

## Skateboard racing speeds to success in Salem

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Pete Ingraham, 45, enjoys zooming down hills on his skateboard, but there's added excitement when there's someone racing against him.

"It's fun to try to go faster than the other guy," the Salem resident said.

About 30 racers like Ingraham took to the Soap Box Derby track at Bush's Pasture Park on Saturday to compete in a slalom skateboarding event put on by State Games of Oregon.

The competition, held for the third time in Salem, drew skaters of all ages from along the West Coast.

Donning helmets and pads, they raced down a 900-foot timed course in two events. In the dual hybrid slalom, two skaters at a time weaved through about 75 cones that curved down the hill. The giant slalom had a single-lane course with cones placed farther apart.

Two other slalom events are scheduled for today.

"Generally, skateboarders are fairly unorganized and don't like competition," said skateboarder Pat Chewning, 51, who helped organize the event. "Racing is a more objective way to build your skills and participate in something with your community."

For some skaters such as Robbie Lyons, 18, the event was more about fun than competition. The Californian started racing a couple months ago, wanting to try different aspects of skateboarding.

He's into everything from park to downhill skating. Speed has been the major attraction in slalom racing.

"I have this urge to go really fast on a skateboard all of the time," Lyons said. "It's perfect for me."

Nick Ronzani, 15, traveled to Salem with "Team Tactis," a junior pro-team from California. Sponsored by the skateboard manufacturing company Tactis Skate, the group expects to hit 15 to 20 slalom and downhill events across the country this year.

Ronzani aimed Saturday to get the fastest time.

"You're not really racing the other guy," he said. "You're racing the clock."

Many participants — those in the 45 and up age division — started slalom skateboarding in the



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Corey Moy, 45, of Puyallup, Wash., is one of the competitors Saturday in the slalom skateboarding event put on by State Games of Oregon on the Soap Box Derby track at in Bush's Pasture Park.

### Skateboarding event

The State Games of Oregon skateboard competition continues from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at Bush's Pasture Park, 890 Mission St. SE. Featured events include the Tight Inline Slalom in the morning and SlalomCross in the afternoon.

1970s. They said the sport has gained momentum in the past seven years or so, and they hoped to get the younger generation involved.

"We'll pass the torch and coach them," said Corey Moy, 45.

Moy and his son, Darrin, 15, came to Salem from Washington to participate in the slalom event. They rooted each other on.

"It's kind of fun because we don't share a lot of the same interests," Darrin Moy said. "It's something we can do together."

ekim@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6721