



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK August 2, 2017



THIS FRIDAY — AUGUST 4 AT THE RACES

- 🏁 All Divisions Race
- 🏁 SUV/Truck Spectator Drag Races

Tonight plus August 18 are the ONLY two weekly race nights left before Season Championship Night on August 25. Come on out and support your favorite drivers before the long off-season starts! Do YOU have what it takes to enter the crowd pleasing Spectator Drags (\$200 to the winner)?

Admission for Friday, August 4: Adults \$12; 13-15 \$8; 6-12 \$2; 5 and under FREE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 — KALAMAZOO KLASH XXV *featuring Kyle Busch* *Sponsored by the West Michigan Toyota Dealers*

IT ONLY COMES ONCE A YEAR



SERIOUS RACING

Named one of five epic race events in the US

\$50,000 total purse

125 lap Kalamazoo Klash XXV

125 lap ARCA/CRA Super Series

Who survives the last chance race?

Who goes home?

Don't Miss It

Practice 1:30
Qualifying 3:50
Driver Autographs 5:00
Racing 7:00



Tuesday, August 8 – Open Practice 5:30 – 8:30 (free)
Thursday, August 10 – Rain date (Don't even think it!!)

IN THIS EDITION

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Wednesday, August 9 – Exclusive Trackside Experience with Kyle Busch

A few tickets remain. Don't miss out. Fresh off his win at Pocono, Kyle Busch has his sights on winning his second Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series championship. And he has his sights on taking the checkered flag for both the Klash and the ARCA/CRA Super Series races on August 9.

- 🌸 Admission to the Kalamazoo Klash (seating as early as 1:00 PM)
- 🌸 Seating on the party deck. No taping bleacher seats! No standing in line!
- 🌸 Private autograph session with Kyle Busch (5:00 – 6:15 PM)
- 🌸 Dinner buffet and soft drinks (5:00 – 7:00 PM)
- 🌸 Exclusive designed T-Shirt that will not otherwise be available.
- 🌸 Add a “hot pass to the pits” for an additional \$18.



Kalamazoo Klash – A Bit of History

In the spring of 1993, Marty and Bobby Jones set out to put together a Super Late Model spectacular that would rival any pavement race in the country. And they succeeded. With ideas from some of the sharpest minds in the business, the “**Klash**” was established as the prize that hundreds of Midwest Late Model drivers would strive to add to their racing resumes.

The **inaugural Klash** ran on August 18, 1993 with 51 entries which included Lane Automotive owner Doug Lane. When the dust settled a new star emerged as Andy Bozell chased down and passed fan favorite Mike Vansparrentak to collect the \$10,000 cash prize.

Klash II and III saw NASCAR drivers Ken Schrader, Matt Kenseth and Johnny Benson Jr. join in. Gary Howe got his name on the trophy for quick time.



In 1998 (**Klash VI**), with three laps to go a caution bunched up the field and set the stage for "*The Pass*". On the restart Bozell quickly built a four car-length lead and appeared to be headed for his fourth Klash win. Taking the white flag two lengths behind Bozell, Mike Vansparrentak made a bold charge to the outside and exited turn two alongside of the leader. As the crowd shot to their feet, Vansparrentak pulled even off turn four and nosed ahead at the line to take the win by less than a couple of feet.

Klash X saw a July date and a record \$80,000 purse. Front row starters Andy Ponstein and Billy Shannon traded the lead for the first 32 laps before Shannon was able to pull away and lead until lap 150 when Shannon's dreams went up in tire smoke as he spun off turn four. That set up a classic duel to the finish between two Klash champions: Andy Bozell and Chris Orr. Bouncing off the wall on lap 166, Orr was able to recover to take his second Klash win.

Klash XII was a classic duel between two legendary Michigan short track racers. Andy Bozell along with outside pole sitter Fred Campbell ran inches apart the entire race. Campbell was finally able to pull away at the end and add the Klash to a long list of career wins.



