

Cote is picture perfect in Bethel's Asphalt Modified feature; Donovan sizzles in 'Summer of 69' Enduro!

July 31st, 2021:

White Lake, NY: A beautiful summer day greeted as race fans filed in for the always popular Fan Appreciation Camera Night presented by Melissa Brush Photography. Intermission found an on-track car show with much interaction between the driver's and their fans which is always a fun experience. Sweet treats, balloons, photos, etch greeted the fans at many of the cars on display.

NASCAR Asphalt Modified feature was ultra-competitive which saw several leaders as the drivers jockeyed for victory. Mac Crawson pounced on opportunity going three wide to take the early lead but soon found himself tangled up with Brian Rygielski on the frontstretch ending his night early and forcing Rygielski to pit for repairs. Former dirt street stock racer, Steven Kammer took the lead over a stout Chris Young for the next few laps. Lap 6 saw Skip LaPolt jolting into the lead with a three wide pass down the back chute and began to lead. However, a few laps later LaPolt's car skidded up in turn 3 opening the inside for an emerging John Cote who worked his way up from fifth starting position to take the lead just prior to the halfway point. Rygielski and Young also moved by LaPolt as they chased Cote. At the checkers, it was Bethel's all-time win leader Cote taking home the exciting victory for his second win of the season over Rygielski and Young.

A flawless display of driving from sophomore racer Kyle Dunham saw him picking up the upset victory in Dirt Modified racing as he wired the caution free race leading every lap of the feature. Dunham was heavily hounded throughout the race by rookie Mike Roth but Dunham never waivered in error. At the checkers it was Dunham claiming his first win of the season with much applause from the fans over Roth and current point leader Bill Deckelman taking third.

The 'Summer of 69' Enduro Series was the nightcap of the evening as time was ticking on the impending curfew which required the event to be shortened to 36 laps but nonetheless the racing was fierce, and action packed with Tisha Curry leading the early laps. Mike Travis moved into the lead on lap 5 but was short lived as he became engulfed in a lapped car tangle brushing him along the turn two wall ending his bid for victory. Richard Smith then inherited the lead and continued to lead until lap 23 as he raced in and out of lapped traffic alongside a strong running David Donovan. Donovan challenged the lead for several laps before taking sole control on Lap 24 and began to widen his lead over Smith. At the race shortened checkers, it was Donovan taking his first win of the season over Smith and Curry.

Pro Stock racing was a royal one as three former track champions battled for victory in the first half of the race. Joe Barnes, Kenny Atkins, and Larry O'Donnell all led but it was O'Donnell proving to be the strongest as he surged ahead on lap 5 and never

looked back. Meanwhile, current point leader Dave Demorest and Kenny Hyde worked their way up thru the pack in the competitive race moving into the top three, but neither could challenge for O'Donnell as he freighted to his first feature win of the season over Demorest and Hyde.

JB Morris trekked from sixth starting position to his fourth win of the season in NASCAR street stock racing as he waged a door-to-door battle with Bill Deak Sr. for several laps before taking the lead on lap 10. The second half of the race found Deak Sr in the middle of the action this time in a door-to-door battle with Kyle Welsch. Welsch took sole control of second position with the white flag waving with Deak Sr finishing third at the checkers.

INEX Legends feature racing found a new winner gracing Bethel's Victory Lane as Jack Gerzabek picked up the popular victory. Gerzabek narrowly defeated rookie Ryan Kuhlthau who claimed a strong second place run with current point leader James Anderson finishing in third.

Mike Roth outgunned Joe Knoth and Kyle Dunham to capture his fourth triumph of the season in the NASCAR Sport Mod feature. Dunham worked by Knoth to take second on lap 2. Knoth finished in third in the caution free race.

Four Cylinder Pure Stocks found a hotly contested race with Jeffrey Tubbs jumping out to the early lead over JW Gannon. Tim Curry began to challenge Tubbs as he worked into second position on lap 2. Lap 5 saw Tasha Travis and Mike Travis getting by Curry and both quickly closed in on the leader Tubbs. The next several laps saw Tubbs busy at the wheel trying to defend his lead against strong challenges from both Mike and Tasha Travis. Tempers got hot on lap 11 when three wide racing went wild in turn 3 bringing out the yellow as Tubbs and T. Travis tangled. Both drivers were sent ot the pits for their driving behavior. M. Travis inherited the lead but he soon found himself racing side by side with Jerry Kingeter charging on the inside. Kingeter took sole control of the lead on lap 17 as M. Travis began to experience handling issues with his car. Curry got by Travis to take second spot. The feature finish found Kingeter picking up his third feature win of the season over Curry and David Donovan in third.

Emerson Cargain Jr. dominated the Truck feature to take an easy win over Sal Macchio and Terry McNamara.

Novice feature saw newcomer Allan Pare declared the feature winner in his first ever start over other new drivers Zerek Bauernfeind and Ed Reichenbaugh.

Richie Helger Jr. led the majority of the Bandolero feature but defending champion Monika Deckelman made her presence be known throughout the race as she chased the leader. With 5 laps to go, Deckelman made the winning pass and went on to her fifth win of the season in a close finish over Helger. Leland Oefelein came home in third.

Mikey LeFort III outdueled a red-hot Easton Houghtaling to take his first career feature win at Bethel in the Beginner Bandos feature. Olivia Tyler finished in third.