

Cote is unshakeable and holds on for exciting fourth win in Bethel's Asphalt Modified feature; Tisha Curry has the rolling speed in dramatic last lap pass to win Four Cylinder 'Hippie Bowl' feature!

August 28th, 2021:

White Lake, NY: A cloudy overcast summer day greeted racers and fans for their weekly dose of exciting short track racing. The night was highlighted by the annual four cylinder 'Hippie Bowl'. During intermission a brief rainstorm resulted in a delay as the track had to be dried out. Bethel Speedway thanks all drivers who came out and participated in drying the track. Unfortunately, due to the weather delay and the town curfew we could not run the 'Fire on the Mountain 50' Open Comp Enduro Series. It will be made up this Saturday, September 4th as part of an Enduro double header along with the rest of our racing program. It will kickoff with a day enduro and then end with a nightcap enduro.

NASCAR Asphalt Modified feature action had Mac Crawson losing traction on the initial start and contacting Fred Nees Jr. and Brian Rygielski. Nees Jr. and Rygielski joined at the rear of the field, but Crawson was towed off with race ending damages. The race then became a shootout between John Cote and Skip LaPolt. Cote proved to be unshakeable despite LaPolt's repeated challenges on the open wheeled driving master. Cote led every lap, but the final lap was LaPolt's best charge with an inside dash off turn four towards the checkers. Cote hung on to win by a nose in the exciting finish to collect his fourth win of the season over the strong running LaPolt. Rygielski rebounded from his early race calamity to take third position at the stripe keeping him in the championship title hunt.

The annual four cylinder 'Hippie Bowl' proved to be the most exciting race of the night with twenty drivers entered for the special event and elevated purse money up for grabs. The opening lap found Jeffrey Tubbs getting into invader Micah Adams bringing out the yellow. The race using a 'choose cone' format in the beginning stages found veteran racer Joe Smith taking the high side for his choice which proved to put him in the lead for the first few laps until polesitter Tasha Travis reclaimed the lead on lap 4. Travis and Smith continued to race side by side as Tubbs charged his way back through the pack. Lap 8 found Tubbs getting by third place running Richard Smith and began to reel in the leaders. Lap 12 was a stresser for the leaders as they both almost crashed together while negotiating lapped traffic down the front stretch. Lap 17 found Tubbs erupting in flames while battling J. Smith for second position bringing out the red flag. Tubbs jumped from the car unscathed while quick response from track safety crew put the fire out but forced him out of the race. The restart found David Donovan emerging as he took over second position while Jerry Kingeter moved into third position. Lap 23 saw Kingeter using the inside lane to take second as Donovan began to develop handling issues with his car on the high side. Lap 25 brought the yellow out as Donovan skated into the turn 1 wall moving Tisha Curry into third position. The restart found

Travis to be at her best as she stretched out a sizeable lead over Kingeter. J. Smith who had faded began to work his way back up-front working by Curry just prior to halfway and began to battle Kingeter for second. The two drivers battled door to door for several laps but as they maneuvered through lapped traffic the two drivers collided hard in turn 3 bringing out the yellow and collected Nicole Nelson and Donovan into the melee. Kingeter, Nelson, and J. Smith all retired from the race with damages. Another restart found Travis again pulling ahead but Curry who inherited second was now under pressure by R. Smith. Lap 47 found R. Smith completing his pass on Curry to take over second and began to close the gap on Travis. Curry who was conserving the car then began to pick up in speed and reclaimed second from Smith on lap 54. Meanwhile, the leader Travis seemed to be fading and was encountering issues with lapped traffic ahead as the race began to hit its final stage. Lap 60 saw a multi lap battle begin for third between R. Smith and Donovan while Curry closed in on the leader Travis. Lap 65 saw Donovan taking full control of third over R. Smith. With two laps to go Curry found herself challenging for the lead as Travis was mired in lapped traffic. Curry played cool staying steady on the inside lane as Travis used the outside trying to clear the slower traffic. After taking the white flag Curry charged harder into turn 1 and got a good run out of turn two to get door to door with Travis down the backstretch as they went into turn three with lapped traffic directly in front of them. Curry then made the winning pass using the inside lane off turn four with the checkers flying ahead. At the finish line it was Curry nipping Travis by a fender length to take her first win of the season in the exciting finish as she earned the biggest victory of her career. Donovan held on for third with Smith in fourth. Tim Curry was the race's hard charger coming from seventeenth starting position to take fifth place at the checkers.

The Pro Stock feature proved to be a race of redemption as Kenny Hyde diced his way through the field and then outdueled current point leader Dave Demorest sometimes going three-wide as they raced each other. The final five laps saw Demorest making a strong challenge to win but came up a car length short as Hyde claimed a powerful third feature win of the season. Hyde rebounded from a stripped win for a post race improper fuel cell mounting infraction the week prior. Kenny Atkins came from the rear of the pack to take third at the checkers.

Chris Piasecki looked strong enough to win the INEX Legends feature as he led the first fifteen laps despite several challenges and charges from Tanner Jones and current point leader James Anderson. Lap 16 found Piasecki just slipping up ever slightly allowing Jones to pounce taking the lead off the inside in turn 4. As the three drivers raced hard into turn 1, Anderson got into Piasecki as the two drivers tangled bringing out the caution. The final laps were easy for Jones as he cruised to his second feature win of the season while Piasecki and Anderson both rebounded to take second and third respectively.

It was a barnburner in the NASCAR Street Stock feature. Bill Deak Sr. put forth a strong run leading the first half of the race despite heavy pressure from current point leader JB Morris. Lap 12 found Morris surging ahead into the lead while Kyle Welsch moved past

Deak Sr. to take second. Morris and Welsch then battled for the lead in the remaining laps but Morris was too strong and looked poised for victory. At the checkers it was Morris by a car length over Welsch to take his fifth win of the season and holding onto his lead in the tight championship battle.

Sal Macchio led the early laps of the Trucks feature but couldn't hold off a strong running Terry McNamara. Macchio held on to second until the halfway point when Emerson Cargain Jr. took over second. At the checkers, it was McNamara picking up his second feature win over Cargain Jr. and Macchio.

Fawn Card drove wisely in a rough and tumble Novice feature which was checkered on lap 7 due to the curfew. It was Card's first win of the season. Nick Foley and Tucker Katz rounded out the top three.

Leland Oefelein and Jordan Smith won the Bandolero features