

Dodge takes 6th in Street Stock at River City Speedway for 2009

River City Speedway's 23rd year of stock car racing concluded with the 'Run What Ya Brung' season finale race September 26, with 60 drivers entering events in seven different motorsport classifications.

Local drivers Tricia "Great" Brittain, Bud Russell, Mike Hagen, Dennis Blasier and Taryn Smith each recorded top-five main event finishes. Terri Russell of St. Helens, won the Women's Division race, Dave Cantu of Columbia City, won the PHRA Dwarf Car main and Jody Turner of St. Helens, won the Mini Stock main.

The traditional season-ending non-points race has a little different format than normal Columbia County Racing Association events, with Sportsman and Street Stock cars competing together in one class.

Portland's Mike Bennett won the Sportsman/Street Stock A Main and trophy dash with his Pontiac. Bennett's car was a modified version of a Sportsman car with a powerful 406 cubic inch, V-8 engine and considerably more horsepower than the other cars. The format of this final race doesn't include the usual technical engine inspections or specified rules that drivers must adhere to during regular CCRA events.

Vernonia's Gary "Hollywood" Meyer led the first 12 laps with his Meyer's Auto Body sponsored 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner. Bud Russell of St. Helens, passed Meyer on lap 13 on the inside of the back straightaway. Russell held onto first place until Bennett moved in front on lap 21.

"I actually felt like I won, because Bennett probably should've been in a different class," said Russell, who took 14th in the Sportsman Division standings. "It's a little early to talk about next season, but I'll be back and maybe try to win the championship next year."

Bennett pulled ahead to a straightaway lead over Russell by the 29th circuit around the quarter-mile clay oval track. Russell, Brittain and Longview's Brian Vaughn battled it out for the runnerup position for the final portion of the 40-lap event. Russell held on to get second with his Competitive Edge Sign & Design Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

"Last week the track was rough because of the rainy weather, but the conditions were great tonight, so it was a lot more fun tonight," said Brittain, the 2008 Sportsman champ who finished ninth this year. "We had a few DNF's (did not finish) and I missed a couple of races. I had a decent season even though I wasn't running for points. I'll come back next year and hopefully enter every race and then we'll see what happens."

Vaughn took third in his Chevy, followed by Brittain in her Fast Racing Monte Carlo. Portland's Tony Hendon maneuvered up from a last place starting position in the 16-car field to get fifth, with Meyer in sixth.

"It felt great to be out in front, which is what I wanted to do," said Meyer, who took 11th in the Street Stock Division. "There's a good group of people here that I really enjoy competing with. I've had some issues that I tried to fix on the car ever since it was damaged during the flood in Vernonia in 2007. I had to replace the motor after the timing chain broke in the season opener."

Terri Russell (Bud's mom) passed Taryn Smith on lap eight of the Women's main and led the remainder of the 20-lap race on her way to victory lane in the same car Bud competes in. Smith, of St. Helens, took second, followed by Julie Camberg, Shannon Taylor and Tiffany Gee.

"This was my first race in 17 years and it was just awesome," said Russell, who drove Brittain's car. "Tricia talked me into driving and I just went out there and had a great time. Bud did a great job and my husband Mike competed, too. We're both thinking about racing next season."

Portland's Mike Christopheron (Late Models), Vancouver's Robert Jenner (Modified) and Brandon Reed (Sprints) of Toledo, Wash., each notched main event wins. The CCRA Awards Banquet will be held at the speedway October 10 at 2:00 p.m.

RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY SEPTEMBER 19 RESULTS

Sportsman Division – Fast Time: Curt Nusom, Gresham 15.73. Trophy Dash: Rick Graham, Portland. Heat 1: LeRoy White, Portland; John Fordyce, Vancouver; Larry Wetzel, Portland. Heat 2: Matt Taylor, Portland; Chris West, Vancouver; Stephen Kaptur, St. Helens. Heat 3: Larry Lemmons, Toledo; Jerry Strawn, Deer Island; John Nusom, Gresham. Heat 4: Clyde White, Longview; Curt Nusom, Gresham; Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie. B Main: LeRoy White; Fordyce; Taylor; Ben Crase, Portland; Mike Crase, Portland. A Main: Rick Graham, Portland; West; Tricia Brittain, St. Helens; Frank Elwess, Portland; Strawn; Bud Russell, St. Helens; Lindquist; James Simeroth, Portland; John Nusom; LeRoy White.

Mini Stock – Fast Time: Gary Meyer, Vernonia 17.79. Trophy Dash: Justin McMullen, Deer Island. Heat 1: Jason Scheibel, Longview; Rick Bevsem, Portland; Adam Beehler, St. Helens. Heat 2: Meyer; Adam Beehler; John Kriehause, Portland. Main: Meyer; Justin McMullen; Jenelle Harrison, St. Helens; Bevsem; Brad Beehler, St. Helens; Mike Harrison, St. Helens; Kriehause; Scott McMullen, Deer Island; Rick Gooding, Castle Rock; Scheibel.

Street Stock – Fast Time: Curt Nusom 16.51. Trophy Dash: Meyer. Heat 1: Mike Crase; Aaron Bozarth, Rainier; Ron Dodge, Vernonia. Heat 2: John Nusom; Curt Nusom; Meyer. Main: Curt Nusom; Aaron Prettyman, St. Helens; Ray Elwess, Portland; John Nusom; Steven Nusom, Gresham; Mike Crase; Steve Harris, Battleground; Dodge; Mike Harrison; Bozarth.

