

The Mid-South **PULLER**

Official online publication of the Mid-South Pullers Association

May 2008



Inside this issue coverage from - Shelbyville, TN & Murray, KY



Upcoming May Events

- Lawrenceburg, TN
- Fayetteville, TN
- Viola, TN

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Sponsor News...

The Mid-South Pullers Association has signed on with Jeff & Elizabeth Witherell of WRPM sports marketing firm from Hendersonville, Tennessee. Jeff Witherell has been marketing and promoting events since 1987. They are involved in circle track racing, including NASCAR. They also have connections inside the music scene around Nashville. Please welcome Jeff and Elizabeth on board.



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Something new at Murray...



2008 News & Events

Upcoming events in May

Lawrenceburg, TN

May 10th
7:00 PM
2, 6, 10, SF, P4

RUMBLE AT THE CROSSROADS coming to Lawrenceburg's Rotary Park

Springtime is here, and for many tractor and truck pulling enthusiasts across the country it is time to begin another exciting season of pulling action. Big-time truck and tractor pulling is coming to Lawrenceburg's Rotary Park on Saturday, May 10. The Lawrenceburg Rotary Club and the Crossroads of Dixie Antique Tractor & Engine Club are preparing to unleash a one-night spectacle of sight, sound, and professional motorsports fury with the 5th Annual "Rumble at the Crossroads" NTPA-sanctioned Truck & Tractor Pull.



Fayetteville, TN

May 17th
7:00 PM
10, SF, 2, 4

The Mid-South Pullers Association is headed to the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Fayetteville, TN. This will be the first of two visit to Fayetteville. The second will be September 12th during the fair.



The Lincoln County Fair pull will feature 4 exciting classes. The 10,000# Pro Stock, 6,200# Open Four-Wheel Drive Trucks, 6,200# Two-Wheel Drive Trucks and the 9,300# Super Farm tractors will compete. Registration closes as 6:30PM followed by a drivers meeting @ 6:45. The first pull of the night will follow our National Anthem at 7:00.

Viola, TN

May 31st
7:00 PM
6, 8, 2, SF

This Saturday night @ 7:30 PM the Mid-South Pullers Association head to Viola, TN during as the month of May concludes. On May 31st the Viola Valley Commission will host the second "Rumble in the Valley". This will be their second MSPA pull. The track is located in the downtown area on HWY 108 (10285 Viola Road). This pull is a fund raiser for the Viola Valley Commission. They raise money for local venues such as the Volunteer Fire department, Viola Community Center, Viola Park, and other venues around Viola. The Viola area is home to many pullers such as Kenneth Hale, Russell Davenport, Michael Fanning, and Daniel Gray just to name a few.



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2008 Event Pictures



Above: Marty Chandler is Deeply Hooked in Murray, KY



Above Right: Kelly Keith gets the green flag in Shelbyville, TN

Right: Ed Orrell, Jr makes a pass on Hard Corn Harvester.



Below: Sandy Bugg runs into some trouble when Black Magic decided to quit.



Shelbyville, TN April 19th

The Mid-South Pullers Association opened the 2008 pulling season in Shelbyville, TN when Bedford County Fair association hosted their first sanctioned event on April 19th. The sled for the event was Jeff Porter and the newly acquired Hagar "Patriot" sled. There were 5 classes slated to compete on this cool April night. While the temperatures were cool the action was hot.

The night started with the 9,300# Super Farms. Brent Dixon and his big Massey named "Wild Thang" was the first pull of the 2008 season. Wild Thang managed to pull the newly purchased Patriot sled out to 279.62 feet. After Brent there were 12 more vehicles waiting for their attempt on the Bedford County dirt. When the dust settled there were four tractors out the gate, Dixie Deere, Black Viper, Money Grabber, & Bare Bones Binder. Russell Counce was the first to hook in the pull-off. The 2007 points champion poured the coals to the Dixie Deere and she responded with a pull of 303.74. Next up was Greg Lamb on the Black Viper. Greg had a good hook and came up with a respectable 299.02' distance. Dave Gambill and Cranford Jennings finished out the pull-off. So, Dixie Deere starts the season off with a win.



