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## Fast, fun fundraiser for CSA still on track

*Downturn in economy doesn't keep drivers, fans away*

BY MISHELE WRIGHT  
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"You're going down," James Walts said to his friend Andrew Spitzer before racing began Friday.

The teenage boys participated in the sixth annual Go Arts! Go Karts! race sponsored by Community School of the Arts. Though they weren't in the same heat, James said he was hoping they'd race against each other and started trash talking early just in case.

James raced for Premier Home Health, and Andrew drove for Royce Mitchell. Both boys have raced in the competition before and said it was fun.

"It gives us something to do on a Friday night," Andrew said.

Nick Owen, 13, raced in the event for the first time this year.

"I feel pumped," he said confidently before his race in the fourth heat.

He said he's wanted to race since the event began, so his uncle, former State Rep. Tim Harris, sponsored a team.

"It's just fun," Nick said. "I like racing. I like to go fast."

Carol Hamilton, co-chairwoman of the event, said 91 racers participated in Go Arts! Go Karts! this year, down seven from last year.

"With the economy and everything, I think it's wonderful we ended up with so many," she said.

The race also drew many spectators, as well as people who came for the other activities. The event featured many food vendors and children's activities, such as face painting, rock climbing and inflatables, among other things.

Marion resident Melody Tucker brought her 8-year-old daughter Zoe to the event.

"It didn't cost much, and it's local," she said. "There's more here than I thought there would be."

Michelle Bailey, Albany, agreed that there were more activities than she expected. She came to the event because her friend wanted to watch someone race.

"It's cute," she said about the race.

Sweetser resident Judy Holcom attended the race to watch her grandson, Curtis Holcom, 18, compete. He raced for Randall Miller and Associates. The proud grandmother said she predicted Curtis would do well in the race.

"It's very entertaining," she said about the competition.

She said she's seen the CSA students perform at First Friday events.



Bob Bennett for Marion General Hospital stays ahead of Nick Hanson of Marion Surgeons Inc. in their heat during the Go Arts! Go Karts! Friday. [emoore@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:emoore@chronicle-tribune.com)

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"It's good to see young talent," she said.



Money raised from the race goes toward scholarships for local students, operating costs for CSA and projects sponsored by the organization, Hamilton said.

Shortly after the race began, Hamilton said the event was going well. Though she didn't have exact numbers, she said the race usually attracts 800 to 1,000 people. Friday was the first time the organizers didn't have to worry about rain ruining the annual race, she said.

"It's a beautiful day," she said.

**LATE RESULTS**

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