

First-Ever Ontario Speedway Maze Race is a Hit!

Words by Ron Dillon

Photos by Richard Ragsdale

On March 30, 2024, Oregon's only sprint boat track, Ontario Speedway, fired up for their first-ever non-sprint boat race with an event called The Edge Performance Sports Spring Maze. The event ran in the (empty) sprint boat track, and like the boats, racers in various classes raced one at a time against the clock to see who could go the fastest. The same super-accurate timing lights that are used for the sprint boats races were also in use at the Spring Maze, and it was a good thing since a number of contestants times were only separated by a few thousandth of a second. The race was paused at noon for a lunch break and an Easter Egg Hunt, and about 25 excited children hunted for 200 candy and sticker-filled eggs that were hidden in the grass in front of the former Ontario Golf Course club house.

There were no injuries, (although several 4-wheelers crashed spectacularly) and racers that attended from as far away as Alturas, California and Marshall, Texas, said that they are looking forward to the Fall Maze event which will be held November 9 and will tie into Veterans Day with free entry fees available to all military veterans and first responders.

A few sprint boat racers expressed concern that this non-boat form of racing would destroy the sides of the track, rendering it useless for future boat races, but as testing first proved some months ago, the fastest way to get around the track was to stay in the bottom and 99 percent of the racers did just that, causing little harm to the grass-covered sides of the track.

Enthusiasm was high, and 35 racers and close to 200 spectators showed up to watch this new and interesting kind of race. Partners and supporters were: Edge Performance Sports, the Ontario Visitors and Convention Center, Bucks 4X4 in Boise, and Les Schwab Tires in Ontario.

A big thank you is in order to the city of Ontario staff and officials, Ontario Chamber CEO, John Breidenbach, William Ekholm, Latin Lunchbox, Treasure Valley Ambulance, PortaPros, and John Schaffer with the Lifeways Recovery Center. The next race at Ontario Speedway will be the only obstacle event slated for Idaho and Eastern Oregon in 2024, The Big Nasty Obstacle Adventure, a 3-mile mud and inflatable event, happening at Ontario Speedway on Saturday, May 4. For more information visit: www.ontariospeedway.com or call Ron at (208) 573-4255.



Proving that turning 40 isn't as bad as it sounds, Nampa, Idaho's Vincent Kimber turned in the fastest time of the day, a scorching 1:38.182, to win the 40+ Motorcycle class.

UTV Super Mod:

1st – Andy Kirkendall, Payette, ID – 1st Run 1:56.921, 2nd Run by **BEST** 1:56.921

2nd – Norm Curme, Ontario, OR – 1st Run 2:03.308, 2nd Run 1:59.293 **BEST** 1:59.293

UTV Stock Turbo:

1st – Jesse Denton, Wilder, ID – 1st Run 2:39.662, 2nd Run 1:57.745 **BEST** 1:57.745

2nd – Lee Vaughan, Emmett, ID – 1st Run 2:08.612, 2nd Run 2:05.838 **BEST** 2:05.838

3rd – Pete Warner, Payette, ID – 1st Run 2:08.577, 2nd Run 2:07.192 **BEST** 2:07.192

4th – Kevin Mayo, Ontario, OR – 1st Run 2:07.893, 2nd Run 2:27.893 **BEST** 2:07.893
5th – Tim Vaughan, Marshall, TX – 1st Run 2:10.463, 2nd Run 2:08.367 **BEST** 2:08.367

UTV Stock Non-Turbo:

1st – Lance Hallworth, Emmett, ID – 1st Run 2:03.547, 2nd Run bye **BEST** 2:03.547
2nd – Casey Cornforth, Payette, ID – 1st Run 2:18.163, 2nd Run 2:12.851 **BEST** 2:12.851
3rd – Daniel Morse, Nampa, ID – 1st Run 2:22.534, 2nd Run 2:19.636 **BEST** 2:19.636

ATV (Quad) Open Expert:

