

## Yay For the First-Ever Ontario Speedway Obstacle Adventure!

Words by Ron Dillon

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Obstacle events, both timed, (Spartan and Tough Mudder) and non-timed (Dirty Dash) used to be very common, and often were attended by thousands of fast and slow weekend warriors. Covid 19 changed all of that, and the vast majority of obstacle events disappeared in 2020 and 2021, many of them forever. Ontario Speedway seemed like a great location to bring an obstacle event back to the Southern Idaho/Eastern Oregon region, so the first-ever Big Nasty Obstacle Adventure was rolled out to about 100 participants of all ages on Saturday, May 4.

The weather was a bit windy, but surprisingly warm (awful weather came later, hours after the event ended). Starting at 11am, participants were challenged by a course just a shade over 3 miles in length, that wound around the former, 18-hole Ontario Golf Course, now refinished and rebranded as Ontario Speedway. The route included mudholes, numerous knee-deep water crossings (which some parents carried their small children through), and two large inflatable slide, obstacle features.

Like its ancestor, The Dirty Dash, this event was not timed, and awards were not given out by performance. A few chose to run or jog most of the route; the vast majority walked it. It was noted that a local runner covered the challenging, 3-plus miles in exactly half an hour, but most people took around an hour to complete the distance. One award that was earned, was the coveted Best Costume Award, given to Ontario's Brandy Bommersbach, part of Team Star Wars, who wowed with her bright, gold C-3PO costume. She edged out Boise's Anna Perkin's excellent Grinch costume.

The weather was still holding when attendees began munching down chips and Subway Sandwiches at 12:30, and many raffled drawings for prizes were conducted for those that stuck around. Partners and supporters were: the Ontario Visitors and Convention Center, Fleet Feet Nampa, Bouncin Bin Inflatables, Idaho Running Company Boise, Riverside Embroidery Boise, Ontario Les Schwab Tires, Ontario Pepsi, the Ontario Chamber, Ontario Airport, and City of Ontario.

A big thank you is in order to the city of Ontario staff and officials, Ontario Chamber CEO, John Breidenbach, Jack Bright & Daughter, Treasure Valley Ambulance, PortaPros, and John Schaffer with the Lifeways Recovery Center. The next race at Ontario Speedway will be two days of vintage motocross action, an AHRMA Regional race, set for June 22-23. For more information visit: [www.ontariospeedway.com](http://www.ontariospeedway.com) or call Ron at (208) 573-4255.



*About 100 people of all ages and speeds prepare to start at the first-ever Ontario Speedway Obstacle Adventure. The majority of participants came from Ontario, with a decent number also coming from Boise, Nampa and Caldwell. A couple came all the way from Northern California and Nevada! Costume contest runner up, Anna "The Grinch" Perkins, #38, is visible on the right.*

**Team Ontario City Hall, enjoyed the water hazards so much that they went back in for more! Left to right: Marcy Siriwardene, Corinna Hysell, Tori Barnett and Laura Reyes are seen breaking the Fun Barrier.**



**Two of these fun, 64-foot long obstacle course, slide inflatables challenged participants on the course, courtesy of Bouncin Bin in Nampa, Idaho. This one was set up at the finish line.**



**Team Star Wars, including best costume winner, Brandy Bommersbach, (in gold) negotiate the third and final water crossing, about half a mile from the finish line.**



**Ontario City Manager, Dan Cummings daughter, Katie Beaumont, and husband Jeremy, prepare to pack their children, Addy and Isaac across the first water crossing.**