



PRESS RELEASE

Wessex Round Table of Inventors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st July 2009

ANNUAL KEYNOTE PUBLIC LECTURE IN SOUTHAMPTON

The development of a world record breaking jet powered dragster and its final nearly fatal crash is the subject of the WRTI Annual Keynote Lecture at Southampton Solent University on Wednesday 8 July. The lecture, which commences at 6.00 for 6.30 pm in room HC005 of the Herbert Collins wing of Southampton Solent University, is free and open to members of the public.

The talk forms the centrepiece to the July meeting of the Wessex Round Table of Inventors (WRTI), the Southampton-based club and which includes scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and academics among its membership.

Colin Fallows and Mark Newby - current and former holders of the British Land Speed record will talk about how a second hand RAF Gnat engine and a lot of hard work was turned into a record breaking jet powered dragster. Their two cars, 'Vampire' and 'Split Second' were designed and built by the pair and have taken it in turns to hold the record at Elvington Airfield. Colin and Mark will, with the aid of video and pictures, show how ingenuity and creativity can achieve so much. They will also relate the story behind their third car 'E-Motion' - the UK's first (and only) battery powered car to exceed 200mph, which has recently gone on permanent display at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu.

During their presentation, Colin will discuss the engineering aspects and innovative solutions behind the UK land speed record holding design, maintenance and operation, while Mark will focus on the viewpoint of the driver and provide accounts of a variety of challenges presented by these specialised machines, not least - dealing with a tyre bursting at 320mph.

Website: www.wrti.org.uk

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Enquiries: Mike Overy (WRTI Secretary), Tel: 01420 562378, email: secretary@wrti.co.uk.

Wessex Round Table of Inventors meet at 6.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Southampton Solent University, East Park Terrace SO14 0YN.