The lights supers were up next. The combination of high horsepower and light weight was not a great combination on this night. Drivers had to be careful on tire pressure and weight placement. Bob Barbee was second hook in the 6 and took Stormy out to a distance of 284.11 feet. Would the distance hold up? Mike Sandefur on his Farmboy's Fantasy had a good run going but it unfortunately ended in the fire ball. Mike Wilhite also had a good run going but was a little concerned about this engine after turning over 8,000 RPM's. Blue Blazes pass was 272.96' and good enough for 3rd place. Don Head is looking awful tough and laid down a great run of 275.81' which put him in second place. Cody Haney, in his rookie season, made a great pass good enough for fourth place on JR with a distance of 272.87'. Bob Barbee held off the rest of the field and took the victory.

The Open FWD trucks thundered down the track next and saw a unique mixture of power plants. Blowers usually adorn the top of the motors in this class but not all were using the blower and some didn't even use methanol. Diesel trucks have invaded the class along with a turbocharged truck belonging to Clint Gregory. Also making a debut this weekend was Jerrett Curtis and Randy McConnell. How would it all shake out? First hook went to Jerrett Curtis driving his truck called Pop Tart Monkey. You might remember that Jerrett ran with the PSFWD class last year. But, over the last few weeks he replaced quite a few pieces and added a blown motor. Jerrett made a great pass for a full pull only to have the sled reset. Not bad for a first pass. Larry Douthit set the mark to beat as he twisted the red "Big Daddy Magic" hard down the track to a distance of 289.64'. Randy McConnell was up with a new unpainted truck that included a new Barker chassis. He might want to leave it black and call it Black Fever after he charged out to first place with a distance of 292.91'. Shane Greer took his turn but he and Super Chevy couldn't get past McConnell or Douthit and settled for third.. Jerrett Curtis came back last and made another respectable pull and finished fourth.



As the night got colder the competition just got hotter. Ben Gambill and his International called Procrastinator was first hook and pulled a distance of 261.65'. Michael Fanning was next and laid down a great pass that put him in the lead for a short while. Miles Stratton, of the Young Buck team, decided to try out their tallest gear. Miles back out of the throttle on the big deere at 277.89'. Lance Little was the last competitor and was looking to outdistance Michael Fanning. Lance built a fire in A Mere Deere and bested the rest of the 10 Pro's with a winning distance of 307.49'.



The night was capped off with the 8,000# Super Stocks. Only four braved the weather and track conditions. Monica Shaw was up with Beauty & the Beast and set the mark with a pull of 290.59'. Ray Haggard drove Gus's Toy past Monica's distance on a run where the RPM's just never got where they needed to be. Kenneth Hale shot out to the lead when he took Another Nite Trouble out the gate for a full pull. Last hook for the night went to Paul White. Paul had a little trouble off the line but made a fine pass out to 279.97'.



It was a cool night in Shelbyville but all in all was a good pull. We had some first pull jitters along with a lot of pullers having troubles after a winter full of changes. Congratulations go out to the winners: Russell Counce, Bob Barbee, Randy McConnell, Lance Little, and Kenneth Hale.

Wilber's Winners... The May edition

Lawrenceburg, TN

May 10th

Mothers Day is the day after this pull so Wilber will dedicate this to all the mothers out there whether they do the driving or not...

6,200# TWD Trucks

We could see some new equipment on the track in Lawrenceburg. But, it'll take some high tech equipment to get this win. Let's see... the perfect situation is to get Jenni Teasley behind the wheel again. So, here's my pick.

Wilber's Winner: Jenni (or Will) Teasley & HyTek (come on Jenni you know you wanna!!!!)

6,000# Super Stock

Everybody should be close to getting all the early season bugs worked out. I think the competition will be strong and I'm hearing rumors that there will be a new edition to team clean in Lawrenceburg. In this class the Beauty will be driving the Beast (just for Mother's Day)...

Wilber's Winner: Monica Shaw Beauty & the Beast

10,000# Pro Stock

The last couple of weekends them big green deere's have put a hurtin' on the red tractors. There will be a storm brewing in Lawrenceburg and the green tractors better beware.