The running of **Klash XIV** in 2006 brought out the big guns as the \$25,000 top prize lured in many short track hot shoes. Dirt Late Model super star Scott Bloomquist was in the middle of a record breaking season with winnings that topped nearly \$300,000 in dirt short track wins. Bloomquist would be making his first asphalt start since 1992. Johnny Benson Jr. was in the middle of one of his most successful Craftsman Truck Series seasons and made his first trip back to one of his old favorite short tracks. Local favorites were geared up for battle with the press giving both of the out-of-towners most of the attention. However, at the conclusion of the Klash, the out-of-towners took home the top 5 spots, with Johnny Benson taking home the \$25K prize and Tom Thomas finishing in the second spot. Terry Senneker was the fast qualifier out of nearly 70 Late Models trying to make the field.



Kalamazoo Klash XV became the highest paying asphalt short track race in the nation, paying an unprecedented \$30,157 to the winner of that year's spectacle. After 60 plus cars qualified for the historic show, Steve Needles took the fast qualifying award. The local drivers vowed not to let the out-of-towners take home the big prize like the year prior, and true to his prediction, Andy Bozell scored his 4th Klash win, claiming his single highest payday to date. Joe Bush was second, followed by Steve Needles, Kenny Head and Dave Sensiba.

Klash XVI would become one of the greatest Klash races ever as 2006 Late Model champion Terry Senneker Jr. drove from the 18th starting position to take the lead with one lap to go in the first segment of the race. After a three-car inversion for the final segment put Joe Bush on the pole, the stage was set for an epic battle between Bush and Senneker. The two would trade the lead back and forth before Senneker took the lead for good with 19 laps to go. Buddy Head won the 'B' Feature while Steve Needles was quick time for the second year in a row.

Kalamazoo Klash XVIII started with many people considering Rick Sexton a long shot to win the 18th Annual Klash, but at the end of the 150 lapper he was the man with the hardware and the big check in victory lane. Sexton finished 3rd in the first segment and then hit the inversion perfectly to start on the pole for the second segment. Sexton held off several challenges from Phil Bozell who held on to finish second ahead of Trent Hellenga, four-time Klash winner Andy Bozell and Tom Thomas. Johnny Benson Jr. set quick time earlier in the day with a lap of 12.615 while Corey Ryman won the Last Chance race.



Despite Jeff Ganus and Brian Bergakker collecting wins in the first two segments of **Kalamazoo Klash XXII**, Terry Senneker picked up the third and final segment, resulting in a \$10,000 payday and his fourth Kalamazoo Klash title. Senneker's fourth Klash victory tied him with 12-time track champion Andy Bozell for the most ever in the nation's premier Outlaw Super Late Model event. Bergakker finished second ahead of JR Roahrig, Steve Needles and Tom Thomas. Senneker was the fastest of the qualifiers while

Corey Ryman won the Last Chance race. NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Superstar Kyle Busch won the ARCA/CRA Super Series event.

Jeff Ganus wanted to head home after the Wednesday afternoon practice for **Kalamazoo Klash XXIII**. Mere hours later he was celebrating his Klash victory on the front stretch of the fastest 3/8 oval in the world. Ganus held off a hard-charging Brian Bergakker on a restart with less than 10 laps to go. Jack Landis, NASCAR two-time Camping World Truck Series champion Matt Crafton, and 12-time track champion Andy Bozell rounded out the top five. Terry Senneker had quick time but ran into mechanical issues dashing his quest for a 5th Klash win. Ali Kern won the ARCA/CRA Super Series race.



In 2016, history was made and over 6,000 people witnessed it. Terry Senneker won **Kalamazoo Klash XXIV** giving him an unprecedented 5 Kalamazoo Klash wins. Senneker said after the race that this one was special offering that, "You want a good car, but you want to work for it [the win] because that's what everyone is here for. You don't want it handed to you." And work he did.

As fast qualifier (12.059) Senneker was presented with the Shotgun Challenge. Announcer Jason Seltzer wagged \$1,000 cash at him and told him it was his if he started the Klash at the tail of the field. Plus there was the promise of another \$1,000 if he was leading the pack at the time the checkered flag waved. The crowd roared its approval as he took the cash and started in the 23rd position.



