

Trackside with Rick Minter

It takes a special kind of person to promote outdoor events, whether they're automobile races or antique tractor shows or concerts or whatever.

When my wife and I decided 20 something years ago to transform part of our farm into a show grounds and begin hosting Inman Farm Heritage Days, most people thought we were a little crazy.

Many probably thought the same thing about Hence Pollard and David Bishop when they carved up part of a cow pasture and built Senoia Raceway, or about Bill and Mayes Massey and Doug Stevens when they rented the track and put gumbo clay on it.

In my case, people just said it was my Uncle Harry coming out in me. As my dad describes him, our late Uncle Harry Harp was the kind of farmer who would survey his peach orchard and see 200 bushels of peaches to the acre when others saw 100. If the general thinking was that the local market would be good for 10 acres of watermelons, he'd plant 20.

Sometimes Uncle Harry's optimism would pay off; sometimes it wouldn't.

In my case with our Farm Heritage Days, the biggest variable is the weather. Sometimes no matter how good a job we do of promoting, Mother Nature has other ideas and not only do we not get to enjoy the good feeling that comes with a successful event, we end up losing money.

Since we started our event, I've had a lot more sympathy for race track promoters who are dealt a tough hand by the weather.

I've learned, as they have, that when a big event doesn't turn out like you planned, for whatever reason, it tends to have a negative impact on future events. You lose momentum. It takes time to build it back.

Events like our Farm Heritage Days and the big shows at Senoia are built over time, hopefully with attendance and participation from competitors and exhibitors steadily increasing as the years go by.

When it rains, it's tough.

My friend Ed Clark, the big boss at Atlanta Motor Speedway, has seen the highs and lows of race promoting during his years at the speedway and at tracks elsewhere.

He's learned – and taught me – to try to keep the bad weather days in perspective.

Once, after a particularly disappointing weekend at AMS, one of those that left folks talking more about the empty seats in the grandstands than the racing on the track, the best he could muster was: "At least nobody in my family was diagnosed with cancer today."

I'll bet the Masseys and Doug are thinking similar thoughts.

Official Results for Friday, October 27, 2017

Super Late Models (Showdown Shoot-Out):

- 1-Michael Page, Winston
- 2-Shane Clanton, Zebulon
- 3-Donald McIntosh, Dawsonville
- 4-Bubba Pollard, Senoia
- 5-Riley Hickman, Chattanooga, TN
- 6-Billy Moyer, Batesville, AR
- 7-Dalton Cook, Columbus
- 8-Joey Coulter, Troutman, NC
- 9-Casey Roberts, Toccoa
- 10-Austin Horton, Whitesburg
- 11-Brent Larson, Stillwater, MN
- 12-TJ Reaid, Acworth
- 13-Clint Smith, Senoia
- 14-Jason Welshan, Maryville, TN
- 15-Ashton Winger, Senoia
- 16-Ray Cook, Brasstown, NC
- 17-Jason Fitzgerald, Middleburg, FL
- 18-Tyler Millwood, Kingston
- 19-Walker Arthur, Forest, VA
- 20-PL Williams, Dublin
- 21-Ricky Williams, Fayetteville
- 22-Cody King, McDonough
- 23-Justin Shipley, Douglasville
- 24-Kenny Collins, Colbert

Crate Late Models (Showdown Feature):

- 1-Michael Page, Winston
- 2-Riley Hickman, Chattanooga, TN
- 3-Jake Knowles, Rome
- 4-Michael Courtney, Seymour, TN
- 5-Matt Black, Douglasville
- 6-Clint Smith, Senoia
- 7-Walker Arthur, Forest, VA
- 8-Cruz Skinner, Oxford, AL
- 9-Jody Knowles, Tyrone
- 10-Mark Page, Douglasville
- 11-Wayne Harbin, Sharpsburg
- 12-Ronnie Johnson, Chattanooga, TN
- 13-Lawson Hill, Dallas
- 14-Lance Chitwood, Ila
- 15-Bobby Mills, Griffin
- 16-Chase Baker, LaGrange
- 17-Colby Darda, LaGrange
- 18-Chris Carr, Newnan
- 19-Dylan Knowles, Lannett, AL
- 20-Randall Powell, Oxford
- 21-Chris Justus, McDonough
- 22-Marty Lunsford, Newnan
- 23-Parker Herring, Hartwell
- 24-Kyle Courtney, Knoxville, TN

Bomber (Showdown Feature):

- 1-Dorough Bright, Newnan
- 2-Dunie Dillard, Phenix City, AL
- 3-Blant Duke, Whitesburg
- 4-Scott Amoson, Newnan
- 5-Chris Arnett, Lannett, AL
- 6-McKenna Nelms, Newnan
- 7-Dustin Smith, Carrollton
- 8-Scott Stratton, Luthersville
- 9-Michael Thomas, Whitesburg
- 10-John Michael Schmeier, Auburn
- 11-Chris Holt, Senoia
- 12-John Holder, Milner
- 13-Curtis Turner, Brooks
- 14-Larry Pierce, Griffin



Mini Stock (Showdown Shoot-Out):

- 1-Michael Courtney, Semour, TN
- 2-Shannon Etheridge, Carnesville
- 3-JJ Garrett, Auburn
- 4-Justin Taylor, Jefferson
- 5-Bo Minor, Ralph, AL
- 6-Mark Newton, Hampton
- 7-Jackie Holden
- 8-Jeff Dobbs, Hartwell
- 9-Jamie Nicholson, SR., Locust Grove
- 10-Mike Minor, Ralph, AL
- 11-Jeff Dean, Helena, AL
- 12-Tommy Faulkner, Newnan
- 13-Ray Hyer, Sarona, NY
- 14-Jamie Godbee, Carrollton
- 15-Trey Rogers, Villa Rica
- 16-JoJo Morgan, Attalla, AL
- 17-AJ Horton, Pembroke
- 18-David Nash, Winder
- 19-Joshua Till, Atlanta
- 20-Harold Leath, Hampton
- 21-Mark Meyer, Ellijay
- 22-Todd Brewster, Villa Rica
- 23-Dan Bennett, Loganville
- 24-Bob Faulkner, Newnan
- 25-Aaron Phillips, Ellabell
- 26-Randy Staton, Grays Corner, SC

The weather forced officials to cancel the Schaeffer's Oil Southern Nationals Bonus Series event and postpone the remaining class features to Saturday, December 2nd. The Senoia Raceway Hol-

idazzle event will take place on Saturday, December 2nd and include the Showdown make-up races for the Limited Late Models, Late Model Sportsman, Hobby Stock, Mini Stock and Bombers. The Crate Late Models and Bombers will also be on the racing schedule for December 2nd.

Showdown at Senoia Saturday night grandstand tickets will be honored at any of the following events: Saturday, December 2nd 'Holidazzle'; March 30th or March 31st 'Spring Nationals'. Pit passes and Trackside Parking passes can be used at any of those events as well.

"It's not the best situation to be in," said Massey. "But, all the tickets and pit passes for the rained out portion of the Showdown will be honored and those effected have a few dates to choose from to try and work in their schedule."

Reserved grandstand spaces and Trackside Parking spaces will be honored at the Spring Nationals event in March 2018. The ATV passes purchased at the Showdown will also remain good for the March 2018 double-header weekend.