Wilber's Winner: Philip Parish & El Nino

9,300# Super Farm

This class has many competitors that are separated by so little on the track. But, one tractor has stood out with 2 straight wins. Look for the Dixie Deere to get the hat trick...

Wilber's Winner: Jed Pettus / Russell Counce Dixie Deere

6,000# PSFWD Trucks

There's been some changing going on in this class with the edition of Cepeks. There were a few that tried them out in Shelbyville. Will they have an advantage? I think so and it'll take a special code to get into the winners circle.

Wilber's Winner: Jerry McKinney & Code Blue

Fayetteville, TN

May 17th

10,000# Pro Stock

Look for the deere to let loose this weekend. In fact I think there be some Young Bucks celebrating there first victory!

Wilber's Winner: Brad Moss & Miles Stratton & Young Buck

9,300# Super Farm

You'd better keep all your money hidden in Fayetteville. I hear there's a Money Grabber on the loose.

Wilber's Winner: Dave Gambill & Money Grabber

6,200# TWD trucks

I have visions of a purple people eater in a rage. That can only mean one thing...

Wilber's Winner: Brad Ferrell & Southern Rage

6,200# OpenFWD Trucks

It's black and there ain't no magic to it (and it runs better than it looks). It may be called Yellow Fever in the future but it's definitely made the rest of the class run a Black Fever!

Wilber's Winner: Randy McConnell & Yellow Fever

Viola, TN

May 31st

6SS

The skies may be clear but you'll be hearing some Evening Thunder. Look for Kevin and crew to be hittin' on all cylinders. (PS I hear that Brandy will be drivin' this summer...)

Wilber's Winner: Kevin Essary & Evening Thunder

8SS

The alky boys of Team Clean get a new member and think there're going to dominate. Don't look for them to occupy the winners circle cause I think there Liv'n a Dream.

Wilber's Winner: Brandon Hunt & Liv'n a Dream

TWD

Look for a young gun to make his way to the winners circle. The competition is tough in this class but I think he'll will his way there.

Wilber's Winner: Will Teasley & Bad Boy

SF

The grass is always greener on the other side. You now why? It's a different shade of green. That is what is in store in Viola.

Wilber's Winner: Mary Ann Kerr & Spendin' Daddy's Money

Murray, KY April 26th



The Mid-South Pullers Association headed to Murray, Kentucky for the second stop of the 2008 pulling season. The brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho hosted their second annual pull that benefited the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN. Last year the track in Murray was a power track and this year is no exception. Wheel standing runs was the standard on the cool April night.

The 6,000# Super Stock tractors took to the dirt at the Murray/Calloway County Fairgrounds. The test hook belonged to Mike Happe and his IH 1066 called Red Menace. Mike took the Artic Cat sled the full distance and could've down to Mayfield. Don Head was up following the sled reset on his tractor called "Head's Up". Don laid down a strong pass out to 287.91 which was good enough for second place. Mike Wilhite had a good run going until "Blue Blazes" sneezed ending his run at 257.24'. Keith Haney loaded the front end on JR and finished third. One of the last hooks of the class belonged to Mike Happe. Could he repeat the great run at test hook? The "Red Menace" reared up in the air and Mike fought the break but laid down another awesome wheel standing run and took the win with a distance of 305.69.



Thirteen Super Farms made their way to Murray. Jed Pettus set the mark to beat early in the class when he willed the "Dixie Deere" down the track to 296.58'. Cranford Jennings, on the Bare Bones Binder, has stepped up this year and makes a great pull out to 293.65' good enough to fourth place. Greg Lamb pushes his black painted John Deere but falls 5/8" short of Pettus with a distance of 296.53. Russ Freeze drives his beautifully painted "Deere Traxx" to a third place finish. The team of Pettus & Counce log there second straight victory of the 2008 season.



