

# Sprints On Dirt MAHLE/Clevite BLC win @ Merritt to Brian Smith



*2nd place Thomas*

*Schinderle, winner Brian Smith, 3rd place Dan McCarron*

Erie, Michigan (June 19, 2016)- Joshua Turner jumped out to an early lead after starting on the front row with Steve Irwin for the first round of the MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge for the unlimited sprints of the Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP at Merritt Speedway Saturday night. However, it only took fourth place starter Brian Smith from Fremont, Ohio, a couple laps to reel in Turner and charge into the lead. Smith steadily built up a straightaway lead as he soon got into lapped traffic on the racy quarter mile. In spite of being the last of seven features run on the track, the track was dust-free and with plenty of passing with the 2016 SOD spec tire that continue to impress everyone.

Smith, ran a very smooth, consistent race, masterfully handling lapped cars. As the race approached midway though, Dan McCarron started turning faster times and closed the gap

on Smith to several car lengths when the red flag flew with only five laps to go in the 25-lap main event. Joshua Turner (4T) and Nic Rogers (81x) tangled in turn one, both flipped hard and collected Steve Irwin (0) in the melee. Irwin made repairs and restarted, but Turner and Rogers were finished for the night.

With the green flying once again, Smith had a clear track while McCarron had to take evasive action to avoid a lapped car, and was passed by #41 Thomas Schinderle. The caution flew one last time for a spin two laps later. On the restart, once Schinderle disposed of a lapped car, he started closing the gap on Smith, but time ran out, and Smith scored his second SOD victory in a row. The enthusiastic crowd was treated to Smith's victory dirt angel after his win.

The new Sprints On Dirt spec Hoosier Racing Tire rear tires produced exciting racing, engine equity, and stiff competition among racers regardless of engine size on the quarter mile Merritt track in spite of hot, sunny weather and a seven division program. Smith's 410 won, Schinderle was second in a 305, McCarron was third in a 305, and Mike Astrauskas finished fourth in a 360.

Feature Finish – 1) Brian Smith (4), 2) Thomas Schinderle (5), 3) Dan McCarron (3), 4) Mike Astrauskus (6), 5) Brett Mann (10), 6) Craig Karazim (12), 7) Ken Mackey (11), 8) Steve Irwin (2), 9) John Gall (8), 10) Robert Bulloch (15), 11) Jared Lamberson (14), 12) Bill Jacoby (13), 13) Mark Aldrich (19), 14) Eric Smith (16), 15) Tyler Bearden (18), 16) Brad Lamberson (9), 17) Jay Steinebach (20), 18) Joshua Turner (1), 19) Nic Rogers (7), 20) Justin Ward (17), 21) Tanner Astrauskas (21).

Smith won the Engler Machine & Tool heat race, Steve Irwin earned the Lane Automotive heat win, and Dan McCarron won the COMP Cams heat.

## Contingency Awards:

Engine Pro Lucky Dog Award – Brad Lamberson

KSE Race Products Hard Charger Award – Mark Aldrich

Kistler Racing Products contingency awards: Josh Turner, Tom Schinderle

COMP Cams contingency award: Mike Astrauskas

BR Motorsports contingency award: Nic Rogers

Allstar Performance contingency award: John Gall

Schoenfeld Headers contingency award: Brad Lamberson

Rod End Supply contingency awards: Brian Smith, Tom Schinderle, Dan McCarron

Racing Optics contingency awards: Mike Astrauskas, Ken Mackey

ATL Fuel Cells contingency award: Brett Mann, Mike Astrauskas

King Racing Products contingency award: Craig Karazim, Brett Mann

Ti22 Performance contingency award: Thomas Schinderle

DMI contingency award: Eric Smith

For more information about MAHLE/Clevite, go to <https://catalog.mahle-aftermarket.com/eu/home/index.xhtml?l=EN>. For more information about Engine Pro, go to [www.enginepro.com](http://www.enginepro.com). For more information about ARP, go to [www.arp-bolts.com](http://www.arp-bolts.com). The full 2016 Sprints on Dirt schedule, rules, current news, and other information are available at [www.sprintsondirt.com](http://www.sprintsondirt.com).

*Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP is brought to you by many important sponsor partners including: Engine Pro (Title Sponsor), ARP (Title Sponsor), Hoosier Racing Tire (Official SOD Tire), MAHLE/Clevite (Beyond Limits Challenge Sponsor), Engine Pro (Lucky Dog Sponsor), Lane Automotive (Primary Heat Race Sponsor), Engler Machine & Tool (Primary Heat Race Sponsor), COMP Cams (Primary Heat Race Sponsor), RockAuto.com (SOD Series Rookie of the Year Sponsor & SOD Sprint Car Rookie of the Year Sponsor), XYZ Machining (Sportsman of the Year Sponsor & Crew Chief of the Year Sponsor), KSE Racing Products (Hard Charger Sponsor). In*

*addition, SOD contingency sponsors include: ATL Racing Fuel Cells, Kistler Racing Products, Allstar Performance, Schoenfeld Headers, K2W Precision/Keizer Aluminum Wheels, Ti22 Performance, BR Motorsports, King Racing Products, License 2 Play, Simpson Racing Products, Rod End Supply, Diversified Machine Inc. (DMI), Racing Optics.*

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## **FREE BICYCLES FOR SOD LICENSE 2 PLAY FEATURE DRAW KIDS @ MERRITT SPEEDWAY SATURDAY!**



Saturday night, the kids lucky enough to be selected to participate in the Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP draw for top driver starting positions in the MAHLE/Clevite BLC feature will not only receive a Bubble Mighty Wand with Bubbles from SOD's draw sponsor License 2 Play, but a bicycle courtesy of Houghton Lake's **Hardcore Performance!**



For more information and details about Saturday's race, visit the Merritt Speedway Facebook page, the Hardcore Performance Facebook page, and the Sprints On Dirt Facebook page.

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**XYZ Machining 2016 SOD  
Sportsman and Crew Chief  
Awards Announced**



ERIE, MI (June 14, 2016) – Long -time Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP supporter XYZ Machining, located in Warsaw, Indiana, is providing increased awareness for two prestigious SOD awards for 2016 by sponsoring the Sportsman of the Year Award and Crew Chief of the Year Award.

The sportsman of the year award does not receive the recognition it deserves. The award goes to the SOD driver who best exemplifies the basics of sportsmanship. Adults and children alike who see a driver behaving in a sportsmanlike way come to understand that the real winners in racing are those who know how to persevere and to behave with dignity – whether they win or not. Veteran SOD competitor Mark Aldrich won the 2015 Sportsman of the Year Award.

It is readily seen who the winning driver is for each race, but what did it take to win? There are very talented crew chiefs that know their drivers and equipment, and make crucial changes and adjustments that result in wins. Two-time SOD champion Gregg Dalman's son, Keegan Dalman, received the 2015 Crew Chief of the Year Award.

XYZ Machining owners Tim and Cindy Norman have been a part of SOD since 1984. Tim, who started his career as a sprint car driver in 1983, was SOD rookie of the year in 1984, and won his first Sprints On Dirt championship the next year. He then went on to win two more SOD championships in 2005 and 2007 and collected over 40 career feature victories during his career. Tim was inducted into the Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.



*Tim Norman in his familiar 5J*

XYZ Machining produces CNC manufactured aluminum and titanium racing components, as well as custom products for other industries, that are sold worldwide. If you race a sprint car, it is a good bet that you use XYZ parts, either with XYZ's own name on them or the name of one of many leading sprint car racing manufactures that XYZ produces parts for.

To learn more about XYZ Machining, go to [www.xyzmachining.com](http://www.xyzmachining.com).

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# It's Here – MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge @ Merritt!



Erie, MI (June 12, 2016) – Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP rolls into Merritt Speedway this Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, for the first race of the five-race MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge (BLC).

The five-race MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge (BLC) has its own point fund paying the top five. The driver earning the most total points in this 5 race mini-series will be awarded \$1,000.

Merritt Speedway has been turned into one of the premier dirt tracks in Michigan by owner/promoter Mike Blackmer, former track manager of Berlin Speedway in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The speedway ran its first Sprints On Dirt race in 1980, SOD's



first season. Last year's August SOD race was won in exciting fashion by Dan McCarron who came from his sixth starting position to the win with his 305 cubic inch motor.

For more information about MAHLE/Clevite, go to <https://catalog.mahle-aftermarket.com/eu/home/index.xhtml?l=EN>. For more information about Engine Pro, go to [www.enginepro.com](http://www.enginepro.com). For more information about ARP, go to [www.arp-bolts.com](http://www.arp-bolts.com). The full 2016 Sprints on Dirt schedule, rules, current news, and other information are available at [www.sprintsondirt.com](http://www.sprintsondirt.com).

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