



NEW SALMA DRIVERS SET TO DEBUT

By Phil Michell

After struggling for regular car counts over the past few seasons the South Australian Late Model scene is set to be bolstered by a number of new competitors with eight new SALMA members set to take to the ovals this summer, of which five have previous sedan backgrounds.

After being one of the leading Super Sedan competitors in South Australia for over a decade Angaston's Steve Vaughan is set to embark on a new challenge after taking delivery of a 2009 Rocket chassis. Although he will now pilot a totally different left hand drive machine the "Barossa Bandit" will still carry his familiar #67 on the door and he sure to become a real threat to the likes of the established stars such as Mat Crimmins and Luke Raymond.

Vaughan is set to be joined by fellow Super Sedan converts Andrew Leach, Jamie Agius, and Darryle Launer. Leach has been a long time Super Sedan campaigner so he has the credentials to quickly adapt to his newly purchased ex Michael French 2002 Rocket. Jamie Agius is another driver who has several seasons behind him in V8 powered sedans and he will be looking forward to showing what he can do behind the wheel of the ex-Luke Farrent Nylander chassis that will be renumbered with his favoured number 68.

Although Darryle Launer has been out of the racing seat for a number of years, prior to his retirement he was a Division 1 rated Super Sedan racer in South Australia and he was a real livewire whenever he raced, especially at the country tracks such as

the Sunline Speedway at Waikerie. Darryle will spearhead a three car Launer attack with his Son Andrew and Brother Brenton Launer racing competitively in any form of motorsport for the first time.

The final two competitors that will join the Late Models ranks for the first time are Cary and Mark McCarthy. Although it will be Cary's first time in the class it won't be the first time that he raced a left hand drive V8 monster as he was one of the leading drivers in the old "Grand National" days back in the mid 80's before moving into Super Sedans after their demise. Cary will be driving a 2010 Mastersbuilt racecar he purchased from Sydney based standout Ross Nicastrri and it will carry the number 24M.



Cary's Son Mark will make his official Speedway debut when he takes to the track in his newly acquired #5M 2010 Rocket (ex-Craig Vosbergen) but despite his lack of Speedway experience he has raced for many years in Dirt Karts collecting numerous titles across Australia driving for the Lightning Karts Factory Team.

Above Left: The newly purchased Mark McCarthy Chevy Impala bodied Rocket Chassis

Although he is a Victorian resident Rod Edwards, who has been a regular competitor at SALMA events, is set to expand his race team to include a second car for his Son Brock. Brock has spent time in the Junior Sedan ranks and he is eagerly awaiting his opportunity to race a Late Model in anger following a test at Ballarat's Redline Speedway late last season.

The drivers mentioned will join the established local drivers including Mat Crimmins, Luke Raymond, Stuart Hill and David Hartman, along with the Victorian competitors,

therefore regular fields of 10 cars and above should be the norm for the first time since the class was introduced into South Australia.

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