

Group to help fight against drug abuse

One of RAD's goals is to aid recovery process

MOTOR SPORTS

Lee Scheide

All of us are familiar with commercials that speak out against the drug problem in this country.

And the two main programs — DARE and Say No To Drugs — are groups that are easily recognizable.

Now, with the help of Huntington Beach Police Department and motor sports enthusiasts around Southern California, another group hopes to make itself as readily known.

RAD — Racers Against Drugs.

And RAD will hold its first informational gathering on April 25 at 10 a.m. at the Huntington State Beach in Huntington Beach.

Participating in the event will be local drivers and riders putting their cars and racing equipment — from vintage automobiles to jet skis — on display for the public.

But the main reason for the outing, according to RAD public relations officer Judy Strawn, is to make everyone — children and adults — become more aware of the problems facing today's children.

"Say No To Drugs and DARE are both great programs, especially in prevention and education," Strawn said. "This program that we are starting up is focused on both those issues, as well as helping with recovery; helping the kids that already have the problem get better.

"Maybe we can show them an alternative to one lifestyle by exposing them to another."

Among the groups that Strawns says that RAD will work closely with are the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organizations, Teen Challenge and the Special Olympics. Strawn said all three organizations will have representatives at the outing.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to get out and see that there are so many things to do outdoors, instead of doing drugs," Strawn said. "And the support of the racing community has been great, and we think it's just going to get better."