

8-26-23: Marshfield Fair

The Marshfield Fair's annual figure 8 race is the second closest countable track to me and I'd somehow never managed to get out to it, between it running on Monday nights when I had hockey games and being rained out in previous years. This year, I finally managed to make it down on a somewhat last minute trip after my evening freed up.

It's only a 45 minute drive down and I grabbed a \$10 parking space in someone's yard a few blocks away and walked to the main gates. The race doesn't require an additional ticket beyond the \$15 fair entrance fee. The grandstands were jam packed and there were multiple rows of people standing along the fence as well. We were able to grab a spot standing along the end and were able to see about a third of the track.

When we arrived about 20 minutes after the scheduled 6:45 start time the figure 8s were already running. It was a double figure 8 setup with three tractor tires marking the track. It was big enough that the cars were able to get a decent bit of speed and some were kicking up clumps of dirt through the turns into the crowd on occasion. There were k-rails as barriers and a netting that was hung from cables in place of a true catch fence.

We watched the heat, confirmed that the checkered flag was thrown when more than one car was moving (I've had the misfortune of going to a fair figure 8 before that ended up being a last man standing race), then wandered around the fair for a bit. We ended up on the backside of the track and that ended up being the better place to watch from, with a lot fewer people and therefore better views.



It was entirely unclear what the actual structure of the event was, as there was no PA system that I could hear and no indication whether the races were heats, eliminations, or what. There

were also no flags other than the green, red, and checkered, which included no white flag so I never knew how many laps were left until it ended. They also blew an air horn with the checkered flag to make sure the drivers knew it was over I guess.

We wandered around the fair more and got some food, then came back to the arena just in time for the demolition derby that involved seemingly all the cars that were still running after the figure 8 races. I'm usually not a fan of demolition derbies but this one was actually pretty enjoyable, due to the fact that there was enough room and a dry enough track for the cars to actually get up some speed. There were some big collisions and I actually enjoyed it.