

## ***Silver City Shines at the Lou Sherman Memorial States Race***

The roar of engines and the cheers of excited families filled the air this past weekend at the Lou Sherman Memorial States Race. Held in honor of Lou Sherman, a beloved figure in the racing community, this annual event brought together young racers from various divisions to showcase their skills and sportsmanship.



Memorial Day weekend car parade at Silver City.

The event was more than just about racing; it was also a time for families to come together on Memorial Day weekend to honor those who lost their lives. Silver City President Dan Gaudiosi remarked, "Honoring the fallen members of our military holds a special place in all of our hearts. Without their sacrifices, we might not be able to enjoy this sport with our kids." Following the pit meeting, a select few drivers had the honor of driving the track while flying flags representing the branches of the military, as the National Anthem was sung.

Grant Hartleben, reflecting on the Memorial Day car parade, said, "It was really fun riding my car in the parade this morning. I had the Navy flag on my car since my dad is deployed. I'm excited for him to come home." This sentiment of pride and anticipation was felt throughout the day as families celebrated both racing and patriotism.

The Heavy 160 race was a standout event, with Jake Fattibene, a Heavy division driver, praising the skill displayed by Paiten Burnham. "The most exciting race was the Heavy 160. The way Paiten drove was pretty spectacular. It takes a lot of skill to do that," he said. Burnham's performance earned her the top spot in the Heavy 160, marking her first win of the season at Silver City.



Hartleben Prior to the Memorial Day Car Parade with his Navy flag

Burnham, following her own victory, also found joy in watching her younger brother's progress. "I was happy for my first win of the season at Silver City. But watching the Red Rookie race was the best. I was able to see my little brother go from 6th in the C main, start 5th in the B main, and then go on to win the A-main after having to start 8th," Burnham shared. Ryker Burnham's impressive performance earned him the Hard Charger award of the evening, a testament to his determination and skill.

The Heavy World Formula race is one that will not be easily forgotten by either the drivers or the spectators, as it featured the worst wreck of the day. After securing a victory in the Junior Half division, Cody Nye was seen flipping at full speed on the open side of the car and banging into the wall while upside down. Afterward, Cody's father Brian remarked, "I'm so glad we got the best in safety equipment because it saved my son from an injury."

Jaiden Baptiste, who won the Heavy World Formula race, shared his thoughts on the challenging yet rewarding weekend. "It was a fun weekend. Passing in the World Formula felt great. But it was really hard with all of the wrecks and restarts," he reflected. The competitive nature of the races, combined with the numerous restarts, tested the skill and patience of all the drivers.

Matthew Civitello, added, "The Heavy World Formula race was crazy with lots of wrecks and flips." His description painted a vivid picture of the highs and lows of the racing weekend. Jeremy Orszak, who secured third place in the Light World Formula, echoed the excitement of the race. "The Heavy World Formula race was fun to watch because of the amount of passing but the wrecks were really bad," he said, highlighting the engaging nature of the competition.

Another exciting race of the weekend was the Heavy Honda race, which captured the imagination of many young racers. Junior division driver Josh Gaudiosi shared his excitement, saying, "My favorite race was the Heavy Honda race. I love watching Aubry win." Alongside Gaudiosi on the bleachers sat numerous junior drivers, their excitement palpable as they cheered on Aubry Wasko throughout the exhilarating race.



Junior and Senior drivers cheering from the bleachers.



Thibeault celebrating his 3 victories with family and friends

Logan Thibeault had an unforgettable weekend, dominating the junior division with three impressive victories. From Junior Honda to Junior Animal and Junior 160, Thibeault showcased his skill on the track. He also demonstrated his speed by securing Fast Time in both Junior Animal and Junior 160. To top it off, Thibeault left a lasting mark on Silver City's track by breaking the existing record in the Junior 160 division.

As the final checkered flag of the weekend waved, Dan Gaudiosi paused to reflect the competition and camaraderie that defined the event. "The unofficial start to summer was a success here at Silver City. The racing surface heated up while also paying tribute to Lou Sherman and his family."

The Lou Sherman Memorial States Race was a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated so much to the sport and its community. The weekend was filled with thrilling races, heartfelt moments, and a strong sense of camaraderie. As the young racers continue to grow and develop their skills, they carry forward the legacy of sportsmanship and passion that Lou Sherman so dearly valued.