



September 19, 2011

NR11098

# News Release

Contact:  
**Jason Parent**  
Development and  
College Relations Office  
33 Edgemont Drive  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Phone: (207) 768-2808  
Fax: (207) 760-1101  
jparent@nmcc.edu

## **NMCC Automotive Technology students to assemble and race tricycle at New Hampshire Speedway on weekend of NASCAR Sprint Race; challenge to be televised nationally on SPEED Channel**

*Aroostook County* – Four Northern Maine Community College automotive technology senior students and their instructor have been selected to compete in the first-ever “GearWrench Racing Speed Challenge” on Friday, September 23, at the famed New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon.

The race is set as a warm-up of sorts leading up to both the Camping World Series Truck race on Saturday, featuring the #17 GearWrench/Red Horse Racing Toyota Tundra driven by Timothy Peters, and the Sylvania 300 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series which takes center track on Sunday – but there’s a catch. Unlike the racers who will round the oval over the weekend, the NMCC students, and their counterparts from four other New England colleges, will be competing on three wheels instead of four, and top speed will be determined by a very different kind of pedal power and pit crew effort.

That’s because the students will race using an adult size Schwinn Tricycle provided by GearWrench and the tool company’s Maine product distributor, Bangor headquartered N. H. Bragg. Before requiring fast footwork on the part of the students, the challenge will first put to use some of the technical skills they are learning in that they will have to assemble the tricycle that will be broken down in various parts and components.

“This is a great opportunity for the students, the college, and our program to gain some exposure. This event will give these students a chance to display their skills, have a good time, and win some tools, as each of the five schools invited to participate will win GearWrench tools in varying amounts based on how you place,” said Dan Boyd, NMCC automotive instructor. “Like the NASCAR racers, we are preparing for our big race at Loudon with practice runs here at the College.”

Those practices involve both disassembling and reassembling the trike, using \$1,000 worth of tools provided by GearWrench, and practice spins to see which of the four student team members will be pegged to actually race the around a track created by the GearWrench Racing Team at Loudon. That honor will go to one of the four top achieving second-year students in Boyd's program.

Partaking in the NMCC Pit Crew and vying for the trike driver title are Hal Cushman of Wytopotlock, Joshua Bragdon of Ashland, Derek Finnemore of Mapleton, and John Gardner of Millinocket. The fearsome foursome, under the guidance of Boyd, will go head to head with similar size teams from two sister Maine Community College System campuses – Washington County Community College and Eastern Maine Community College – and one school each from New Hampshire and Vermont in the challenge that will be televised on the SPEED Channel.

The rules: each team will disassemble, then re-assemble their completely unmodified tricycle using only the tools provided by GearWrench, leaving no parts behind to avoid disqualification. Then one of the four members selected by each team will race the trike around the track ensuring that when pedaling no body part touches the ground as a five second penalty will be assessed to the team's final time. The team with the best time wins the race.

In addition to bragging rights, the winning team earns \$1,000 in GearWrench tools and five pit passes to join the GearWrench 17 Race Team for the Saturday Truck Series Race at the Speedway. All other four finishing teams receive GearWrench tool sets in various amounts and five tickets to the Saturday Truck Series Race.

#####



*Northern Maine Community College "Trike Team" members are preparing to race at the famed New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, New Hampshire this coming weekend. Participating on "Team NMCC" are Hal Cushman (seated on tricycle) of Wytopotlock, (standing, left to right) John Gardner of Millinocket, Joshua Bragdon of Ashland, and NMCC Automotive Technology Instructor Dan Boyd. Missing from the photo is team member Derek Finnemore of Mapleton.*