Senneker's progression through the field was unrelenting. Single-minded. Senneker was 15th by lap 21. A few laps later a tangle left 8 cars, including Senneker, motionless in turn three. Audible gasps filled the air. Senneker was lucky and had avoided mishap. Adam Terry and Mark Shook were not as fortunate and were out of the race. Harold Fair Jr., led at lap 37 with the #37 of Senneker on his tail. Andy Bozell (also a 4 time Klash winner and looking

to make it 5) was in third place. Four laps later it was Senneker, Fair Jr., Andy Bozell, Tyler Roahrig and Brandon Lyons. The field spread out in caution free racing and Senneker flew by — but something was missing. Volume! But tonight it was quiet. Clearly an historical night in the making! Defending Klash Champion, Jeff Ganus, limped into the pits at lap 50. By lap 65 Roahrig was creeping up amongst lapped traffic. Senneker retained the lead and Brian Bergakker took a place in the top five. With about 30 laps to go, a caution lined up Roahrig and Senneker with Roahrig flying out to the lead. His lead increased as the laps ticked off. Roahrig led with 25 to go, 20 to go. Roahrig beat Senneker at the Gary Terry "Follow your Dreams" 125 but has come in second to Senneker at the Klash in 2012 and 2013. A caution with 15 to go brought everyone to the edge of their bleachers. Roahrig took the inside on the restart. Senneker jumped out in front only to have the yellow flag wave a couple of laps later. There is a growing vibration in the air as the pack restarts. Liquids danced in their containers as the cars rumbled through the turns compacted from the caution. Senneker took the inside on the restart, took the lead and the checkered flag. Roahrig finished a disappointing second. Brandon Lyons drove a great race and came in third followed by Brian Bergakker and Andy Bozell.



LOOKING BACK: July 28 AT THE RACES



The 5 divisions comprising the Whelen All-American Series all saw action on July 28 with each division putting on a great race for the appreciative audience. Each driver not only races for points toward a Kalamazoo Speedway season championship or top 10 finish, but also races for the NASCAR divisional rankings.

It was the Orrin B. Hayes Outlaw “CJ” Night and there was a great turnout parading during the intermission. Orrin B. Hayes had a number of their vehicles for sale on site as well. Orrin B. Hayes provides the pace car for the Speedway and we thank them for that.



The **Flip Flop Cyber Stocks** had a crowded field with 19 cars poised to fly around the track for their 15-lap feature. Ryan Diamond (first time driver in 2017) and Curtis Towne qualified but were unable to make the feature. Chris Letts and Nick Failing were making a race of it until Letts was black flagged



for a breakout time violation giving the lead to Failing. Cautions threatened to cut the race short due to the time limit rule (in this case, the race was official having reached the halfway point and the one minute allotted per lap mark [15 minutes]). Fortunately another caution wasn't thrown and the race went the distance. Rent-a-Ride driver, Don Teadt, showed quick thinking when he avoided Tod Watson (another first time driver) who spun on the front stretch. With two-thirds of the race complete, Valerie Bozell was able to pass Failing when his lead was eliminated following a restart. Despite another late race caution, Failing couldn't catch Bozell (pictured with dad, Jeff, and mom, Stephanie) and she

took her 4th win of the season. Failing took second, followed by Tony LoBretto, Grant Lofquist and Denver Sweat. Bozell and Letts took the heat races. Camaron Barthel took fast time for the second time this season with a 17.270. Barthel's solid racing since joining the Kalamazoo Speedway family has earned him a spot in the top 10. New to the Speedway in 2017, the Sweat brothers are 4th (Kevin), 6th (Denver) and 7th in the points (Brandon). Failing now leads the tight point battle for this division over LoBretto (-2) and Bozell (-14).

