

Dirt Oval thrives in Kansas



Here we are; another year has passed, and dirt oval's popularity is still growing. It continues to be big in Kansas, and more and more venues offer this grassroots form of racing. For the fourth year, Checkered Flag Raceway of Bonner Springs, Kansas, hosted the Kansas Dirt Oval Championship. Racers came from Florida, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina and, of course, Kansas.

The 160-foot centerline outdoor track is owned by Tim and Donna McDowell and operated under the umbrella of the Kansas Dirtslingers R/C Club. Tim and Jim Hardin spent the previous week regularly watering the track and grooming it for the expected hot and heavy racing action. Its surface is a smooth, loose dirt that's well groomed and watered for close, exciting racing in which setup is more important than raw horsepower.



This year, the track was allowed to groove, and it wasn't watered during the event, so it soon showed that it was taking rubber. Again, Clint "Clint's Creations" Seitz's colorful race announcing was a highlight. Clint has a lot of experience as a race director and announcer, and it was good to hear him at the microphone again. You'll soon see some of his paintwork on bodies featured in *RC Driver*!

Everyone was delighted by the announcement about the founding of the Kansas Dirtslingers Hall of Fame. It will acknowledge past and present racers' contributions to the sport of dirt oval racing. The first to be



4TH ANNUAL KANSAS DIRT OVAL CHAMPIONSHIP



2WD Late Model

The 2WD Late Model class was one of the most exciting and innovative classes at Checkered Flag. Perennial favorite Lenny Blocker and frequent contender Steve Matlick had a classic battle for all four minutes, and the race could have gone to either. But Lenny ended up in first, Steve second and Mark Dempsey third. Good racing all the way.



4WD Late Model

If you've never seen these slightly modified touring cars racing on a dirt oval you've missed quite a show. Using unlimited modified motors, these "mostly" guided missiles slice and dice through the turns like nothing else that we race! Again Lenny Blocker was the class of the field and took another first in front of Jim Rupard and Chris Flower.



4WD Mini Late Model

This was dominated by Tim Mohr, who led from start to finish. Wesley Dennis and sponsor Matt Gorman had a good race, but it was for runner-up position, as Rick had the field covered. These little vehicles are a lot of fun to race and not expensive to put together.

inducted was Denny Crooks, who has been racing dirt oval as long as any of us can remember. He has always presented a positive image of the sport and is a great role model for us all. As the first member of the Hall of Fame, Denny will forever be honored by his peers.

Novice A final: round:3					
Position	Driver	Laps	Time (min. sec.)	Fastest lap	Ave. lap (min. sec.)
1	Jim Curley	31	07.290	6.460	7.977
2	Austin Ogden	30	00.250	6.030	8.008
3	Dillon Harden	30	03.560	6.470	8.119
1/18 Mini A Final					
1	Wesley Dennis	38	03.260	5.920	6.402
2	Tim McDowell	34	03.660	5.770	7.166
3	Shawn Palmer	34	05.940	5.970	7.234
Truck A Final					
1	Clint Seitz	44	02.630	5.190	5.514
2	Tim Mohr	43	01.270	5.100	5.611
3	Lenny Blocker	42	04.280	5.260	5.816
2WD Late Model A Final					
1	Lenny Blocker	43	00.090	5.160	5.583
2	Steve Matlick	43	03.020	5.320	5.652
3	Mark Dempsey	42	05.110	5.510	5.836
Sprint Car A Final					
1	Steve Matlick	42	01.050	5.310	5.739
2	Dan Filbert	40	00.350	5.370	6.009
3	Denny Crooks	40	00.670	5.440	6.017
Dirt Modified A Final					
1	Lenny Blocker	43	01.850	5.170	5.624
2	Denny Crooks	43	02.780	5.100	5.646
3	Steve Matlick	42	03.410	5.050	5.795
4WD Mini A Final					
1	Tim Mohr	44	04.390	4.920	5.554
2	Wesley Dennis	43	00.600	5.110	5.595
3	Matt Gorman	40	00.990	5.330	6.025
4WD Late Model A Final					
1	Lenny Blocker	43	05.220	4.970	5.703
2	Jim Rupard	39	05.230	4.980	6.288
3	Chris Flower	38	06.670	5.640	6.491

The qualifiers and Mains showed us lots of close, highly skilled racing all weekend; but what about the A-mains in which the "best of the best" ran for the beautiful trophies donated by sponsor Mills Trophies!



"Kansas" Dirt Modified

This was possibly the closest race—a tough battle between Lenny Blocker, Denny Crooks and Steve Matlick. Lenny won by less than 1.1 second; he was followed by Denny Crooks in second and Steve Matlick in third. A smidgen over a lap separated the top three.

FINISH LINE

The Checkered Flag Raceway rules were followed, and the racing was close and good-natured.

Special thanks to Tim McDowell and Donna for scoring the racers,

Clint Seitz for announcing, the many sponsors (for their generous donations and enthusiastic participation), Jim Hardin for his help with the track and all the other club members who helped out. Tim is the key player in the Kansas Dirt Oval Championship, which is a race that has stood the test of time and should be on every oval racer's must-attend list. ©



Denny Crooks was the first to be inducted into the Kansas Dirtslingers Hall of Fame.

SPONSORS

The many generous sponsors ensured that everyone left with a prize from the general drawing or the raffle.

The primary sponsor is Castle Creations (makers of the Mamba brushless system), and they were joined by other generous companies: Culligan of KC, Clint's Creations, Diggitty Designs, Eagle Racing Team, Heartland RC, Hobby Town USA, Hobby Town OP, Hooters at the Speedway, JConcepts, RC Driver, R/K Products, Team Losi, Matt Gorman Farm Bureau Financial Services, McAllister, McDowell Vintage Racing, Mills Trophies, MIP, Mountain Music Shoppe, NKC, Pro Match, RPM, Schumacher, Slick Zer, Speedys Racing Products, TempGun, Traxxas, UltraLine.