A beautiful Upper Peninsula summer night provided the backdrop for Island Resort and Casino Race Night at UPIR 906 Raceway Saturday night. Despite high temperatures, a large crowd turned out for the night’s action.

Heat races for each division ran without any major issues, with most heats running green flag for their entirety. This doesn’t mean the racing was tame by any means, with divisions such as the Street Stocks battling tooth and nail for every position.

Coming into the night, the Riverside Auto Group Youth Micro Sprint division saw a tie at the top of the points standings between Dayton Rein and Brennan Swanson. When the checkered flag flew in the feature, it was Brennan Swanson finishing first. This puts him and Dayton Rein even with two wins a piece heading into the final race before the mid-summer break. Rein, who won the heat race earlier in the night, finished in second. Karl Warm would cross the line third.

The Sportsman Micro Sprint division would begin as a six-pack challenge with a field of six drivers all vying for the win. However, an early race incident took out Ashton Shehow, Luke Labre, and Brett Labre, turning the six-pack challenge into a triple threat. After the restart, Michael Ault and Robert Buttry would battle hard for the lead until Buttry’s rear axle apparently broke, sidelining him for the remainder of the feature. Michael Ault would go on to win the race, continuing his undefeated streak in 2018. Drake Degnan would follow in second and, although he was off the track, Robert buttry would claim third place.

Up next on the card were the 600 Micro Sprints, who put on a fast and frantic show. Pal hosking would hold the race lead for the opening laps, but two drivers would work their way through the field to battle him for the lead. Jeff Ives, who started seventh, and Christian Groleau, who started 10th, would pressure Hosking until Ives was able to make a move on the outside to take the lead. Ives would go on to take the feature win. Paul Hosking held on to second while Christian Groleau, points leader coming into the night, would finish third.

One of the best stories coming in to Island Resort and Casino Race Night was Charles Peterson’s return to UPIR 906 Raceway. One week after a terrifying tumble down the backstretch, Peterson was able to not only repair his car, but race it as well. It is a testament to the safety measures taken and hard work done by drivers and their crews that Peterson was able to race seven days removed from one of the most breathtaking crashes in track history.

Charles Peterson and the rest of the Vintage Modified drivers would run a clean and exciting race in their feature. Derek LeBresh and Scott Degnan battled for the lead early, but once lap traffic became a factor, Degnan was able to pull away and take his first feature win of the year. LeBresh would take a strong second place finish, while Robbie Iverson had another strong showing in third substituting for Bob Iverson.

The Street Stock feature would take to the track. After a slew of early caution flags, including a dust up between Billy Bowden and Jeremy Sebeck that saw Bowden go spinning off the front bumper of Sebeck, severing the brake line in Bowden’s car ending his night. The rest of the race would be controlled by Max Constantino. Constantino would take the lead and hold on to it until the checkered flag, winning his second feature this year. Ron Jenshak crossed the line in second with Eric Mathieson third.

Another great story Saturday night was that of Chris Pepin. Just hours before the green flag dropped on the night’s action, Pepin and his fiancé got married. Conveniently for Pepin, he was still able to race and enjoy his wedding day as the festivities were right next to the racetrack. He participated in the parade of flags, along with his heat race and the feature race, donning a “Just Married” sign on the right side of his car for the whole crowd to see.

Chris Pepin would have a strong showing in the Bink’s Coca-Cola Sport Modified feature, battling hard with leader Matt Valiquette. He would finish second while Valiquette would win the feature race. Mike Richer followed Valiquette and Pepin in third place.

The Island Resort and Casino Sport Compacts would round out the night’s racing in the best race of the night. Most weeks the field of cars can get spread out, allowing drivers a little space to breathe. That wasn’t the case Saturday night as fans were treated to a pack race on the dirt at UPIR 906 Raceway. Three wide battles and incredible passes were common place throughout the twenty laps. Three drviers were able to work their way through the three wide action to the front to battle for the win. Nick Leisner, Matt Adams, and Tyler Corwin, who started 8th, 11th, and 10th respectively fought over the top spot. On a late race restart, Nick Leisner passed Adams, who was looking to go three wins in a row at UPIR 906 Raceway. Leisner would hold off Adams in a last lap dash to the finish. Tyler Corwin would come home in third, continuing his string of strong finishes this year.

Racing action returns to UPIR 906 Raceway next Saturday night with Fan Appreciation Night. Gates open at 4 PM EST with racing at 6 PM EST. Make sure you arrive early to meet the drivers from each of the tracks seven divisions.