

## ***Don Wagner & Bill Deckelman have the quick response on 9/11 Memorial Night at Bethel!***

September 11th, 2021:

**White Lake, NY:** It was a beautiful sunny but solemn day as it was the 20-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorism attack. The night was a tribute for all of those who lost their lives on that fateful day along with all active and retired first responders. Local fire, ambulance, and police came to show their support with an emergency vehicles parade around the speedway in an emotional tribute. The night also honored two fellow racers who have passed away. Jimmy Shields was an EMT and a local four-cylinder racer at the speedway who passed suddenly several years ago. Dale Morton was a longtime competitor and supporter of the speedway dating back to the 1970s. Recent years found him as the crew chief on his popular Thunderstang with his son Gene Morton behind the wheel. Morton passed away last year after a long battle of multiple health problems. Both Shields and Morton are deeply missed at the speedway

NASCAR Asphalt Modified feature racing found veteran racer Don Wagner overcoming previous week bad luck with another strong performance. Wagner took full advantage of his pole position leading every lap enroute to his first career feature win at Bethel. Wagner had his work cut out as several late race cautions allowed Brian Rygielski to put heavy pressure on the leader during the restarts. Wagner proved to be well worthy taking the checkers by a car length over Rygielski and current point leader Skip LaPolt in third for a close finish. A joyous Wagner in Victory Lane stated, "this is a great little track to race on and I really enjoy racing with these guys; it is well worth the trip to come here." "I got a bit concerned with those late race yellows as I knew I had some strong runners behind me, luckily I did well on the restarts." Wagner then thanked his pit crew and the fans for coming out.

It was lucky win number 7 for veteran racer Bill Deckelman in the Dirt Modified feature. Deckelman stayed clear of contact in several early lap cautions enroute to his victory extending his point lead. Jeff Parker rebounded from an early race mishap to rally back to a second-place finish but ran out of time to challenge Deckelman for the lead. Mike Travis put in a solid effort to take third in the final rundown.

The Four Cylinder Pure Stocks were in action with the 'Jimmy Shields Memorial' Twin 22 features. Shields who was a first responder EMT and local racer at the speedway passed away suddenly several years ago. In the first feature it was Jeffrey Tubbs putting on a clinic as he led every lap despite a fender-to-fender battle with a strong running JW Gannon. Bruce Illenberg also became a formidable challenger in third position as Tubbs and Gannon battled side by side in the closing laps. At the checkers, it was Tubbs getting the monkey off his back and claiming his first career Bethel feature win over Gannon. Nicole Nelson was credited with third in the final rundown. The second feature came to green with veteran Tim Curry taking the early lead. Red hot Tasha Travis quickly worked her way up from fourth starting position and began a side-

by-side challenge on Curry for the lead. Travis took the lead for good on lap 6 and marched on to her second feature win of the season in the competitive division. Curry held off Jerry Kingeter's Bumblebee to take second by half a car length at the stripe.

NASCAR Sport Mod feature action found Kyle Dunham taking the lead early on over Jeff Parker and Andy Crane. Parker and Crane pursued Dunham the first half of the race with Parker making several outside challenges. At the halfway marker Parker made his winning pass coming out of turn 4. Lap 10 found Crane getting by Dunham as he began to emit smoke and fade through the field. At the checkers, it was Parker collecting his second feature win of the season in his beautiful fire engine red machine. Crane put forth a strong second with rookie Joe Smith coming home a steady third.

Tasha Travis continues her torrid September achieving her second feature win of the season in the Renegades division. The race was run in memory of longtime track supporter Dale Morton who passed away last year. Travis outdueled Jeff DeGroat and Dan Houghtaling over the course of the race coming home first at the checkers.

Emerson Cargain Jr. found himself leading every lap in the trucks feature with his beautiful 9/11 tribute machine. He outpowered Sal Macchio and Kevin Cargain to the checkers extending his large point lead.

Leland Oefelein cruised to easy victory in the Bandolero feature.

Jordan Smith won his ninth feature of the season over over his sister Alyson Smith.