

VALVE COVER RACING!

RACE FANS!

January 30, 2027

British Wheels on the Green

Peoria Centennial Plaza

Build and race your own Valve Cover Racer! A valve cover racer is made from a car's valve cover, a platform, and skateboard or skate wheels. They're inexpensive and lots of fun to build!

The rules are pretty simple and designed to provide maximum fun while keeping the field relatively evenly matched. Our club's rules follow common guidelines, with some modification:

- Your valve cover must be from a British car, preferably a 4-cylinder engine as the 6-cylinder covers are either rare or expensive.
- The valve cover must be structurally unmodified (no cut downs for length) and should be clearly identifiable as a valve cover from a British car.
- The car must be unpowered (meaning no motors, springs, flywheels, etc.). Only gravity can do the job.
- The maximum dimensions are:
 - 11" wide (our track lanes are 11¾ wide)
 - 24" wheelbase axle-to-axle (shorter is permitted)
 - 26" overall length (shorter is permitted)
 - 10" high (lower is permitted)
- The maximum allowed weight is 10 pounds.
- The maximum wheel diameter is 6 inches.
- The car must have 4 wheels with nonmetallic contact to the track surface (e.g. no metal disc wheels). Rubber wheels are preferred and recommended.
- All wheels must maintain contact with the track surface during the run (no wheelies).
- Nothing may extend beyond the front of the valve cover (no adding a long nose, or wheels in front like a dragster) but having wheels extend behind the back of the cover is permitted if the maximum overall length is not exceeded.
- Weights / objects cannot be jettisoned from the car during the run and must be contained within the body of the cover.
- No parachutes allowed! ☹️

We don't plan to be terribly strict (because we want to have a lot of fun), but it should be easy to comply with these rules and the spirit of the law will be the guiding principle.

Our track is 26 feet long with an 8-foot downward section, so these cars should get up to a decent speed. No radar guns will be in evidence and no speeding tickets will be issued.

Suggestions for your own car:

1. You don't have to spend a lot of money! Two 5/16" threaded rods will work as axles and fit the most common sized skateboard, inline skate or scooter wheels. Wheels can be purchased on Amazon for as little as \$15 - \$20 for a set of 4, or you can strip down some inline skates from Goodwill. A simple base of pine cut to the shape of the cover, with a couple of bolts to hold the cover down, is all you need! Of course, you can go as crazy as you want... but you can build one of these for around \$30 if you have a valve cover and some basic tools.
2. Find a way to make your car a teeny bit adjustable so it travels straight. The track lanes have rails, and contact with them will slow your car down.
3. Make sure your wheels spin freely with low friction bearings. WD-40 and 3-in-1 oil will help that a lot.
4. Try and get to the maximum weight so gravity helps you out the most. Location of that weight is important.
5. Have fun with livery! Make your car unique. Make it a "rat rod" or a concours example. All are welcome! But remember that you can't have spoilers or wings as they'll not fit within the boundaries of the valve cover, which is a rule.