The **Outlaw Cyber Stocks** were 4-wide in the 20-lap feature's first lap — and made it caution free to lap 2! In fact, it was a green to checkered race full of hard racing and passing. At the halfway mark it was Ryan Hufford, Larry Richardson, Case Roelofs, Pete Doxey and Taylor Sexton. Pete Doxey has looked very sharp in the last few weeks and was on a mission to move up from his dead last starting position. Doxey (pictured with dad Dorian) moved past Richardson with 5 laps to go. With a late race pass, he moved ahead of Ryan Hufford, who ran a terrific race, to take the checkered. Hufford hung on to the second spot, followed by Richardson, Jeremy Young and Roelofs. Hufford and Roelofs took the heat races and Young took quick time of 15.595. Newcomer Taylor Sexton finished a solid 6th. Richardson continues his points lead over Young (-86) and Layman (-119).





The Pro Stocks fielded 15 cars with the top two in points starting 10th (Zack Cook) and 12th (Greg Brown). From a competition standpoint the Pro Stock feature is a thriller week in and week out. Twenty-five laps into their 30-lap feature it was Greg Haynes dominating the field by a wide margin followed by Bobby Oxford, Bob Miller, Barry Jenkins and Zack Cook. Typical for this feature, tight pack racing was evident for more than half the race making it difficult

to advance; the pack broke up with 16 to go and the jockeying for position started in earnest. The caution flew with 14 to go with Haynes still in the lead, followed by Miller, Alan Marcot, Mike "Bubba" Brooks (in Heath Bronkema's car) and Cook. Haynes got out to a great restart but a lot of cars were now in striking distance with his lead erased by the caution. The caution flew again with 11 to go. With less than 10 to go it was Haynes, Miller, Brooks, Cook and Marcot. Both Miller and Brooks were challenging Haynes while Cook moved past Miller. Barry Jenkins crept into the top 5 with 5 to go; Haynes still had the lead. Cook and Brooks passed Haynes who later spun out on the front stretch leaving Brooks as the leader. Greg Brown bobbed with two laps to go, but motored his way to a 4th place finish. At the finish it was Brooks, Cook, Miller, Brown and Jenkins. Cook, always a good sport, was out right away to congratulate Brooks on his win. Keith Wilfond had fast time at 14.727 and Miller and Bobby Oxford won the heats. Cook now leads Brown by 31 points followed by Ribble (-108) and Wilfong (-128). Brooks is pictured with Wil Raber (back), Bubba's son (Bubbie), Heath Bronkema and his daughter, Tyler.

The Super Stocks ran a shortened feature (25 laps) due to a 10 car field; however, the 10 cars ran a compelling race. Five laps in Nick Pressler held the lead followed by Lane Head, Cory Pressler, Josh Trammel and Buddy Head. Nick Pressler's #10 was out strong and loud with sparks putting on a little light show. Five laps later and Cory Pressler was in the lead followed by brother Nick, Trammel, Kenny Head and Buddy Head. Cory left the rest of the field to run his own race. Nick Pressler and Josh Trammel were having a battle for the 2nd spot and Buddy Head was doing his all to get around them both. Head finally accomplished that and set his car on Cory Pressler's path. With four to go, the caution came out. Cory had a strong restart and finished the race with the trophy (pictured on the right). Buddy Head was second, followed by AJ Foote, Nick Pressler and Kenny Head. Buddy Head took quick time of 13.560 and Cory Pressler won the heat race. Buddy Head continues his point lead over Cory Pressler (-137), Keegan Dkystra (-186), AJ Foote (-186) and Kenny Head (-190).



Last but not least, 17 **Outlaw Super Late Models** took to the track for their 40-lap feature. The race didn't get a lap in before the caution flew and a complete restart was necessary. With 9 laps complete, the caution came out for Jeff Bozell whose car left the track via a wrecker. With 10 laps in it was Tom Thomas, Matt Fraizer (who experienced what could have been a race ending wreck in his heat race and needed a welder in order to make the feature), Billy Shannon, Todd Harrington and Mark Shook. To make the race more exciting the scoreboard went black. Mark Shook took the lead with about 25 to go with Tom Thomas not giving up easily. He was the proverbial gnat flying all around Shook;



Shook ultimately prevailing. Thomas finished second followed by Harrington, Doug True and Matt Frazier. Rick Senneker and Doug True won the heat races. Shook (fast qualifier at 12.838) now leads Thomas by 126 and Harrington by 145. Adam Terry left the race with 9 laps in and finished a disappointing 16th, slipping to -218.

