

# Steve Irwin takes 2017 SOD MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge Championship



Steve Irwin (Fenton, MI) is the 2017 Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge champion. The four-race Challenge had four different winners with Irwin finishing in the top five in all four races to take the championship.

The MAHLE/Clevite BLC was scheduled for five different speedways; Baer Field Motorsports Park, Thunderbird Raceway, Merritt Speedway, Crystal Motor Speedway, and Manistee County Fairgrounds Speedway. The final scheduled BLC race at Manistee was rained out on August 4<sup>th</sup>, and the make-up date of August 18<sup>th</sup> also fell victim to inclement weather.

Shawn Valenti (Delta, OH) took the first BLC race at Baer

Field Motorsports Part on May 21<sup>st</sup> after an exciting battle with Joe Swanson. Irwin finished 5<sup>th</sup>. Chad Blonde took race #2 at Thunderbird Raceway on June 10<sup>th</sup> with a last lap pass of Thomas Schinderle. Irwin finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ryan Ruhl won the 3<sup>rd</sup> BLC race at Merritt Speedway on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Brad Lamberson finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gregg Dalman 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mike Astrauskas 4<sup>th</sup>, and Irwin 5<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> race, at Crystal Motor Speedway on July 15<sup>th</sup>, was just what Irwin needed. He drove to a convincing win on one of his favorite speedways over Thomas Schinderle and Shawn Valenti.

Irwin collected \$1,000 for winning the MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge championship. Thomas Schinderle (2<sup>nd</sup>), Gregg Dalman (3<sup>rd</sup>), Chris Jones (4<sup>th</sup>), and Robert Bulloch (5<sup>th</sup>) also shared in the point fund. Irwin is now guaranteed a starting spot in the Mike Olrich Memorial Race at Crystal Motor Speedway on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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Competitors may debate who is the best on the track, but under the hood, there is no debate that Clevite and MAHLE are the one constant of winning teams throughout American grass roots racing. For more information about MAHLE/Clevite, click [HERE](#).

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