



Perris Press Release

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Fireworks Shine Brightly at Annual "Sky Concert"

City residents by the thousands flocked to the Perris Auto Speedway July 4 to take advantage of the free fireworks show and "Sky Concert" that highlighted the community's Independence Day celebration.

A packed house took advantage of the free spectacle, filling the stands at the half-mile dirt track to capacity.

The spectators began filing in soon after the gates opened and phones at the speedway office continued ringing right up until the start of the 9 p.m. fireworks show.

The City of Perris has for years sponsored the event as a way to safely enjoy a professionally produced fireworks display. As part of an arrangement with the race track, City residents receive free admission with their identification or utility bill, a benefit that attracts young and old, families and couples, race fans and casual spectators whose main purpose to view the clusters of red, white and blue fireworks lighting up the night sky.

Perris residents who attended the fireworks and sky concert said they appreciated the City's commitment to providing a top-notch July 4 celebration, especially during difficult economic times.

"It's a wonderful community event, a great fireworks display, it's safe and it's free," said Debra Bruce. "The fireworks show is second to none. Perris is a nice place to live. It's small and there is a nice sense of community."

Samantha Hyde said she attended the 2010 fireworks show with her son, who was delighted by the display. This year, it was her daughter's turn to see and hear the fireworks going off.

"The family loves this fireworks show," Hyde said. "It's beautiful. This is a great event because let's face it, a lot of people don't have a lot of money to spend on entertainment."

She said she also likes the holiday spirit the show



Perris Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin and Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough give the thumbs-up sign prior to the start of the July 4 event. The City's Centennial logo is featured on the hood of Yarbrough's race car.

exemplifies, the singing of patriotic songs, the feel-good atmosphere that the fireworks display always provides.

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough and Perris Auto Speedway promoter Don Kazarian addressed the crowd prior to the start of the fireworks show and presented a check for \$10,000 to the American Cancer Society. Track officials have raised more than \$70,000 in recent years, much of it by sending racers into the stands to collect \$1 and \$2 donations from the audience.

Yarbrough said the City is pleased to sponsor the July 4 extravaganza. It is one of the City's signature events, one that draws the community together while celebrating the spirit of America.

"It's a privilege to be able to put on this display," Yarbrough said. "I want to thank you all for coming out and taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see one of the best fireworks shows around."

Kazarian thanked Perris for sponsoring the show, saying that "without your support, we could not do this."

Temecula's Mike Spencer won the feature event, the "Firecracker 30" sprint car race. The win was his fourth straight victory in the USAC/CRA Sprint Car Series.

City employees staffed a booth at the speedway, handing out water bottles, cell phone holders, pins, refrigerator magnets and bags to many of the spectators. The City contingent was led by Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin and included Walter Carter, Maria Mathey, Julia Luis and Austin Peterson.



Perris Auto Speedway promoter Don Kazarian (second from left, back row) and Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough (right) present a check for \$10,000 to the American Cancer Society during the racing and fireworks program on July 4.



This spectacular fireworks display was typical of the colorful spectacle during the July 4 Sky Concert at the Perris Auto Speedway.



Perris Recreation Supervisor Maria Mathey works the City's booth at the July 4 show at the Perris Auto Speedway.