

SCTA Speed Week is threatened as Bonneville loses more salt

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**<b>Salt conditions could cancel 8 of August event at Bonneville</b>**

Bonneville salt flats have seen speed for years, but each passing year they deteriorate more and more. Testing for Speed Week, hosted by the [Southern California Timing Association](http://www.scta-bni.org/) (SCTA), has been cancelled. The salt conditions for the 8 August event are also controversial.

This is not the first time the salt flats have failed to come through. Last year Speed Week was cancelled after the salt flats were flooded by a rain storm, and this year conditions are still not looking so good. The layer of salt is so thin that spots of the desert below can be seen.

The salt flats of Bonneville have been marveled for being incredibly flat and smooth, naturally creating ideal conditions for speed racing. The salt can provide an added hard surface, but salt conditions vary day to day as well as throughout the year.

Russ Evers from the SCTA was out surveying the salt flats last week. Evers told the [Salt Lake Tribune](http://www.sltrib.com/) that he was unable to find a seven mile stretch of land that would be sufficient for land speed racing. He found some portions of the salt flats were still underwater, and others were a mixture of salt and mud.

Don't fear yet though, Speed Week could still be a possibility. If a seven mile course cannot be produced, the SCTA can allow for a four mile short-course event.

A decision from the SCTA about the 8 August event won't come until 22 July. Rapidly changing conditions at Bonneville make it possible that the events should go on as planned, but in the future Bonneville may not be the best option for land speed racing.

According to Asphalt and Rubber, the layer of salt coating Bonneville's desert surface has been in a steady decline from several feet in the 1940's and 50s, to now just a few inches.

Many different factors could attribute to the depletion of the salt, such as site climate change, heavy rain and flooding, and mineral extraction in the area.

While it is unclear whether Bonneville's salt conditions will improve over time, it is still an important part of land speed racing history.

How would you feel land speed racing somewhere other than Bonneville?