

Racing Sanctioned



Portland champion drag racer Doug Lyons shows off his modified 1967 Camaro which can hit 170 mph in eight seconds utilizing its "big block Chevy engine" and added nitrous oxide. Lyons wants to get more Black people to join the drag racing world on the track and not on the streets, "where it's safe and you can have some fun."

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

attle. Races are between two cars that go on a straight course for an eighth or quarter mile, and whoever gets there first is the winner of the round.

Racing on a sanctioned track is a lot of fun and beats the risks of

illegal street racing, Lyons says. According to the Associated Press, illegal drag racing exploded in popularity across the country during the COVID pandemic, taking advantage of fewer cars on the road, often with deadly consequences.

Many cities and states are

fighting back by passing stronger laws and the Portland City Council voted last August to crack down on street racing. Businesses on North Marine Drive have spent thousands of dollars installing fencing to keep street racers away from paved lots.

Speed racing on city streets is

a Class A traffic violation and according to the city's website, "You can lose your vehicle on the spot as well of thousands of dollars... fast!" Street racing carries a basic fine of \$435, but if charges includes reckless driving and reckless endangering of another person, these crimes are punishable with up to a

year in jail, five years of probation and/or a fine of up to \$6,250, and insurance rates can skyrocket.

That's why Lyons and other drag racers encourage street racers to go legit and race on a track.

Call him at 503-890-0095 and he'll give you the low-down on how to get started.

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