



# KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK January 18, 2017



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**  
First open testing/practice in 86 days!

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Only 100 more days until opening night!!

## WHAT'S ON TAP FOR 2017?

With all these unseasonably mild days it kind of makes you want to head to the track, doesn't it? Well, it won't be long. Have you checked out the 2017 schedule? (a printable version can be found at [kalamazospeedway.com](http://kalamazospeedway.com)) We've got a solid program put together for 2017 with plenty of extras. At the heart of the schedule is the Whelen All-American Series for the Outlaw Super Late Models, Super Stocks, Pro Stocks, Cyber Stocks and Flip Flop Cyber Stocks.



Tyler Roahrig (right) won the 2016 Intimidator 100 for the Outlaw Super Late Models and returned to Victory Lane in the inaugural Gary Terry "Follow Your Dreams" 125. The second running of the Gary Terry, "Follow Your Dreams" 125 will be run Wednesday, June 14.



The Auto Value Winged Super Sprints will race on June 2 joined by the Outlaw Super Late Models and Round #1 of the Outlaw Front Wheel Drive Burg vs Zoo Stock Tire Spectacular.

The Royal Purple "King of the Wing" National Sprintcar Series comes to the Zoo on July 20. Also competing that night will be the Speedway's Super Lates and Super Stocks.



The USTA Modifieds come to the Zoo on June 23, headlining the racing action of the Super Stocks, Pro Stocks, both Cyber Stock Divisions PLUS the second of the three scheduled Spectator Drag Races.



July 1 marks the 1<sup>st</sup> of the two nights of family entertainment featuring stunts, monster trucks, bus races, mini enduro & more plus a HUGE Fireworks display. To commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we'll be setting off the Red, White & Boom with the legendary Night of Destruction following on September 16.



July 21 marks the GT Products Pro Stock Bash and the second Burg vs Zoo DOT Tire Spectacular. Pictured (above), the Pro Stocks battling it out at the inaugural Gary Terry "Follow Your Dream" Pro Stock Rumble, where they will again race this year on June 14.



Wednesday, August 8 is the 25<sup>th</sup> running of the Kalamazoo Klash. With 5 Klash victories, can Terry Senneker, Jr., possibly win a 6<sup>th</sup> Klash? The ARCA/CRA Super Series 125 races first on what we're sure will prove to be a milestone night.

AND! All season long we'll have giveaways, special features during intermission, teen nights and student ID month plus raffles and autograph nights. PLUS we've got a few things in the works that could add even more zest to the season.



September 2 is the Call of the Wild and anyone not in attendance at the 2016 event missed Andy Bozell shredding the previous record by moving around the oval in 9.465 seconds (142,631 miles per hour). Does this record stand or will someone break it in 2017.



Back-2-school backpacks



Classic car night  
Motorcycle night



Jeep night



The 31<sup>st</sup> Super Shoe Nationals close out the 2017 season from September 29 through October 1. From the September 24 foot races for the prize campsites (top) to the crowning of the 2017 Super Shoe Nationals champion (Mark Shook in the #14 was the 2016 "Super Shoe"), it's the quintessential close to the season.



## HOWES WIN REGIONAL AWARD

Gary and Donna Howe have been named Regional Promoter of the Year (2016). Five of this year's six regional nominees have been nominated before. As the Region Three winner, this is the Howes second nomination for the national award, winning the award when they were nominated in 2014.

The Auto Racing Promoter of the Year is short track (paved or dirt) racing's most prestigious award and is the only national award recognizing promotional excellence where selection is made by other promoters. Voting is conducted in two phases: a preliminary ballot in the Racing Promotion Monthly newsletter nominates candidates in the six regions. The six candidates become Regional Promoters of the Year and then appear on a second ballot for final voting to determine the national Auto Racing Promoter of the Year. Only one person has won the national award more than once. The 41<sup>st</sup> Auto Racing Promoter of the Year award will be announced during the 44th Annual Racing Promoter's workshop in Daytona Beach as part of the events leading up to the 2017 Daytona 500.



Gary Howe has been quick to point out that this isn't a personal award, that it has been earned by everyone at Kalamazoo Speedway. The Howes have owned the Speedway since 2001.

## NEWS ON THE AUGUST 2016 BREAK IN

It took a bit of detective work but as of last week, this is where things stand with Franklyn Holmes and Tony Vandenberg, charged with multiple felonies associated with the August break in at the Speedway as well as a Galesburg restaurant. Both first appeared in court on October 31.

For those new to the Speedway family, the Speedway was broken into last August 13 or 14. Over a dozen doors were kicked in, door jambs were shattered, windows smashed, the ATM destroyed (but didn't give up its cash) and three laptops and a small amount of cash were stolen. All told there was about \$20,000 worth of damage plus a whole lot of sweat equity was needed to put the Speedway back in order for race day.

Holmes pleaded guilty and will be sentenced on February 13. Vandenberg was scheduled to go on trial on January 10 but the trial has been adjourned. It appears a plea agreement is in the works and a status conference is scheduled for January 23. We'll keep you posted.



Courtesy WWMT

## 2017 PIT SPOT RESERVATIONS



Reserved pit parking spots are available in the upper and lower pits for the 2017 season. Drivers may claim their last year's spot until January 20 at which time all remaining spots are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Spots are not considered reserved until they are paid in full. Reserved spots will only be sold to teams racing full time at the Speedway in 2017. If you are interested in a reserved spot contact Kenny at the Speedway office: (269) 692-2423.

## RENT-A-RIDE BEFORE THEY SELL OUT

The Kalamazoo Speedway's Rent-a-Ride program begins its third year at the April 28 season opener. A sell-out in its first two years, men and woman, 18 and over, can try out the sport or simply fulfill a lifelong dream of taking the wheel on an authentic track, competing in an authentic race. The experience includes a required mid-week orientation and practice session, all in-car and personal safety equipment, pit passes for the driver and two crew members and a track supplied safety/crew chief. Drivers provide their own two-person pit crew, qualify their car through the hot lap session, run in a heat race plus race in the 15 lap Flip Flop Cyber Stock feature. An immediate fan favorite, the entry level Flip Flop Cyber Stock division averages 18-20 entries per night; four to six of which are rentals. That's enough cars to make it competitive but few enough to avoid a demolition derby. Feature races run surprisingly smooth despite some rather unique displays of car handling.

The Rent-a-Ride program has been a popular birthday and anniversary gift with one novice driver taking a checkered flag on his birthday, having never driven a race car previously. Several Rent-a-Ride drivers have walked away with a heat race win.

With a nod to the lack of driver and crew experience, all cars in the Flip Flop Cyber Stock division are front-wheel drive, have automatic transmissions and run on stock tires; greatly reducing expenses and the need for expansive set-up knowledge. To keep all drivers on an equal playing field and to ensure advantageous car set-ups aren't employed, the entire division might race in either direction from one week to the next. Long known for going the extra mile, Speedway owner Gary Howe and his crew canvasses the countryside for suitable cars and spends the off-season in Howe's garage making 12-15 new Rent-a-Ride cars ready for the upcoming season.

A complete Rent-a-Ride experience runs \$295. The fee includes features noted above plus all insurance and a temporary NASCAR License. Rent-a-Ride dates will sell out early, so a pre-season reservation is highly recommended. Corporations have used the experience for a day or evening of team building or entertainment; corporate pricing is available. For more information or to reserve a car, contact Gary Howe at [gary@kalamazoospeedway.com](mailto:gary@kalamazoospeedway.com) or call the Speedway office at (269) 692-2423.



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