Women's Division – Fast

Time: Jacki Graham, Portland 16.33. Trophy Dash: Graham. Heat: Stacey Fordyce, Vancouver; Graham; Susan Nelson, Portland. Main: Fordyce; Graham; Kim Lemmons, Toledo; Harris.

Modified Division – Fast Time: Don Jenner, Vancouver 14.79. Trophy Dash: Shawn Dorie, Scappoose. Heat 1: Mark Hill, Scappoose; Dennis Blasier, Scappoose; Robert Jenner, Vancouver. Heat 2: Dorie; Greg Greer, Rainier; Don Jenner. Main: Don Jenner; Robert Jenner; Dorie; David Day, Portland; Greer; Jeff Huber, Portland; Hill; Mike Long, Portland.

RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY RUN WHAT YA BRUNG SEPTEMBER 26 RESULTS

Sportsman/Street Stock – Trophy Dash: Mike Bennett, Portland. Heat 1: Stephen Kaptur, St. Helens; Trent Croy, Portland; Norm Gobel, Portland. Heat 2: Tony Hendon, Portland; Curtis Zelmer, Portland; Pam Graham, Portland. Heat 3: Dennis Krohling, Vancouver; Jackie Graham, Portland; Ray Elwess, Portland. Heat 4: Gary Meyer, Vernonia; Jerry Strawn, Deer Island; Clyde White, Longview. C Main: Croy; Pam Graham; Corey Jo Loccero, Portland; Dave Cook, Portland; Matt Taylor, Portland. B Main: Hendon; Krohling; Todd Newton, Portland; Ben Crase, Portland; Larry Wetzel, Portland. A Main: Bennett; Bud Russell, St. Helens; Brian Vaughn, Longview; Tricia Brittain, St. Helens; Hendon; Meyer; White; Jackie Graham; Krohling; James Simeroth, Portland.

Modifieds – Trophy Dash: Robert Jenner, Vancouver. Heat: Mark Hill, Scappoose; Mike Graham, Portland; Zelmer. Main: Robert Jenner; Graham; Zelmer; Dennis Blasier, Scappoose; Jeff Huber, Portland; Dave Cantu, Columbia City; Don Jenner, Vancouver.

PHRA Dwarf Cars – Trophy Dash: Mike Hagen, St. Helens. Heat: Cantu; Rian McVae, Scappoose; Clay Goben, Oregon City. Main: Cantu; Hagen; Goben; McVae; Sam Larson, Cornelius.

Women's Division – Trophy Dash: Taryn Smith, St. Helens. Heat: Shannon Taylor, Portland; Terry Russell, St. Helens; Julie Camberg, St. Helens. Main: Russell; Smith; Camberg; Taylor; Tiffany Gee, Portland.

Late Models – Trophy Dash: Bob Westcott, Portland. Heat: Jason Wesolowski, Portland; Eric Oas, Portland; Westcott. Main:

Mike Christopherson, Portland; Wesolowski; Westcott; Oas.

Mini Stock – Trophy Dash: Jason Scheibel, Longview. Heat: Jody Turner, St. Helens; Scheibel; Rick Gooding, Castle Rock. Main: Turner; Jerry Winchester, Longview; Gooding; Scheibel.

Pacific Mini Sprints – Trophy Dash: Darren Pierson, Chehalis. Heat: Pierson; Jesse Shannon, Centralia; Derick Schoesler, Vancouver. Main: Brandon Reed, Toledo; Shannon; Scott Reed, Toledo; Dan Beck; Castle Rock; Tracey Titus, Manzanita; Schoesler; Travis Jarvis, Bellingham; Pierson.

COLUMBIA COUNTY RACING ASSOCIATION 2009 FINAL

POINT STANDINGS

Sportsman – 1. Rick Graham, Portland 916. 2. Frank Elwess, Portland 915. 3. Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie 896. 4. Rick Rehaneck, Vancouver 885. 5. John Nusom, Gresham 869. 6. Jerry Strawn, Deer Island 861. 7. John Fordyce, Vancouver 830. 8. Larry Lemmons, Toledo 784. 9. Tricia Brittain, St. Helens 783. 10. Matt Taylor, Portland 766.

Mini Stock – 1. Justin McMullen, Deer Island 1,067. 2. Joel Beehler, St. Helens 1,018. 3. Scott McMullen, Deer Island 935. 4. Jenelle Harrison, St. Helens 914. 5. Mike Harrison, St. Helens 856. 6. Rick Gooding, Castle Rock 796. 7. Devon Reed, Washougal 782. 8. Jason Scheibel, Longview 761. 9. Adam Beehler, St. Helens 684. 10. Jerry Winchester, Longview 620.

Street Stock – 1. John Nusom, Gresham 1,040. 2. Brad Nusom, Gresham 980. 3. Mike Crase, Portland 918. 4. Curt Nusom, Gresham 888. 5. Mike Harrison 883. 6. Ron Dodge, Vernonia 782. 7. Curtis Zelmer, Portland 679. 8. Todd Newton, Portland 532. 9. Eddie Farness, Sandy 509. 10. Tom Zywicki, Portland 381.

Women's Division – 1. Stacey Fordyce, Vancouver 1,040. 2. Susan Nelson, Portland 901. 3. Kathy McMullen, Deer Island 871. 4. Kim Lemmons, Toledo 523. 5. Bobbi Harris, Battleground 276. 6. Jacki Graham, Portland 123. 7. Ann Carter, Scappoose 112.

Modified Division – 1. Don Jenner, Vancouver 993. 2. Robert Jenner, Vancouver 957. 3. Jeremy Martin, St. Helens 749. 4. Curtis Zelmer 634. 5. Greg Greer 113.

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