



You could be Racing!!!



Ohio Valley Karting Association

www.ovka.com

Located among the cornfields and pastures of Southwestern Ohio near Camden, Ohio lies a WKA Master Track known as G & J Kartway. It is owned and operated by Gary Gregg and has been the home of the Ohio Valley Karting Association (OVKA) since 1964. OVKA is a family oriented club which welcomes all newcomers with open arms.

All the excitement of big-time racing on a mini budget. The sport of karting offers the full spectrum of motor sport competition: high technology, mechanical interests, track tuning, driving technique, local, regional and national programs, as well as nationwide and international events. Karting's got it all.

A MOTORSPORT FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM!

Dyno-tested engines, high tech racing chassis, sticky racing slicks, high speed apexes, drafting... We are not talking about Formula One, Indy Cars, NASCAR, or IMSA sports cars, we're talking about the safest, fastest growing, and most accessible motorsport today -- KART RACING!

As you may have already presumed, today's karts completely defy the stereotype of go-karts that many people hold -- the image of the odd-looking collection of water pipes and lawnmower parts that kids ride around in their back yard. In fact, the only thing that the racing karts of today share with the yard karts is the unlimited potential for fun! Nowhere else in motor racing can you find the package of excitement, technology, safety, affordability, and accessibility that karting has to offer. People of all ages and backgrounds are having the time of their lives.

WARNING! ONCE YOU GET HOOKED, KARTING IS HABIT FORMING!

You too can find "more fun than any grown up should have" at any age by driving one of these high-tech racing machines. Karting is an unprecedented experience for those who are looking for something unique in their life's routine. Just imagine traveling sixty miles an hour while riding in the open air just one inch off the ground! Approximately forty percent of new participants are under age 15 and forty percent are over age 30 in their first attempt at karting. Karting can be enjoyed by "kids" of all ages.

THEY GO HOW FAST?!

As mentioned before, today's race karts share little but the name with their yard proven cousins. They incorporate years of racing experience, high-tech design and engineering, and modern metallurgy to create a vehicle that will out-handle and out-corner anything else in racing. Sophisticated materials such as chrome-moly, magnesium, carbon fiber, and high-grade aluminum are incorporated into modern designs to keep these machines incredibly light and nimble. Live rear axles drive both rear tires, complex steering geometry maneuvers the machine and chassis flex and weight loading act as the suspension. The drivers are kept snug in fiberglass bucket seats and anywhere from one to four sophisticated disc brake systems give the machines incredible stopping power. With an ever-varying variety of sizes, profiles, surface patterns, and rubber compounds, the tire technology of the "big leagues" of automotive racing can be found in karting too! Sprint karts are designed to run on a tight, twisting 1/4 to 7/8 mile long tracks with turns of up to 180 degrees in radius.

They are the best handling karts and are generally raced in several 5-15 lap heats during the day. These are also the same chassis that are raced at many street races and short oval dirt tracks around the country and provide thrills for thousands every year! The modern day racing kart is a phenomenal machine. These vehicles are restricted to keep juniors in the 40-50 mph range on most sprint tracks while the senior machines can sometimes reach 80 mph on the same straightaway. Even more amazingly, these speeds are reached in the space of only several hundred feet and the average lap speed is sometimes over 50 mph.

The range of engines in karting today is broad enough in spectrum to encompass the financial, mechanical, and speed interests of virtually everyone. Modern sprint karts utilize both 2 and 4 Cycle engines to power high-speed excitement. The high technology and sophistication of the 2 Cycle engines found on karts today is mind-numbing to some. These 80 to 250 cc engines can, in many cases, perform at over 15,000 rpm while producing anywhere from 10 to 40 plus horsepower.

Two cycle engines are most popular in the 100cc displacement, with the inexpensive and reliable Yamaha engine being the backbone of karting. Coupled with performance enhancing exhaust systems and special clutches, these units are capable of propelling karts at breathtaking levels of acceleration and speed. Four Cycle engines are generally slower than their 2 Cycle counterparts but have much to offer for the aspiring karter. For those who wish to experiment with cams, valves, and timing -- just like on the big cars -- the 4 Cycle engines offer a great opportunity. The mainstay of 4-Cycle racing is the venerable 5 HP Briggs & Stratton horizontal-shaft engine. When mounted on a kart, it can provide a surprising level of performance in even the most basic of classes.

The Ohio Valley Karting Association Story

The Ohio Valley Karting Association (OVKA) has been in existence for over 40 years. It is one of the oldest and largest karting clubs in America. We have members that range from doctors to engineers, laborers to executives, business owners to truck drivers. Each is welcome and cherished as a member.

The Ohio Valley Karting Association offers a place for everyone! OVKA has over 200 karting members from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. The OVKA promotes up to 20 races a year including national events in conjunction with World Karting Association (WKA). Our greatest asset is the quality of our members.

OVKA members compete for trophies or plaques along with points that will go toward an end of season championship. At the year-end banquet, merchandise awards go to the racers. For the 2010 yearend banquet, over \$28,000 worth of cash and merchandise was awarded to the participants of OVKA.

Safety is the most important issue for the OVKA. Each kart will be required to meet a pre-race safety inspection to insure all critical components are attached, cotter keyed, or safety wired. Each new driver will be required to start at the back of the grid for at least 3 races. Racing is a very competitive environment and our organization requires that each new driver gain seat time in racing conditions before being placed at the middle or front of the starting grid. Rough driving or bumping is not tolerated in OVKA. The rules are enforced by the Race Director, Head Flagman, and corner Flagmen for all racing events. The driver's safety is the prime concern at all OVKA events.

