July 28th 2018

By Mike Weber

Columbia County Racing Association (CCRA) division leaders Joel Beehler, Bob Berg, Trenton Brogan and Bernie Lujan solidified their position atop the point standings after they each won main events July 28 at River City Speedway.

Berg (Tuner Division), Brogan (Tracer Division) and Lujan (Super Stock Division) each swept events in their respective motorsport classifications while recording wins in the trophy dash, heat race and main events. Beehler won the Ross Diesel & Auto sponsored Street Stock main event and heat race.

Berg of St. Helens, had an impressive performance while driving his Green Lion/Eaton's Tire & Service Center 1997 Dodge Neon to victory while leading the Tuner Division 30-lap main from start-to-finish. Vancouver's Sam Simmet was runnerup, with his dad Sande Simmet in third, followed by Kelso's Joel Davis and Longview's Jason Scheibel. It marked the fourth main event win of the season for Berg.

"The track surface was perfect and that's what really made it such good racing conditions," said Berg, 54, who is seeking to win the second title of his 27-year stock car racing career. "The Simmet's were both close behind me right on my bumper and they gave me a good battle all the way to the end. They both stayed right with me but they were unable to get past me. I'm glad to be atop the standings and I'm hoping to win the championship."

Beehler started fourth and maneuvered in front on lap five with the CLT Trucking/Hoyt Construction 1985 Chevrolet Monte Carlo owned by Greg Brumbaugh of St. Helens. Beehler held onto the frontrunner spot for the remainder of the 25-lap race. Warren's Terry King was runnerup, followed by Randy Nutting and Trevor Lively. Tom Zywicki of Portland, won the trophy dash and took fifth place in the main.

Beehler is a co-driver with Brumbaugh as they alternate the position each week in the driver's seat of the Chevy. Beehler earned a special first place prize of $400 from Ross Diesel & Auto and it marked his second Street Stock main event win of the season. Beehler of St. Helens, won the last Street Stock race on June 30. Brumbaugh, the defending series champ, drove the car in the first three races this year and he's seeking to repeat as the Street Stock Division champion again this year.

"Greg and I split the $400 purse, which was really nice," said Beehler, 25, a former two-time CCRA champion (2011, '12 Four-Cylinder Division), who is seeking to win a third division championship of his 10-year motorsports career. "Things are looking pretty good for us in the point standings. I really enjoy driving Greg's car. I'm just trying to do my best to help us get a big enough lead in the standings so that we can hopefully win the championship."

Lujan, 49, drove the 1976 Buick Regal owned by Dennis Daniels of Rainier, to victory in three Super Stock Division events. Lujan of St. Helens, leads the series standings and he's focusing on trying to capture his first ever stock car racing title. Matt Brown was second in all three races, which included just two cars in the class.

Brogan of Kelso, is undefeated this year in the Tracer Division (youth's age 13-15) after winning his fifth consecutive main event in his Ram Light Truck Salvage 1996 Nissan Altima. Wendy Vough was runnerup, followed by Paige Gump. The trio of teenage drivers had exactly the same finishing order in all three Tracer Division events.

The ninth round of the 14-event CCRA series is August 4th Fan Appreciation Night race that will include numerous prizes such as bicycles and scooters that will be awarded to children. The admission includes a special price of $25 for a car load of fans. Racing on the quarter-mile clay oval track begins at 5 p.m. at the Columbia County Fairgrounds facility in St. Helens.