

# Columbia County Racing Association started season on May 5

The Columbia County Racing Association's 21st season started May 5 with nearly 100 motorsport entrants. The most impressive accomplishment was a victory by Gannin Thomas in the modified A main, in which St. Helens competitors took the top-five positions in the Carousel Concessions 2007 season opener Saturday at River City Speedway.

Scappoose drivers Tim Williams (sportsman) and Kathy Griffin (women's division), who are considered top contenders following third place 2006 division finishes, both notched top-five's while driving the Alliance Automotive/STC Racing Parts Chevrolet Camaros. The Beehler brothers of Deer Island, Brad and Adam, also continued their recent success following a top-five rank-

ing in the 2006 mini stock division as both recorded top-five A main finishes.

Rob Williams of Vernonia, in "The Independent" Oldsmobile, posted a second place street stock A main event finish behind winner, John Nusom of Gresham, and just in front of third place finisher, "The Enforcer" Terry Moss of St. Helens. Williams 7th place finish in the Heat race put him in just the right place when the invert #7 came up, leaving him in the inside front-row for the Main event. Williams led the Main for 20 laps, then ended up in 5th place and worked his way back to 2nd by lap 37, but was unable to regain the lead.

Two defending champions, Joe Cherington and Stacey Fordyce resumed this season the same way that they con-

cluded last year, with each recording a main event win. Cherington, of Vancouver, won the mini stock main and Mark Guindon of Warrenton, took second, followed by Brad Beehler, Tristan Judkins and Adam Beehler. Brad, 27, set a new track record of 16.37 seconds in qualifying with his DFI/Rainier Log Hauling sponsored Datsun.

Thomas of St. Helens, led nearly all the way in the Baxter Auto Parts main with his Generation Transmission/Coyner's Auto Body open-wheel style modified racer. Gresham's Skip Pillow started on the pole position and led the opening circuit around the quarter-mile clay oval, but Thomas passed him on lap two and led the next 11 laps. Pillow briefly regained the edge for a couple laps, then was slowed by lapped traffic, which enabled Thomas to get by him on lap 16, staying up front for the remainder of the 40-lap race. Thomas won by a car length over Shawn Dorie, who was followed by Jeremy Martin, Scott Dorie and Dan Fox of Warren.

"I'm not planning on attending every race this year and I don't really enjoy being involved in a points chase because I feel that doing things with my family is a priority, such as camping and skiing, which are much more fun weekend activities," said Thomas, 38. "This is actually the first time in my 21-year racing career that I've ever won the first race, so it's a nice way to start the season."

Ken Bryan of Toledo, led the

first two laps of the sportsman main until Jon "Razor" Gillett of St. Helens, moved ahead on lap three. Portland's Mike Graham moved in front on lap eight and led the remainder of the 25-lap race, winning by one car length over Gresham's Curt Nusom. Vancouver's John Fordyce was third, followed by Portland's Bryan Collins and Tim Williams of Scappoose in fifth.

"It's nice starting with a top-five, not quite as good as last year though, when I won the first race, but I'm glad to get fifth place," said Tim Williams. "I feel like I'll have a good chance to win the title and after I changed some things, such as the flywheel, the clutch and suspension parts, the car is running just great."

19-year-old Amber Smith of Scappoose, led the first five laps of the women's race in the Alliance Automotive Camaro until Fordyce passed her on lap six. Fordyce stayed up front the rest of the 40-lap race in her All Star Sports Bar Monte Carlo and won by a straightaway length over Portland's Pam Graham. Jacki Graham took third, followed by Griffin and Celeste Hardesty of St. Helens, in fifth.

Richard Petty of Scappoose, won the non-points PHRA dwarf car main and heat race.

The next race is May 19 and a new event this year consists of the student division, a three-race series for kids age 13-16 that will debut on June 16.

## RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY MAY 5, 2007, RESULTS

Sportsman – Fast Time: 15.25; Curt Nusom, Gresham. Trophy Dash: Nusom. Heat 1: John Fordyce, Vancouver; Greg Greer, Rainier; Matt Taylor, Portland. Heat 2: Ken Bryan, Toledo; John Gillett, St. Helens; Bryan Collins, Portland; Heat 3: Skip Pillow, Gresham; Larry Lemons, Toledo; Nusom. B Main: Fordyce; Taylor; Corey Locicero, Gearhart. A Main: Mike Graham, Portland; Nusom; Fordyce; Collins; Tim

Williams, Scappoose; Greer; Lemons; Gillett; Bryan; Pillow.

