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Details announced for 58th annual Rose Cup Races in 2018; event welcomes return of Pirelli World Challenge

PORTLAND, Ore. (Nov. 6, 2017) – **Friends of PIR** has announced the dates and initial details for the 58th running of the famed **Rose Cup Races**. The 2018 event will take place July 13 through July 15 at Portland International Raceway and will host the **Pirelli World Challenge**, North America’s top GT production-based road racing sports car series.

A sanctioned event of the Portland Rose Festival, the Rose Cup Races is the premier amateur road racing event in the Pacific Northwest, featuring racing competitors from both the Oregon Region Sports Car Club of America and the Cascade Sports Car Club.

Three amateur classes (TBA in early 2018) will race at the event, along with all seven of the Pirelli World Challenge professional racing classes, which will compete in doubleheader races: two 60-minute GT SprintX events, two 50-minute GTS races and two 40-minute Touring Car contests. The popular SprintX two-driver, 60-minute format will be a part of the weekend as well. Over 100 Pirelli World Challenge cars and drivers expected for the event.

“The Pirelli World Challenge is one of North America’s premier racing series and we are very excited to have many of the world’s top sports cars and drivers return to PIR,” said Gary Bockman, president of Friends of PIR. “The variety of Pirelli World Challenge machinery will make for a great addition to our three amateur race groups, forming a very attractive motorsports weekend in the Rose City.”

In 2017, Pirelli World Challenge featured 26 different auto manufacturers with 44 separate models including the prestigious GT and GTS series sports some of the world’s most iconic sports cars including Acura, Audi, Aston Martin, Bentley, Chevrolet, Ferrari, Ford, Lamborghini, McLaren, Mercedes, Nissan, Panoz and Porsche. Pirelli World Challenge Touring Car categories have some spectacular wheel-to-wheel action in the three divisions with makes from Audi, BMW, Honda, Lotus, Mazda, Nissan and Scion.

The Pirelli World Challenge has held events at Portland International Raceway on three occasions with events in 2001, 2004 and 2005. Past Pirelli World Challenge race winners at PIR include Michael Galati (GT) and Neal Sapp (TC) in 2001, Tommy Archer (GT) and Pierre Kleinubing (TC) in 2004 and Dino Crescentini (GT) and Randy Pobst (TC) in 2005.

The Rose Cup Races weekend will feature practice and qualifying on July 13, and racing events on July 14 and July 15. More information about ticket prices, additional events and the specific schedule will be released in early 2018.

The Rose Cup Races was the first major event ever held at PIR in 1961, and has taken place annually ever since. The event is promoted by Friends of PIR. Learn more at RoseCup.com and follow @RoseCupRaces on social media (#RoseCup2018 #RoseCup58 #RoseCupRaces).

About Friends of PIR

Friends of PIR is a 501(c3) nonprofit committed to the preservation and enhancement of Portland International Raceway (PIR) as a resource for those who use it, including both participants and spectators; sustaining and expanding PIR's civic contribution as an institution in North Portland; and providing guidance and support for the ongoing management of PIR in a manner that assures its ongoing value as a venue for motorsports and other diverse forms of recreation and entertainment. For more information, visit FriendsofPIR.com.

About Portland International Raceway

Portland International Raceway (PIR) plays host to a diverse array of events for participants and spectators of all ages, ranging from high speed road racing to motocross, car cruise-ins to bicycle racing, and swap meets to foot relays. Unique in that it receives zero tax dollars, the City of Portland Park provides entertainment to approximately 400,000 visitors each year. For schedule and event info visit PortlandRaceway.com.

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Download high resolution photos of the Pirellie World Challenge at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0bxn557eyhtc7lo/AABY33civPPXLaaQN2LrQDXUa?dl=0>

View the Pirelli World Challenge 2017 Highlight Video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZPNSqjEclS&feature=youtu.be>