

Smokin' Wheels cancelled after bringing families together for 40 years. GRF Member Limtiaco says event is what Guam needs to "kickstart tourism."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hagatna, Guam - Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – Smokin' Wheels, the international racing event that has attracted thousands of the top motorsports' competitors and car enthusiasts from around the world for the last forty years has been cancelled for 2024. The cancellation is due to a lack of a track and the absence of a commercial lease between the Guam Racing Federation and the CHamoru Land Trust Commission, who has control over the raceway park.

Michael Limtiaco, a new member of the GRF, said the remedy is simple: forego a commercial lease and enter into a licensing agreement, similar to the Guam Football Association and Hal's Angels Field; an option the federation will be proposing to CLTC members at this week's commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 18.

According to Limtiaco, this is the time when an event of this magnitude is most needed on Guam. "Smokin' Wheels has been a tradition for international racers and local families for the past four decades. This is the perfect event for our island as we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic and Typhoon Mawar. With our hospitality industry seeing less than stellar numbers of visitors, this is the type of event that can kickstart tourism and create excitement in Guam again," Limtiaco stated.

For fellow GRF member Joey Crisostomo, Smokin' Wheels goes beyond motorsports. "For guys like Mike Limtiaco and me, we not only raced on these tracks, but we also grew up here. As children, we learned the spirit of competition and camaraderie, we learned the importance of discipline and that only through hard work is success possible. For many of us, the Guam Raceway Park is hallowed grounds," exclaimed Crisostomo.

Member Tina Conquer addressed the safety aspect of not having access to the raceway park. "Drag racing is a sport and there are hundreds of drag racers on Guam. Without a facility at which to compete, many of these racers will take to the streets and some already have," Conquer stated.

GRF member Jeff Jones summed it up. "Motocross, off-road trucks, drag racing, drifting, ATVs and UTVs; the smell and taste of barbeque that rivals the best in Texas; the best in the world convening here on our small island to battle Guam's best; write-ups and coverage in Motor Trend magazine; and most importantly, the gathering of our local families, the sound of children laughing and people cheering on their loved ones as they compete at the greatest sporting event on Guam. That's Smokin' Wheels! That's what our people and our visitors will be missing. It's a tradition. Let's bring it back to its full glory with support from our government leaders."

The Guam Racing Federation invites all Smokin' Wheels past participants and supporters to attend and offer written testimony at this Thursday's CLTC meeting. For more information, please contact Michael Limtiaco at (671) 888-6280.

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