# Racing series 'best preparation' for winning in June

Soap Box Derby racers will take over Cincinnati streets again this weekend as Madisonville and Ault Park host rally events. Teams from as far away as South Carolina are expected to compete in the first races since June when the Cincinnati Soap Box organization held its annual qualifying competition for the All-American race in Akron.

The Cincinnati Soap Box Derby is committed to holding at least ten soap box rallies before next year's summer big race. "There are over 60 cars in garages all over town," said Derby President, Doug Newberry, "it would be a shame if they only raced once a year."

Madisonville will hold its competition Saturday, Aug 29, on Bramble Avenue near Bramble Park. Driver check-in and registration begin at 7:30 a.m. and racing will start at 9 a.m. Current world champion, Alex Seither, of Mason, OH, along with his father and Mayor Mark Mallory will act as the official starters of the race.

The Ault Park Classic will be held Sunday, Aug 30, on the same stretch of road that hosted the Derby in the 1960s and 70s. Sunday's race will be the first official All-American competition held there since 1978. Driver check-in and registration begin at 7:30 a.m. and racing will start around 9 a.m.

Madisonville officials decided to host the race as part of their bicentennial celebration, but plan to make it an annual event. The community owns five soap box cars that competed in the Cincinnati Mayor's Cup event in June. As a special incentive, organizers are offering a deluxe trophy – the Madisonville Cup – to the winners in all three divisions of the morning race. Winner's names will also be engraved on a larger version of the trophy that will be put on display year-round.

Rally races differ from the June event in that drivers earn points based on how they finish. Accumulate 180 points in a season and a driver qualifies as a Rally Champion and can compete in Akron as well. "It's the best way to get experience in the car." added Newberry, "If you want to win in June, you need to rally." Drivers are not limited to competing in their hometown. Teams can register and compete in any city hosting an official rally.

**Interested in trying out a car?** The Cincinnati Soap Box Derby has "rental cars" available for new drivers to try out. Cost is $35 per race for kids ages 8 through 17. A helmet is provided with the car. Quantity of extra cars is limited and they are rented on a first come-first served basis. To reserve a car or get more information, contact the race director at 513-885-1373 or info@cincysbd.com

## If you go:

Madisonville Cup Soap Box Rally
Bramble & Homer Avenues, next to Bramble Park
Street and off street parking available
Saturday, Aug 29, 2009. Races start at 9 a.m.

Ault Park Classic Rally
Observatory Ave @ Observatory Hill Ave
Street parking available. Parking inside Ault Park accessible from Heekin Avenue only
Sunday, Aug 30, 2009. Races start approx 9 a.m.

The Races are free to watch; it's $35 to enter a car.
Spectators should bring a cooler, chair and umbrella (to block the sun)
Races conclude approximately 5 p.m. each day
More info: www.CincySBD.com