

NORTHERN ILLINOIS STREET ROD ASSOCIATION - Valve Cover Racing 2017

Don't know what Valve Cover Racing is? Think "Pinewood Derby" for the Car Guy!



Valve Cover Racing is a competitive event similar to the Pinewood Derby that you might remember from your days in Cub Scouts. But the racers are made from a valve cover from an automotive engine, rather than of wood blocks.

Competitors must construct a vehicle using a valve cover from a car's engine. Usually it must have four wheels. It can be decorated or modified within the rules set by the organizing body. The valve cover is powered by gravity.

In a valve cover race, two or more racing valve covers are placed at the top of a specially constructed incline, which can be straight or curved. They are released at the same time and the first to cross a finish line at the bottom of the incline wins the race.

Starting with a valve cover from an automotive engine, a "Valve Cover Racer" is created by adding a chassis, wheels and weights. Racers can be engineered in any way you want, so long as they follow the official rules (listed below) and can take on any personality or character that you see fit.

NILSRA Rules for Valve Cover Racing Events

- Be made from one automotive engine valve cover;
- Have four (4) wheels, none of which extend beyond the front or rear of the valve cover;
- Have wheels no larger than six (6) inches in diameter;
- Have wheels which rubber or plastic running on the race track surface (no metal);
- Have a minimum of one half (1/2) inch of clearance;
- Be propelled by gravity only;
- Not contain any moving weights;
- Be no longer than thirty (30) inches, measured end to end;
- Be no taller than ten (10) inches in height;
- Be no wider than ten (10) inches; and
- Weigh no more than ten (10) pounds, ready to race.

For some direction on how to build your racer, visit www.youtube.com and search on the phrase "Valve Cover Racing". You will find many different approaches from simple to complex. Don't be afraid to put your personality into the design and paint job. Take a look at the photos here and online to get some ideas of how to build and decorate a racer.

Test & Tune Racing this spring!

NILSRA will be producing a set of Test & Tune Racing events leading up to the grand finale at Fiesta Days Car Show. Please visit the Fiesta Days Car Show website at www.fiestadayscarshow.com and check back middle of March for a complete list of our planned Test & Tune events at local car shows and cruise nights.

