

Kyle Welsch is rePete winner in street stock 'Pete Gardner Memorial'; Jerry Curry pounces to his second Dirt Modified victory at Bethel!

October 2nd, 2021:

White Lake, NY: A picture perfect Autumn Day greeted racers and fans at Bethel Motor Speedway as it played host for it's second segment of the AutumnFest Fall Series. The night also honored former track champion Pete Gardner with it's annual 'Pete Gardner Memorial' race. Gardner who was an avid supporter of the local racing scene often was found at many speedways across the Northeast and would do anything to help often saying he was 'Livin the Dream'. Sadly, Pete passed away several years ago after battling health issues and is truly missed by many. Special Thanks to the Gardner Family for all their support of the memorial race run in his memory.

The 'Pete Gardner Memorial' feature started off with Joel Murns taking the lead over Scott Tyler in the early laps of the 56-lap main event. Todd Gadoury working the outside lane moved into second position on lap 5 as he swept past Tyler. Gadoury then closed in on the leader Murns for the next several laps and began to challenge for the lead. Lap 10 found Gadoury taking helm as the leader of the race with a pass down the backstretch dropping Murns to second. Lap 18 found street stock ace, Kyle Welsch working past Murns to take second and began to close the gap on the fast-running Gadoury. Luck ran out for Gadoury at the halfway point as his car slowed in turn 3 with mechanical woes dropping him out of the feature and handing the lead to Welsch under yellow. Welsch then held off Tyler and Murns for the remainder of the event taking the dual checker flags taking a repeat victory of the 'Gardner Memorial' as he has now won three in a row for the annual race. It was also Welsch's eighth win of the season.

Jerry Curry pounced on an opportunity when the two leaders ahead drifted up the track and made contact giving way to an opening on the inside of turn two. Curry made an exciting three wide pass on lap 4 and continued to maintain that lead for the remainder of the race enroute to his second feature win of the season over Ed Dachenhausen and Josh Wilbur.

Joe Barnes stormed through the field in the Renegades feature and outdueled Vinny DeGraw to take his first feature win of the season in exciting fashion. Barnes took the lead at the halfway point coming from twelfth starting position. DeGraw held on for second after a battle with third place finishing Joe Warren.

Jeffrey Farruggia picked up his first career feature win at Bethel in INEX Legends feature racing. Farruggia put on a stout performance leading every lap despite several challenges from James Anderson. The checkers saw Farruggia winning by a car length over Anderson with Ryan Kuhlthau in third. Anderson won his first track championship at the speedway as he put together a solid year of good finishes to take the title.

The Open Comp Four Cylinder feature found a strong field of competitors with Long Island invader Joe Warren jumping out to the early lead. Warren led the early laps, but

Richard Smith worked the highside to take the lead on lap 6 and never looked back to take home his second four-cylinder feature win of the season. Lap 15 found Tisha Curry grabbing second from Warren, but Jeffrey Tubbs rallied in the final laps of the race to steal second at the finish line over Curry and Warren in the exciting finish.

Emerson Cargain Jr. took the lead on lap 12 from Terry McNamara in the Compact Truck feature and nailed down the feature win along with the track championship. Kevin Cargain finished in third.

Leland Oefelien led every lap in the Bandolero feature to collect his fifth feature win of the season and taking home his first career track championship. Shawn Tyler finished a strong second with Jordan Smith in third.

John Hager won the Vintage feature by a bumper in his Chevy Coupe big block powered modified over AJ Kitzen in second. George Cleveland finished in third.

The Open Competition Enduro Series was an exciting one in the 'Livin the Dream 56' run in honor of Pete Gardner. Current series point leader Richard Smith looked strong early leading the early laps but headed pitside on lap 22 with trouble handing the lead to enduro expert Joe Warren. Warren continued to lead navigating through lapped traffic and obstacles but quickly found a strong running Tisha Curry on his back bumper. The two drivers battled for many laps much to the fans delight and the final lap was a nail biter as Warren had to pull off a thread the needle move in order to hang on to the win as the two drivers sliced and diced in lap traffic coming to the finish line. Warren took the checkers by half a car length to take his first enduro feature win of the season at Bethel. JW Gannon put in a strong showing to finish in third position over PJ Bleau.

Ryan Kuhlthau picked up his first career win in the Legend's Non-Winner's race, but it was no easy win by any means. Kuhlthau won over a strong duel with Jeffrey Farruggia. Lexi Pryzbylinski finished in third.

Beginner Bando feature action saw Jordan Smith cruise to his eleventh feature win of the season in a dominant run over Easton Houghtaling and Madison White.