advanced and exhibition cars, which includes cars that have competed for multiple years as well as those made by college students. It will begin at 12:30.

Each endurance heat lasts for one hour. At the end of each heat, the car with the most laps around the track will receive first place.

Eight of the 32 cars are from local teams. Bancroft-Rosalie, who co-hosts the event with Cuming County Public Power District, has one standard car and one advanced cars signed up for the event.

These schools have a large number of sponsors who have contributed money, time and expertise to the teams. CCPPD helped Bancroft-Rosalie by contributing funds for the initial electric motor purchase. The teams also participate in a number of fundraising events to help cover costs.

The B-R team parents will be hosting a concession stand in the Dinklage building for the event. They will serve a variety of food and drinks.

Spectators can park on the fairgrounds and set up lawn chairs around the track. There is no charge to attend the Cuming County Open and people of all ages are welcome. The oval track will be lined with hay bales and includes the paved streets on either side of the depot. The street in front of the Dinklage building will be pit road. If you are looking for action this is the best place to set up your chairs.

Power Drive is an educational program started by Omaha Public Power District in 1998 for high schools in their service territory. In 1999 Nebraska Public Power District joined as a partner in the program and began encouraging schools in the central and western parts of the state to participate.

Power Drive is designed to expose high school students to alternate engineering and environmental technologies. Hopefully the program will also stimulate interest in future areas such as electrical engineering and reducing the nation's use of fossil fuels. The program challenges students to build single passenger electric vehicles. The schools form teams that build the individual vehicles and then compete against each other in standard or advanced categories. College students compete in a separate exhibition category.

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