

- Coronavirus Pandemic Forces Racing Cancellations Worldwide But Not In Pennsylvania -

more than 100 people within the state was cited as the reason.

Hickory Motor Speedway Management said it had no other choice than to comply with the order shutting down operations. The track tried to operate this Saturday, but state officials shut them down after qualifying had been completed.

FLAT TRACK BIKES: American Flat Track postponed its races at Daytona International Speedway for this coming weekend. The events will be rescheduled in October in conjunction with another motorcycle event planned there. Bike Week in Daytona did continue despite an appeal for those in the area to go home.

US FAT BIKE OPEN: The sixth annual US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship, the largest race of its type in the nation, was canceled to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The race was to return to Wrightsville Beach, SC March 27-29, 2020.

"This annual event is a Spring staple of our cycling community and brings visitors from all over the country," said Shawn Spencer. "As the race director, this was a difficult decision, but we acted with an abundance of caution with the best interest of many communities in mind. Once the fog clears, we will start planning for 2021."

ATTICA: Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's order prohibiting mass gatherings of 100 people or more in an effort to stop the virus, Attica Raceway Park officials will cancel the 2020 season opener scheduled for March 20.

"We will keep monitoring this ever-changing situation and keep everyone informed as we move forward. As of today, the March 27 event is still on and we will stay vigilant as to what the experts and government officials are dictating," said Rex LeJeune, Director of Operations at Attica Raceway Park.

"As we said, our top priority is to make sure everyone is safe. We encourage our fans and race teams to follow the directions of the health officials," he added.

LIME ROCK: Connecticut Governor Lamont's Executive Order of Thursday March 12, which impacts gatherings of more than 250 people, will potentially impact some Lime Rock Park March and April.

Lime Rock issued this statement:

"We are diligently working to clarify some aspects of the Order and will provide updated information regarding any affected events as soon as possible."

"Currently, we intend to continue to host our 2020 season

major spectator events as scheduled. As we move closer to the month of May, we expect to have updated information on the situation and will be continually sharing advisories on the website limerock.com."

Lime Rock further stated that day to day routine activities at Lime Rock would not be adversely affected.

CARAWAY: The Late Model Stock Car races planned to open the 2020 season at the asphalt 1/2 mile in North Carolina on March 15 were cancelled.

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PERIPHERAL EVENTS

IMS MUSEUM: Racing-related indoor events were also canceled or postponed by the coronavirus outbreak.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum management is monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving strategies.

ACCORD BANQUET: Accord Speedway canceled its 2019 Awards Banquet that was to have been held Sunday, March 15 in Kingston, NY.

OCFS BANQUET & CAR SHOW: Orange County Fair Speedway's annual Car Show and Awards Banquet in Middletown, N.Y., set for Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22 has been canceled as well. Like the Accord function, the speedway and the banquet hall are located in an area where several cases

have been in the region around New York City.

GSVSCC: The 29th Garden State Vintage Stock Car Banquet originally scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2020 has been postponed due to overriding health concerns. The new date for the affair will be Sunday, October 25, the same location at Branches Catering in West Long Branch, NJ.

MOTORSPORTS HOF: The Motorsports Hall of Fame America (MSHFA) Executive Committee voted unanimously to postpone its 32nd Annual Induction Celebration, scheduled for this Monday and Tuesday in Daytona Beach, due to the growing concern over the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The induction celebration will be rescheduled in the future after the concern and contagious nature of coronavirus subsides.

SPEED SPORT SHOWCASE: The Speed Sport Showcase, which was to have been held for the first time in a new venue over March 21-22 at Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre, PA has been canceled.

RACE SHOPS: Most all of the race team shops in and around the Charlotte, NC area have been closed to visitors.

KEYSTONE TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL: The 2020 Keystone Truck and Tractor Pull, a multi-day event at the

Harrisburg Farm, Show Arena, was canceled. As ordered by Governor Tom Wolf, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture announced the cancellation of the event at the Farm Show Complex and Expo Center.

The event was shut down in progress. The arena pledged to refund ticket fees.

Governor Tom Wolf ordered enhanced restrictions for two more counties over the weekend in response to the coronavirus. He added Bucks and Chester counties to the list of counties where he is ordering and recommending the closure of more community centers. Montgomery County, which leads the state for coronavirus cases, was the first county to be put on under enhanced restrictions.

Wolf added Delaware County on Friday, but did not add Adams, Juniata and Cumberland over the weekend where Lincoln, Port Royal and Williams Grove are located allowing them to host their events.

NEW JERSEY MOTORSPORTS PARK: Statewide restrictions announcement on Monday by New Jersey governor Phil Murphy produced one speedway within the state to shut down hours later.

The New Jersey Motorsports Park announced Monday afternoon that they would be closing to the public as part of Governor Murphy's executive order. In this order the Governor is closing racetracks as well as other public venues at 8 pm that night until further notice.

As part of Murphy's announcement "racetracks" were included in the closure along

with casinos, theaters and gyms. Murphy also announced closure of all non-essential retail, recreational, and entertainment businesses. He also banned gatherings of 50 plus.

All bars and restaurants were closed for eat-in services effective Monday. Establishments may open for takeout and delivery services only, until further notice. These restrictions exist during daytime hours.

It was not clarified if the Governor was speaking of horse "racetracks" such as the Meadowlands or Freehold, or auto racing tracks such as NJMP, Bridgeport, New Egypt or Wall Stadium. Those facilities, however, could be instead included under recreational and entertainment businesses which were also asked to close.