The heavy weights in the 10 Pro were next to do battle. Ed Orrell was first hook on the "Hard Corn Harvester" and made a pass good enough for sixth place. Michael Fanning was next to hook and ran out to 309.20 but short of a full pull. Full pulls were in order for Philip Parish, Danny Cristiani, Miles Stratton, & Ken Couch. So, now the battle of supremacy and a battle of Red vs Green was on. Red was up first when Philip Parish and El Nino took to the track. A burnt piston put an early end to El Nino's run at a distance of 250.56'. Danny Cristiani set the mark to beat at 302.93 just short of another full pull on the Gotta Go Deere. Miles Stratton had some problems with the guillotine shut off and had to re-hook and finished at 253.46'. The last chance belonged to Ken Couch. The Cotton Pick'n Deere ran hard but didn't have the distance to beat the Gotta Go Deere.



Ryan Henley was the first official hook of the 8,000# Super Stock and made a pull of 298.40' that was good enough for third place. Randy Head took over driving duties from brother Don and made a wheel standing Full Pull. This was a quite impressive pull but would it hold up with the likes of Wilhite, Gorham/Shaw, and Hunt still to hook? Mike Wilhite tried to get Blue Blazes into a pull-off but fell short with a distance of 300.29'. Monica Shaw had a great run going on Beauty & the Beast 'til a burst panel let go ending her run. Brandon Hunt finished out the top four with a straight pass of 292.42' on Liv'n A Dream.



My hats off to the young men from Murray State University for their efforts in this pull. They should be commended on their selfless effort to help the children at St. Jude's Hospital. If you've not attended this pull in the past you should mark it on you calendar for next year. You not only will see a great pull but you will help benefit a great cause.

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Technically Speaking

CAUTION IN 2008...

Drivers and crew please take notice:

No driving of your vehicle in the pit area. You can run your vehicle to check it out but you must be towed to the scales and to and from the track.

No alcoholic beverages can be consumed by pullers or crew that will be on the track or the hot pit area. The hot pit area is anywhere that is 30' from the track.

Drivers - when you are sitting in the drivers seat you must have the steering wheel attached.

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6SS

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8SS

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10 Pro

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Open FWD

To be determined on March 30th

TWD

GN Rules

SF

NTPA rules apply

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A look in the Pits...



2008 Schedule

Date	Location	Time	Classes
May			
May 10th	Lawrenceburg, TN	7:00 PM	2, 6, 10, SF, P4
May 17th	Fayetteville, TN	7:00 PM	10, SF, 2, 4
May 23-24	Contract Pending		
May 31 st	Viola, TN	7:00 PM	6, 8, 2, SF
June			
June 6-7	Lexington, AL	7:00 PM	6, 8, SF, 2, 4, P4
June 14th	Contract Pending		
June 20-21	Hazel Green, AL	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF, 2, 4, P4
June 28th	Springfield, TN	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF, 2, 4, P4
July			
July 4-5	Hopkinsville, KY	7:00 PM	TBA
July 12th	Paris, TN	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, 2, SF
July 18th	Temple Hill, KY	7:00 CST	6, 8 (no points in 8SS), 10, SF, 4, P4
July 19th	Bardstown, KY	7:30 EST	6, 8 (no points in 8SS), 4, SF, P4, SMT*
			* subject to change
July 25-26	Tanner, AL	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF, 2, 4, P4"
August			
Aug. 1st	Clinton, KY	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF, 2
Aug. 2nd	Hillsboro, TN	7:00 PM	TBA
Aug. 8th	Somerville, TN	7:30 PM	TBA
Aug. 9th	Crockett Mills, TN	7:00 PM	TBA
Aug. 15-17	Bowling Green, OH		Grand National NTPA pull
Aug. 23rd	Mayfield, KY	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF
Aug. 29th	Springfield, TN	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF, 2, 4, P4
Aug. 30th	Franklin, KY	7:00 PM	TBA
September			
Sept. 5-7	Knoxville, TN TN Valley Fair	7:00 PM	TBA
Sept. 12th	Lincoln County Fair Fayetteville, TN	7:00 PM	TBA
Sept. 21-22	Contract Pending		
Sept. 27th	Manchester, TN	7:00 PM	6, 8, 10, SF

Legend

6 = 6,000# Super Stock

8 = 8,000# Super Stock

10 = 10,000# Pro Stock

SF = Super Farm

2 = TWD Trucks

4 = Open FWD Trucks

P4 = PSFWD Trucks

SMT = Super Modified Tractors

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