Costs are another concern to all kart racers. OVKA classes and rules are designed to keep the costs down and the racing close. If starting out as a new karter, used equipment is usually a good way go. It can save you money and sometimes come with a lot of the extra equipment required to race.

Please see the attached "8 Easy Steps to Get Started in Karting" guide to see what it takes to get started.

Races are held at three local tracks within a day trip for anyone within the Tri-State region. Each track offers a unique challenge to the drivers. The home track of OVKA is G&J Kartway located in Camden, OH. This track is recognized as a WKA MASTER TRACK for its challenge to the drivers and its outstanding facilities. G&J Kartway has been hosting national and regional WKA events for some time.

G&J Kartway



Other tracks that will host OVKA races at are Circleville Raceway Park in Circleville, OH. and New Castle Motorsports Park in New Castle, IN.

In 1997, OVKA created a website to better get the karting message out to the general public. This website focuses on racing information for the Cincinnati area and includes things like results, sponsors, schedules, class structure, etc. It has grown over the years to include points, photos, special events and more. Please check it out at: www.ovka.com.

To find out more about karting, come to an OVKA event, or call an OVKA board member located close to your home. We would be happy to help you with any questions on karting. Please click on the contacts link at www.ovka.com . Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Board of Directors

8 Easy Steps to Get Started in Karting

So, you want to get started in racing karts. Where do you start? What do you do first? The following steps will help you become familiarized with karting and start racing!

Step 1 Check It Out!

The first step in karting is to take the family out to a local race and have a good time. All OVKA events are open to the public. We recommend you buy a pit pass and wander around the pits and watch the races from there. This way, you're right where the action is. Watch, see how the races are run, and ask anybody your questions. You will find most racers are very enthusiastic and very helpful! Be sure to find about classes, types of engines, recommended karts, rules, and schedules. Ask racers, track officials, or at the registration desk. Most tracks have a rulebook or flyer that contains most of this information.

Step 2 Read Up!

Some excellent books on Karting are available from Steve Smith Autosports (714) 639-7681 or your local kart shop. The Complete Karting Guide and Four Cycle Karting Technology are both comprehensive books that are very helpful. Other good publications are National Kart News (219) 277-0033, The Inside Track Newspaper (800) 472-4006, and The Official Karting Directory (708) 653-7368. These books and publications will give you a good sense of what is involved in karting and are an excellent resource of general information.

Step 3 Try It!

The next step is to try karting. This can be done several ways. One is to go to a local concession track. Although these karts are not as performance oriented, you will get a great feel for the excitement of racing. A second way to try is at a Kart Driving School. There are several in the area, including MRP (708) 234-6357 and PMI (614) 294-5020. The third way to try karting is arrive-n-race programs at tracks. The karts and safety equipment are provided, allowing you to show up and race!



Step 4 Decisions, Decisions!

The next step is to decide what type of engine and which class you will run. There are several types of engines. Common engines are 5 hp Briggs & Stratton, Yamaha engines with a can or pipe, and the Horstman HPV 100. Classes are divided by age, weight, and type of engine.

Make sure you know what class you wish to race before you buy the equipment. Three local tracks are used in the OVKA points series: G & J Kartway in Camden, OH, Circleville Raceway Park in Circleville, OH, and New Castle Motorsports Park in New Castle, IN. G & J Kartway is the home track for OVKA and is also a WKA Master Track

Step 5 Develop Your Budget

There is some basic equipment you need to start. You should be able to get set up within your budget.

New Chassis \$1200 to \$500 Helmet Snell 95 \$100 to \$500

Used Chassis \$500 to \$1800 Neck Collar \$20 to \$40

Briggs 4 Cycle \$300 to \$1200 Gloves \$20 to \$50

Yamaha KT100 \$800 to \$1800 Racing Jacket or Suit \$60 to \$300

HPV 100 \$1250 to \$1500 Kart Stand \$30 to \$250

Clutch \$50 to \$450 Fuel, Lubricants, etc. \$50

Spare Parts & Gears \$200-plus

Step 6 Go Shopping!

Make a trip to the kart shop. The shop owner will soon be a good friend and is the source for some of your best information. The shop will set you up with equipment that is right for you. The shop can also help with the kart setup, engine tuning, and driving basics. Many of the employees at the shops also build and race karts themselves. Remember that when you have fun, the shop will get a good, long term customer. Listen to their advice.

Step 7 Practice, Practice!

Now you're almost ready to go racing! A little practice in a noncompetitive environment is very helpful. The home track for OVKA (G & J Kartway) is available for practice every day unless a scheduled event is occurring that day. Other OVKA tracks can be used to practice by contacting the track owners and making arrangements. It is a very affordable way to run many laps and get the feel of the kart. Be sure to practice the basics: starting, stopping, and turning the kart off. If the driver is a junior or rookie, also practice pushing the kart. If the kart has a problem during the race, the driver is responsible for pushing the kart out of harm's way.

Step 8 The Big Day!

Go to the races. Get there early. Take advantage of practice time before the race. Ask to start at the back of the pack. Keep your cool. Learn a lot. Celebrate your achievement! Have a great time, and see you at the races!

Sportsman age drivers showing off their competitive spirit.



Even as young as five years old, these kids try out their hand at racing.



Gary Gregg (owner of G & J Kartway) with his son Travis Gregg,