NJMP closed its entire facility and will affect all daily track rentals and events, all Tempest Karting operations and events, Finish Line Pub operations and events, and all catering activities and events. The decision to reschedule major events will be made at a future time and will be in accordance with any recommendations from the CDC and State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.

SCHAEFFER SPRING NATIONALS: Events scheduled this weekend at two Georgia tracks, Boyd's Speedway Friday and Senoia Raceway on Saturday are being "closely monitored". As of Monday, both races are still planned to go off on schedule. However, this is subject to change depending on recommendations from state and local government.

Pa. Governor Doesn't Stop Speedways From Running, Five Tracks Could Possibly Host Events This Weekend

By STEVE BARRICK

A series of contradictory and confused messages emanating from the Pennsylvania governor's office Monday have led five tracks around the state capital of Harrisburg the chance to host races this weekend. At AARN's press-time on Monday evening it appeared as if races at Lincoln, Port Royal and Williams Grove Speedway would be held as they were this past weekend. The openers at Selinsgrove and BAPS Speedway in Newberrytown, Pa. are also slated to be held as planned as of Monday evening.

On Monday afternoon Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf left the door open for the tracks to operate. After listing strong restrictions for residents and other businesses, Wolf was asked specifically if auto racing would be allowed to continue to operate as they did this past weekend. He reiterated a voluntary compliance stance, one that three track's didn't follow this past weekend.

"This has to be self-enforced," said Wolfe. "This is not government mandating anything. This is your fellow public servants telling you what the right way to handle this public health crisis. We're not sending out the state police or National Guard to enforce this."

Port Royal Speedway Fair Board Race Committee Chairman Steve O'Neal told AARN on Monday evening he was set to convene a meeting this Wednesday among the five-member board to discuss the course of action the speedway will take moving forward.

O'Neal said that he had not had the opportunity to listen to either Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf's early afternoon news conference nor President Donald Trump's nationwide address.

"I have to see what was said," O'Neal said. "We can move forward from there. I personally am having some thoughts."

O'Neal said that the Board would need to discuss what courses of action, if any, should be taken concerning this weekend's Saturday and Sunday back to back events.

O'Neal said that any determinations made by the Racing Committee would affect both the Saturday and Sunday racing events equally. He further indicated that he would be contacting other tracks in the region for their input.

Monday was a day of confusing news reports from the Keystone state. Governor Wolf maintained in his Monday conference that his office is advising, but not mandating, any courses of behavior, while simultaneously identifying which types of businesses are and are not essential and which should and should not voluntarily close.

It should be pointed out that the governors of five of the six states bordering the Commonwealth - Delaware, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland - have each issued acted maximums on sizes of gatherings and/or enacted curfews.

Port Royal is scheduled to host two days of action. On Saturday the 410 Sprints and Late Models will be joined in a triple-header. On Sunday the only scheduled appearance of the big-

block/small-block Modifieds hit the track. For the third consecutive season, the Short Track Super Series Velocita-USA South Region is scheduled to invade the 'Speed Palace' for the 'Speed Showcase' featuring a \$5,000-to-win, 40-lap event. The ULMS Super Late Models join the Modifieds on this fan-pleasing doubleheader.

Selinsgrove Speedway is scheduled to present its 2020 season opener, the Icebreaker 40 for Modifieds on Saturday, March 21 at 2 pm. This gives the traveling Modified teams to events within a 24 hour period.

The most recent confirmed entries for the big event include Waterloo, New York's Matt Sheppard and multi-talented driver Stewart Friesen of Niagra-on-the-Lake, Ontario who has proven his talents in not only Mods but in Sprint cars and on the NASCAR truck circuit as well.

The event is the first race for Modifieds at Selinsgrove since they last competed at the track in 2013 under small block specs with Duane Howard taking the victory.

Speedway officials have said they are continuing to monitor the international COVID-19 situation and will do so throughout the week and will follow any directives from state and federal governments. As of Monday, preparations remain underway to open the track for this weekend's Modified showdown.


The Icebreaker 40 will be a combined small and big block, non-sanctioned Modified race offering a \$24,625 purse, \$5,000 to win that will be run under rules and specifications that mirror those of the Short Track Super Series. Also on the March 21 racing program will be the crate 602 Sportsman in a \$1,000-to-win 20-lap feature.

Selinsgrove hopes to swing back into action to close out March on Sunday, March 29 at 2 pm with March Mayhem for the Modern Heritage 410 Sprint cars and the Super Late Models.

Lincoln Speedway, the first to open this year, hopes to complete it's four event of the season with it's first Saturday night program of the year. This program will also be the first using handicapping with the fasters cars in the rear. The 358 Sprints will make their first appearance of the season.

After a successful opener on Sunday, Williams Grove Speedway hopes to switch to it's normal Friday night slot. The 410 Sprints and Super Late Models are scheduled with a 7:30 start time. Fans can now witness all the weekly action at Williams Grove this season on DIRTvision as well as the six World of Outlaws Sprint Car events and one World of Outlaws Late Model event from Williams Grove in 2020.

After cancelling their practice this past Saturday because of the COVID-19 situation, BAPS was planning to host their opener this weekend when AARN went to press. Readers should check the AARN web-site or Facebook page for updates.



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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8547, Trenton, New Jersey 08650
Phone: (609) 888-3618 Fax: (24 Hours a day) (609) 888-2538
Website: AARN.com

Founder Leonard J. Sammons Jr.
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Assistant to the Editor Earl Krause, Steve Barrick
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