



# KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK May 17, 2017



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## IN THE MAKE READY CHUTE – FRIDAY, MAY 19

**FRIDAY, MAY 19.** The pits open at 4:00 and racing follows at 7:30 PM. It's another full night of racing for the five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions.

Specials for the night include an autograph session from 6:30 – 7:15 PM in the infield pit area. It's scooter giveaway night for kids 11 years old and under. Make your way to the Speedway pace car during the autograph session (located at the top of the get ready chute) to learn how to enter. PLUS it's the last night for FREE admission to the races for K-12 students. High school students should have their school ID with them.



**Admission for May 19:** Adults \$12, K-12 students FREE – High School Students Need School ID 5 and under FREE

**Pit Passes:** \$25.00 (NASCAR members) or \$30.00 (non-members)

## UPCOMING #FASTFRIDAYS

**MAY 26** is NHRA at the Zoo plus all five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions will be racing. For the Outlaw Super Late Models it's the Lane Automotive Tri-Segment 75!



The National Hot Rod Association's Terry McMillen, a perennial NHRA fan favorite returns to the Zoo. Many of you remember McMillen and some of his crew raced in Rent-a-Rides last year. This year he'll be lending a hand throughout the evening including helping with the kids' scooter races and taking a second go at capturing a first place finish in a Rent-a-Ride. Says McMillen (pictured) "While I come from a different discipline of racing, the way the fans embraced me last year was incredible. It's very cool meeting and talking to fans so close to home, which is Elkhart, IN. The opportunity to race at Kalamazoo Speedway is something that myself (and a couple of my crew guys) have been looking forward to since last year! We get to have fun racing without the pressure that we normally have....but don't get me wrong...just like when I drag race, I didn't come here to lose."

Kids (11 and under) bring your scooters if you want to race on the front stretch during pre-race festivities.

And after all the racing it's the Zoo's first fireworks display of the season!



**JUNE 2** is the Outlaw Night of Speed featuring the Auto Value Bumper to Bumper Winged Super Sprints. This marks the first of two nights that the Winged Super Sprints will be racing at the Zoo. Rounding out the program on June 2 will be the Outlaw Super Late Models (competing for points) as well as Round #1 of the Outlaw FWD Zoo vs Burg "DOT" Tire Spectacular (no points, just good plain fun).

## **TECH BULLETINS #51117**

### **Bulletin 51117**

Purpose: Build a competitive and healthy front wheel drive division (Outlaw Cyber Stocks).

Rule Changes: Legal tires 790 or 850 tires

Car Weight: 2250 lbs for a 4 cylinder and 2400 for a 6 cylinder.

Next Steps: Adjustments to weights may be necessary to make things equal, but so far so good.

### **Bulletin 51617**

Purpose: Strengthen the "no tire soaking" rule currently existing for each class; develop a verification process for suspected infractions and revise infraction penalties.

Rule Changes: Effective 05-19-17, any team suspected of soaking or softening their tire(s) will be subject to track official(s) confiscating tire(s) of the official(s)' choice from the car. Then, in front of the affected driver and in an open area of the infield, track officials will follow the step by step directions provided by Blue Ridge Lab Tire Testing:

- Cut two tread samples from the suspect tire(s).
- Samples will immediately be sealed in an evidence bag.
- Officials will sign, date and time stamp the sealed evidence bag.

- The driver will sign the bag.
- Officials will send the bag to Blue Ridge Labs in Hudson, North Carolina.

Results will be returned to the track within 5-8 business days. Drivers pay and points for the entire night will be held until the test results have been returned. The affected driver will be allowed to race the following week if the results have not been returned. The results from Blue Ridge labs will be final with no appeals by either party.

If the Blue Ridge lab finds the sample is altered, the driver will forfeit pay and points for the night; receive a four week suspension (the next four weeks scheduled for the division) PLUS pay a \$500 fine before being allowed to race at Kalamazoo Speedway.

If the tire sample is found to be clean, all points, money and a new tire(s) will be awarded to the driver.

Refusal to allow a tire to be confiscated by track officials will result in the driver forfeiting his/her pay and points for the night plus a four week suspension (the next four weeks scheduled for the division).

### LOOKING BACK: WEEK THREE (MAY 12)

The field was packed with 23 cars in the 15-lap **Flip Flop Cyber Stock** feature. This week's crop of six Rent-a-Ride drivers all did a credible job of driving and racing, finishing ahead of a number of the weekly drivers in the division. For the first time in this young season, the field raced the "wrong" way for the feature (hence the "Flip Flop" name). For the uninitiated, reversing the field (randomly and without any advance notice) is designed to keep the playing field level and discourage drivers from using set-up talents that would be better utilized in one of the upper divisions. Cars must be basically "stock" running on "junk yard stock" tires with no fancy suspensions or set-up. This keeps costs way down in this entry-level division and greatly reduces the need for drivers to have extensive set-up knowledge.