1st – Tre Hawes, Payette, ID – 1st Run 1:49.154, 2nd Run 1:49.590 **BEST** 1:49.154
2nd – William Ekholm, Vale, OR – 1st Run 2:17.636, 2nd Run 1:59.599 **BEST** 1:59.599
3rd – Wayne Hawes, Alturas, CA – 1st Run 2:00.976, 2nd Run 2:00.556 **BEST** 2:00.556

ATV (Quad) Open Amateur:

1st – Austin Rose, Nampa, ID – 1st Run 1:56.521, 2nd Run 1:55.004 **BEST** 1:55.004
2nd – Robert Nundalay, Nampa, ID – 1st Run 2:12.837, 2nd Run 2:06.750 **BEST** 2:06.750
3rd – Breanna Hawes, Payette, ID – 1st Run 2:14.304, 2nd Run 2:11.190 **BEST** 2:11.190



Idaho sprint boat racer, Jesse Denton, decided to park his boat and race his UTV at the Spring Maze. He pushed too hard on his first run, and had to be righted by the mighty island hopper safety crew from Ontario Lifeways Recovery Center. But he more than redeemed himself by turning in a hot-rod-fast second run of 1:57.745, which won the UTV Turbo class, and was the second-fastest UTV time overall!

Kids UTV:

1st – Bryce Tomassi, Caldwell, ID – 1st Run 2:36.922, 2nd Run 2:35.558 **BEST** 2:35.558
2nd – Drake Denton, Wilder, ID – 1st Run 3:21.806, 2nd Run 3:56.803 **BEST** 3:21.806

Kids ATV (Quad):

1st – Adonis Lugan, Nampa, ID – 1st Run 3:22.074, 2nd Run 4:36.947 **BEST** 3:22.074

ATC 3-Wheeler:

1st – Lance Hallworth, Emmett, ID – 1st Run 2:04.757, 2nd Run bye **BEST** 2:04.757

Motorcycle Open:

1st – Jeremy Dougherty, Nyssa, OR – 1st Run 1:55.150, 2nd Run 1:54.410 **BEST** 1:54.410

Motorcycle 250:

1st – Ramon Avalos, Ontario, OR – 1st Run 1:44.965, 2nd Run 2:01.740 **BEST** 1:44.965
2nd – Matthew Peak, Payette, ID – 1st Run 2:09.039, 2nd Run 1:55.308 **BEST** 1:55.308
3rd – Brent Arnold, Emmett, ID – 1st Run 2:04.896, 2nd Run 2:00.668 **BEST** 2:00.668
4th – Kody Seward, Ontario, OR, – 1st Run 2:20.736, 2nd Run 2:06.079 **BEST** 2:06.079

Motorcycle 40-Plus:

1st – Vincent Kimber, Nampa, ID – 1st Run 1:38.182, 2nd Run 1:39.341 **BEST** 1:38.182
2nd – Lance Hallworth, Emmett, ID – 1st Run bye, 2nd Run 1:55.339 **BEST** 1:55.339

Fastest Time of the Day

Motorcycle 150:

1st – Lance Hallworth, Emmett, ID – 1st Run 2:00.513, 2nd Run bye **BEST** 2:00.513
2nd – GW Masmeyer, Vale, OR – 1st Run 2:31.430, 2nd Run 2:08.266 **BEST** 2:08.266
3rd – Rochelle Whiteley, Nyssa, OR – 1st Run 4:35.133, 2nd Run 3:20.424 **BEST** 3:20.424

Kids Mini Bikes 71-90:

1st – Trypp Kraus, Ontario, OR – 1st Run 2:15.114, 2nd Run 2:14.046 **BEST** 2:14.046
2nd – Beck Towner, Payette, ID – 1st Run 2:21.298, 2nd Run 2:17.923 **BEST** 2:17.923
3rd – Knox Warner, Payette, ID – 1st Run 2:22.588, 2nd Run 2:24.587 **BEST** 2:22.588
4th – Damon Arnold, Emmett, ID – 1st Run 2:45.028, 2nd Run bye **BEST** 2:45.028

Kids Mini Bikes 55:

1st – Isaac Avalos, Ontario, OR – 1st Run bye, 2nd Run 2:21.461 **BEST** 2:21.513