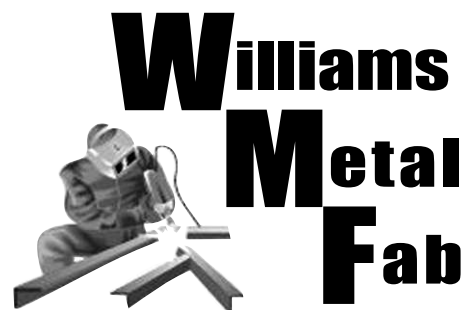
Modified – Fast Time: 14.24; Scott Dorie, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Marc Sayre, Portland. Heat 1: Marcie Kisor, Scappoose; Rudy Chappelle, St. Helens; Larry Benson, Longview. Heat 2: Dan Fox, Warren; Jeremy Martin, St. Helens; Pillow. Heat 3: Greer; Don Jenner, Vancouver; Dan Smith, Scappoose. B Main: Kenny Miller, Vancouver; Chappelle; Benson; Clint Petty, St. Helens; Kisor. A Main: Gannin Thomas, St. Helens; Shawn Dorie, St. Helens; Martin; Scott Dorie; Fox; Miller; Ray Elwess, Portland; Doug Lockwood, Portland; Pillow; Chappelle.

Street Stock – Fast Time: 16.01; John Nusom, Gresham. Trophy Dash: John Nusom. Heat 1: Jereld Strawn, Portland; Steven Nusom, Gresham; Greg Hamilton, Portland. Heat 2: Mark Reser, Beaverton; Bobby Morley, Scappoose; Jeff Lovell, Portland. Main: John Nusom; Robert Williams, Vernonia; Terry Moss, St. Helens; Lovell; Morley; Ian Lamma, St. Helens; Reser; Hamilton; Brad Nusom, Gresham.

Mini Stock – Fast Time: 16.37 (track record); Brad Beehler, Deer Island. Trophy Dash: Mark Guindon, Warrenton. Heat 1: Larry Pelletier, St. Helens; Dan Beaudoin, Vancouver; Frank Karnath, Portland. Heat 2: Scott McMullen, Deer Island; Tristan Judkins, Portland; Darin Rehm, Portland. Heat 3: Joe Cherington, Vancouver; Marie Sayre, Portland; Guindon. B Main: Pelletier; Dan Beaudoin, Vancouver; Devon Reed, Portland; Ric James, Portland; Karnath. A Main: Cherington; Guindon; Brad Beehler; Judkins; Mark Beehler, St. Helens; Sayre; Dan Beaudoin; Eric Lindquist, St. Helens; Pelletier; McMullen.

Women's Division – Fast Time: 16.89; Tria Prettyman, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Celeste Hardesty, St. Helens. Heat 1: Stacey Fordyce, Vancouver; Susan Thomas, St. Helens; Amber Smith, Scappoose. Heat 2: Hardesty; Pam Graham, Portland; Jacki Graham, Portland. Main: Fordyce; Pam Graham; Jacki Graham; Kathy Griffin, Scappoose; Hardesty; Smith; Susan Wallace, Portland; Kay Bayot, Portland; Linda Holland, Portland; Thomas.

PHRA Dwarf Cars – Trophy Dash: Jim Dunn, Amboy. Heat 1: Richard Petty, Scappoose; Dunn; Jim Pavel, Mollala. Heat 2: Charles Millar, Gresham; Jimmy Pavel, Mollala; Doug McVae, Scappoose. Main: Petty; Dunn; Jim Pavel; McVae; Jimmy Pavel; Millar.



**Custom Fabrication & Welding**  
**All Metals Including**  
**Stainless Steel & Aluminum**

Portable WELDING AVAILABLE

**503-429-8431**

17819 Noakes Rd., Vernonia, Oregon



**503-429-0280**  
**Basic Auto Repair**

Specializing in Brakes & Light Auto Repair

**Oil Change Special \$19.95**

most cars & trucks - up to 5 quarts

**Transmission service**

Open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday call for appointment

Rotor and  
drum machine  
on site

**62481 Nehalem Hwy 47 North, next to Spartree Restaurant**



☆ **GASOLINE ALLEY AUTO WRECKING** ☆  
**503-429-7581**

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday

**54372 Nehalem Hwy South Vernonia, OR 97064**  
**6 miles south of town on Hwy 47**

Accepting unwanted vehicles with clear title