The field put on quite a show, much to the fans' appreciation. Josh Nyberg (pictured with the trophy) picked up his first win of the season followed by Tony LoBretto, Robert Brown (pictured above in his Rent-a-Ride), Kevin Sweat and Grant Lofquist. The bottom half of the top ten started with 2015 champion Brock Sweeter finishing a solid sixth beating out Zach Weinberg (in a Rent-a-Ride and having the largest cheering session of any Rent-a-Ride driver to date), Joe Failing, Brian Graber (Rent-a-Ride) and Brandon Sweat. Fast qualifier Valerie Bozell (17.431) finished last of the lead lap cars in 17<sup>th</sup> place. LoBretto and Burt Brown (Rent-a-Ride) won the heat races. The points race shifted with LoBretto (pictured with Nyberg) emerging as the leader over Joey Failing (-1), Bozell (-8), Nick Failing (-8) and Lofquist (-38).



Larry Richardson (pictured) made it two in a row in the **Outlaw Cyber Stock** division by getting to the finish line first and he did it with panache setting fast time in qualifying (15.452), starting dead last in the 14 car field and charging all the way to the front in the 20-lap feature. Cole Roelofs finished second followed by Jeremy Young, Sean Elkins and Nick Layman. Elkins and Doug Nelson took the two heats. Nelson went hard into the wall on opening night and seems to be back in form now. Taylor Sexton (moving up from the Little Kalamazoo Speedway) finished seventh after returning from a crash on opening night. Richardson remains the point leader over Layman (-43), Elkins (-49), Young (-52) and Ryan Hufford (-88).

The **Pro Stocks** put on another “must see” race this week and Zach Cook (pictured) picked up his first win of the season in the 22 car field. Cook held off veteran Brent Hook (making his first appearance of the season), Kyle Ribble, Barry Jenkins and fast qualifier Greg Haynes (14.714). Brandon Zachary continued to impress in his new Pro Stock by collecting a sixth place finish. Young Josh Zordan had a solid night coming in eighth. Keith Wilfong finished a disappointing 14<sup>th</sup> after two consecutive wins to start the season, losing the points lead to Cook in the process. The rest of the top 5 are Ribble (-6), Greg Brown (-12), Wilfong (-12) and Jenkins (-72). Brown experienced a tire issue late in the race and had other teams flying to his aid to get him in and out of the pits to keep him on the lead lap. Their efforts paid off and Brown finished in 10<sup>th</sup>. Chaz Hook (making his first appearance of the season) and John Chapman collected the heat race victories.



The **Super Stocks** division continued to show its flair this week as 16 cars battled for the checkered flag. AJ Foote (pictured with family) put on a brilliant driving display that included a three-wide pass for the lead to win the 30 lap feature. Foote beat defending champion Buddy Head, Nick Pressler, Josh Trammell and Adam VanAvery. Fast qualifier Kenny Head (13.617) finished sixth. David Guarino and Ron Maynard won the heat races. Buddy Head remains the point leader over Nick Pressler (-27), Kenny Head (-36), Keegan Dykstra (-50) and Foote (-74).

Todd Harrington made a bold late race pass on Matt Frazier to beat the field of 19 **Outlaw Super Late Models** in the 40-lap feature. Harrington is the third different winner in this division for 2017. Tom Thomas, Mark Shook (fast qualifier at 12.818) and Doug True rounded out the top five finishers. Frazier and Ron Maynard picked up the heat race victories. That made it two heat race wins for Maynard, pulling double duty on Friday by also racing in the Super Stocks. Defending champion Shook continues to hold the points lead over Frazier (-11), Thomas (-17), Harrington (-20) and Adam Terry (-29).



## SPECTATOR DRAG RACES (MAY 12)



Corey Vansparrentak (taking the checkered flag) beat Curtis Towne in the best two out of three races once the rest of the field had been dispatched in single lap eliminations. Vansparrentak turned down the challenge from track owner Gary Howe to make it double or nothing. No small amount of change given there was a \$250 pot rather than \$200 due to an over generous post on Facebook! We can't imagine why Vansparrentak

took the money and ran! Wouldn't you want to go up against this? →



## MIDWAY NOTES



What's a trip to Kalamazoo Speedway without taking a stroll down the midway for food and souvenirs? Friday night we spent a little time visiting at Marty Jones' gift shop. We asked what was new and hot this year and learned it's "spinners" which have sold out twice already. They come in all sorts of colors, are simple to use and are strangely mesmerizing. Die cast cars are new this year and the shop has shelves of them. We also were pointed to the various buttons with your favorite drivers. And of course there are plenty of clothing items.



**THE PLACE TO BE FOR FAST, CLEAN, FAMILY FUN!**