

Winter Thaw event marks return of racing to Senoia Raceway

(Senoia, GA – March 3, 2019) The South's Baddest Bull Ring, Senoia Raceway, cranked up the thunder on Saturday night with the running of the track's inaugural Winter Thaw event. Southeastern regional promoter's of the year, Mayes Massey, Bill Massey and Doug Stevens opened up the popular 3/8ths mile race track with a jam-packed pit area full of hungry racers and a decent crowd of the spectators who were just as anxious for a new year to begin.

"The track was not as smooth as we would have liked," said Mayes Massey, "But, Doug and his staff worked tirelessly after all the rain we have received to give the drivers a place to race this weekend. And race they did! The fans loved every minute of the show!"

The Winter Thaw welcomed the young and the old to the winner's circle as special titles were won by the grizzled veteran Jack Mills from Griffin in the Late Model Sportsman while sixteen-year-old Payton Freeman of Commerce topped the Crate Late Model field. LaGrange's Dusty Jones was the best in the Limited Late Models and Mansfield's Blake Harmon captured the checkers in the Hobby. Carrollton's Jamie Godbee won the Mini Stock main event while Brandon McDaniel of Macon won the Bomber feature, McDonough's Jason Turner the Chargers feature and Clinton Thornton the Hot Shots.

"This new event weekend drew 113 competitors, so the fans had plenty to see with new cars, new graphics and some great racing," added Massey.

Dusty Jones battled with eighteen-year-old Ahnna Parkhurst of Evans at the on set of the Limited Late Model feature. Parkhurst had qualified fastest during early evening time trials nearly eclipsing the track record set by Dalton Cook last September. Jones worked the top side and

then would slide to bottom of turn two making a slick move to gain the top position from the 'Georgia Peach' on lap six.

Jones would master the bumpy track which seemed to get progressively worse as the night continued. He finished nearly a half lap ahead of Norman Park's John Baker and Cartersville's Jacques Daniel. Parkhurst faded to fourth late in the race, but finished ahead of Fayetteville's Glenn Morris who rounded out the top five.

Defending Crate Late Model points champion, Marty Massey of Winston, qualified on the pole, but would slip up just enough at the drop of the green flag to give up the top spot to his nephew Mason Massey of Douglasville. The younger Massey built a pretty good lead, but an even younger Payton Freeman was reeling him in over the middle part of the race. Freeman was able to wrestle away the lead by lap 11 and then took off for the winner's circle. Mason Massey would lose one more position back to his uncle Marty who would be the runner-up. McDonough's Bailey Temples and Alabama's Joe Williamson would round out first five finishers.

It has been a few years since the veteran Jack Mills has visited victory lane at Senoia Raceway, but Saturday night looked as though he never strayed too far. Mills dominated a race that saw a number of cautions that included Carrollton's Jordan Benefield climb the back stretch wall on lap two and Franklin's Chris 'Ironman' Steele get caught up behind a disabled car and crashing on lap seven. Mills would stay out front of all the carnage to win the main event for the Late Model Sportsman while Kevin Bennett, Wiley McDaniel of Byron, Locust Grove's Jamie Nicholson, Jr. and Chad Atha of Loganville rounded out the top five.

In the Hobby feature, Blake Harmon was the lucky one as he watched his dad,

Tim Harmon of Conyers, and Ben Steele of Franklin battle for the lead position. The duo raced back and forth for several laps before coming together in turn four resulting in Tim Harmon slamming the inside retaining wall and Steele having his nose piece torn from his race car. Both drivers were relegated to the back handing the top spot to Blake Harmon. He did not disappoint as he kept the top spot and claimed the Winter Thaw title ahead of Temple's Austin Aldridge and Mableton's 'Hard Head' Ryan Ray.

Jamie Godbee was involved in an early race mishap in the Mini Stock main. He was sent to the back of the pack for the restart and then methodically moved back through the field before taking the lead with five laps remaining. Godbee would never look back posting the win over Bowden's Steven Burnette and Hampton's Harold Leath.

Brandon McDaniel flexed his muscle in the Bombers as he qualified the fastest during preliminary events and then led flag to flag winning the main event.

It was a similar situation in the Chargers feature. McDonough's Jason Turner led every lap of the feature for the newer competitors at the track. Turner had also won a preliminary heat race earlier in the evening. Newnan's Johnny Stinchcomb claimed the other heat race victory for the Chargers.

Clinton Thornton battled with Alabama's Brian Wallace and Marietta's Rick Ricks before finally getting our front for good. Thornton claimed the Hot Shots victory with Wallace and Ricks finishing second and third.

For the full schedule of events along with special attractions, promotions and additional information, visit the track website at www.senoiaraceway.com or call the speedway at 770.599.6161.

Story/Photos: Senoia Speedway



Dusty Jones



Blake Harmon



Jamie Godbee



Brandon McDaniel



Jason Turner

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