MEMORABILIA

Kalamazoo Speedway is fortunate to have a couple of great companies that can provide you with a diverse set of keepsakes designed for you or as a gift. Buy something now to put under the tree later!

KB (aka Kevin the Poster Guy) videos each night of racing and special event for the Speedway. He makes the DVDs available for \$15 (\$20 if you'd like one mailed). You may contact him at dragrace58@rocketmail.com or at the track on race nights in the announcer's booth. If you'd like a customized DVD set (for example, races from only one division), get in touch with him and let him know what you'd like. KB makes the 2 1/4" buttons you've seen people wearing around the track (pictured). Buttons run \$5 and there is a large selection available at Marty Jones'



Gift Shop on the Speedway's midway. Don't see the one you want? Contact KB to have one specially made. KB might best be known for his 12" x 18" metal signs and posters with brass eyes on all four corners for easy mounting. A basic poster starts at \$30. Custom posters are \$40 and you select the photo and what you'd like it to say. And don't limit yourself to strictly racing when thinking custom posters; be creative! The gift shop carries a selection of KB's Vintage Posters. KB offers discounts when custom ordering more than one button or poster. Some drivers have purchased posters for their sponsors, for instance. The top 10 drivers of the Perfit Vintage Modifieds each received a personalized poster from their organization. Posters may be done in color or black and white with a vintage distressed look. They make great gifts and last forever.



RW Motorsports Marketing offers a wealth of products including photos, custom made hero cards, blankets, puzzles and mousepads. The list of possible options is endless. As the official track photographer, photos from all events are available for sale. Photo pricing ranges from \$3 for a 4"x6" to \$60 for a 2 feet x 3 feet poster. Photos may be ordered at their kiosk on race nights or by going to smugmug.com ([racingwoodys](http://racingwoodys.com)) and ordering directly from the website. Memorabilia starts at \$5 for buttons and runs up to \$40 for a custom blanket. They offer a very cool custom deck of cards

for \$25 and a custom flip top lighter for \$15. To order, visit the kiosk on race nights, email racingwoody@racingwoodys.com or visit www.rwmotorsportsmarketing.com.

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEAM UP

July 26 was the Oak Grove Bible School Challenge. For over 20 years, the Oak Grove Bible Church and the Kalamazoo Speedway have collaborated on a unique highlight to the Church's vacation bible school. The original church at the site (across the street) dates back to 1951; the year after the Speedway ran its first full season. Marty Jones, the previous Speedway owner, initiated the Challenge and the popular tradition has continued through the years. Each year the Speedway hosts scores of youngsters and close to an equal amount of adults. Race car drivers generously donate their time and bring their personal race cars to the track for this event. The kids have the opportunity to have their photos taken with their heroes and a 15 lap feature race is part of the tradition. Likely it is the rides around the track that are the biggest hit of the day as the kids get to take a few laps around the track with one of the drivers, climbing in through the window and sitting on the passenger side floor of cars built strictly for racing. Lunch is provided by the Speedway and church volunteers. Pastor Ives and his wife Sandra join Gary Howe in commenting what a positive and rewarding event this is for everyone involved. Thanks to Larry Richardson (pictured with two of the Bible School participants in his car) for providing the photo.



THREE GENERATIONS OF RACERS



Following the races on Friday night, Michael Wood ("Woody") took this photo of five members of the Ivan Head racing family to commemorate the three generations: from left to right, Lane Head (Buddy Head's son), Buddy Head, Ivan Head, Kenny Head and Kenny's son K2 (Kenny Head II). All have seen their share of track action, predominantly at their home track, the Kalamazoo Speedway. Ivan Head is in

failing health and being able to watch his family race and then have a moment captured in a photo meant a lot to the whole family. Regardless of whether we pull for the number 15, 26 or 46 during the races, let's keep them in our thoughts over the coming months and offer up a kind word or two.



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

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