



# KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK January 17, 2018

*99 days until the  
season opener!*



## **2018 SEASON – 69<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF RACING AT KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY**



The countdown has begun: 86 more days until the first open practice and we're at 99 days and counting until the official season opener featuring the five weekly classes and the GT Products Intimidator 100. There's a lot to do between now and then, but we'll be ready (pictured flagmen Rick Beebe [left] and Buster Martin) to welcome drivers, teams and fans back to the track on April 14.

On tap for this year are five races that put the focus on the Outlaw Super Late Models – the GT Products Intimidator 100 on opening night [April 27], the Lane Automotive 75 [May 25], the Allstar Firecracker 75 [July 6], Kalamazoo Klash XXVI [August 8] and the Season Championship finale [August 24]. Each of the remaining classes also has a night or two in the spotlight with a few extra laps and a larger than usual purse to go with it. The Late Model Sportsman (formerly the Super Stocks) race for \$1,200 on May 4 and again on July 13 for \$1,000. The Street Stocks (formerly the Pro Stocks) join the Sportsman on July 13 with their own \$1,000 to win purse. The Outlaw FWDs (formerly the Cyber Stocks) get their turn on July 20 to race for \$1,000. They'll be joined by the Midwest Compacts. Then it's the Street Stocks again running for \$1,000 on August 3. The Zoo Stocks battle the (Galesburg) Burg Stocks on May 4 and

August 3 with \$400 to win. The Auto Value Winged Super Sprints return to the Zoo on June 1. Howe Patio brings us double feature night for all five classes on June 22. Click here <http://www.kalamazoo Speedway.com/driver-info/payout/> to go to the weekly payout schedule for 2018.

On Sunday, July 22, the 200 lap Enduro makes a comeback at the Speedway sharing the bill with a \$500 to win Trailer Race and \$250 to win Spectator Drags. Saturday, June 30 marks the Red, White and Boom evening of family fun with stunts, mayhem and destruction capped off by the Speedway's spectacle of fireworks. If you missed the Scarecrow last year (pictured at right), you'll want to note he'll be back for the Red, White and Boom and the legendary Night of Destruction (Saturday, September 15) with new stunts to take your breath away. The Call of the Wild and the Super Shoe Nationals round out the September program and the 2018 season.

Need a unique gift for the racing enthusiast in your life? What about a Rent-a-Ride? We provide everything to make the experience memorable except the driver and the driver's choice of 2 pit crew members. The Speedway provides a crew/safety chief. The Rent-a-Rides sell out early so don't wait too long to book; some nights are already sold out.



## CHANGE COMES TO KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

### Class Names

This year marks several significant changes for Kalamazoo Speedway and likely the one that will take the most getting used to is the changes to the Speedway's class names. Maybe you've heard that officials from surrounding tracks formed the Michiana State Line Racing Association to better align weekly racing rules to accommodate the growing trend of drivers choosing to travel between tracks? Out of that came the need to also align the names.

*Galesburg | Kalamazoo | M-40 | New Paris | South Bend | Springport*

While very few changes will impact the cars themselves; the name changes are a different matter! It's like daylight savings time with all of us checking ourselves with saying the new name and then feeling compelled to say, it's really the old Pro Stocks! If we had to put a buck in a jar every time we referenced the "old" names rather than the new, we'd have quite the petty cash fund by now.

We thought we'd reprint the decoder and we've been busy swapping out the names on the website but that's going to take a while.

2018 Class Name	2017 Class Name
Outlaw Super Late Models	Outlaw Super Late Models
Late Model Sportsman	Super Stocks
Street Stocks	Pro Stocks
Outlaw FWD	Outlaw Cyber Stocks
Zoo Stocks	Flip Flop Cyber Stocks

## Zoo Stocks Will Always Turn Left in 2018

Gone is the Flip Flop name for the entry level class at the Speedway and with it the surprise reversals of the field to keep the playing field level. That doesn't mean that elaborate (or even minor set-ups) are now allowable in the class. They are not. But the Speedway will rely on its tech department to keep crews honest rather than flip flopping the field. Drivers who want to run a car with more than just the basic street style set-up should plan to run in a class other than the Zoo Stocks.

## The Zoo Opens 2018 without NASCAR

Saying it was one of the hardest things he's ever had to do, Gary Howe made the decision to sever ties with NASCAR. "Left to me and what my heart was telling me, we'd be a NASCAR sanctioned speedway in 2018, but I've got to look at what my drivers are telling me and they were clearly telling me it [NASCAR] wasn't important to them", says Howe. "Features that come with the NASCAR affiliation that I thought were valuable just didn't represent the same level of value to the drivers. The vast majority of drivers doesn't run a full schedule at Kalamazoo Speedway anymore and made it clear that they want to arrive at the track, buy their pit pass and get racing. So we got back to basics. The drivers didn't like the NASCAR license fee and while drivers will continue to have insurance, the premium catastrophic coverage that NASCAR provided will no longer be available." Howe anticipates drivers from area tracks will check out the Speedway with the new back to basics approach.

Attendance at the banquet has diminished from 400 to 200 or less over the years with a lack of enthusiasm to continue the banquet even from those who attended. So this year the formal banquet has been scrapped and while the point fund will remain, NASCAR's absence will be felt. That said, we believe it's important to recognize the accomplishments of drivers and staff and we'll be doing that at a year-end pit party on Saturday, September 8. Details are incomplete and when we know more, we'll be sure to share.

## Class Rules for 2018

A much needed rule cleanup was undertaken to remove duplicative points and make them flow better. The individual class rules and the general rules have been incorporated so drivers don't have to pull up two documents. Any changes over the course of the season will be written up in a separate document as well as incorporated into the actual rules (in **RED**) for each class impacted.

Click here <http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com/driver-info/rules/> to go to the rules page of the website.

## Kalamazoo Speedway/Lane Automotive Point Fund

Click here <http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com/driver-info/payout/> to go to the point fund page on the website. New this year is a bonus for drivers who have perfect attendance for each points night on the schedule for their class. Also new, the track champion for each class will receive a 15 punch pit pass for the 2019 season (a \$450 value).

<b>Class</b>	<b>Perfect Attendance Bonus</b>
Outlaw Super Late Models	\$200
Late Model Sportsman	\$150
Street Stocks	\$100
Outlaw FWD	\$100
Zoo Stocks	\$100

## Schedule

The 2018 schedule is posted at [www.kalamazoospeedway.com](http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com). We will see YOU at the races.