



## Perris News

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer  
Phone: 951-956-2120  
[jvargo@cityofperris.org](mailto:jvargo@cityofperris.org)

### Perris Sponsors Auto Hockey Team at the Southern California Fair

The City of Perris supports the annual Southern California Fair in a myriad of ways, from staffing an information booth to promoting the event on its website to taking part in the varied and eclectic activities during the yearly fair.

This year, a team from the City played auto hockey.

The sport, a new entry at this year's fair, pitted two three-car teams against each other in a contest to drive a giant tire through a goalpost to score. The format ensured plenty of contact, creating crumpled fenders, bashed doors and smoking engines.

The City of Perris was represented by City Councilman Mark Yarbrough and his teammates, Ralph and Rudy Victorio.

The trio lost 2 to 1 in the finals of the City Division to a team from San Jacinto.

"I love my City," Mark Yarbrough said. "I'll take a beating for it."

Perris Auto Speedway promoter Don Kazarian, who organized the Auto Hockey tournament, said the event drew hundreds of spectators each night during the three-day single-elimination program. The audience included Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, who watched the final night of the tournament.

"People come out to cheer for people they know," Kazarian said. "That helps get the whole community involved."

A total of 16 teams from Temecula, Yucaipa, Moreno Valley, Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto joined Perris in the Auto Hockey tournament. Some communities sent more than one team. Perris sent teams from the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

Kazarian said all the cars in the competition are street legal. Drivers require no special training or equipment. Tongue-in-cheek, he said he expects auto hockey to go global.

"I'd be surprised if this isn't an Olympic sport by 2012 or 2016," he said.

Yarbrough and his teammates said they appreciated the opportunity to represent the City and said they hoped auto hockey would return next year so they claim the championship.

"We have a great relationship with the Southern California Fair and this is just another example," Yarbrough said.

"The City of Perris is all about maximizing relationships. This event was a lot of fun. Lots of people want to race." Ralph Victorio agreed.

"It was about building community support," he said. "It was a blast. It was fun. We had fun."



Perris City Councilman and Auto Hockey player Mark Yarbrough stands between teammates Ralph and Rudy Victorio.



The action was hot and heavy during the auto hockey game.