



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK May 23, 2018

IN THIS EDITION

- #7 MAY 25 AT THE RACES
- #7 JUNE 1 & JUNE 15 PROGRAMS
- #7 MAY 18 RACE RECAP
- #7 A WORD FROM TECH
- #7 NEW ZOO STOCK RULES

Friday, May 25

**TWIN FEATURES FOR THE
SUPER LATES**

Intimidator "78"
Lane 75

STOCK FOUR NIGHT

NHRA Night at the ZOO

Terry McMillen takes another try at the
checked in a Rent-a-Ride

Scooter races on the track at 7:10 PM

Regular Program for Street Stocks,
Outlaw FWD and Zoo Stocks



INTIMIDATOR "78"
LANE AUTOMOTIVE "75"

FRIDAY MAY 25: THE INTIMIDATOR "78" AND THE LANE 75 HEADLINE THE NIGHT

Weather!!! May 25 is week #5 of the season and the Outlaw Super Late Models have yet to complete a feature race. This Friday we plan to change all that (and more!) with starting and ending the night with Outlaw Super Late Model racing (153 total laps): The Intimidator "78" will open the night and the Lane 75 will close it out. NHRA Amalie Motor Oil Top Fuel Dragster driver Terry McMillen returns to the Speedway



Details:	Pits Open	3:30 PM
	Pit Passes	\$30
	Adults	\$15
	Youth 6-12	\$8
	Kids 5 & Under	FREE
	Racing Starts	7:30 PM

for NHRA Night acting as Grand Marshal and taking the wheel of a Rent-a-Ride along with 5 of his crew members. In between the Outlaw Super Late Model races the Street Stocks, Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stocks will see action. The Zoo Stocks double feature night will be rescheduled. Youth who want to participate in the scooter races should bring their scooters and be to the crossover in Turn 2 by 7:00 PM.

For the 500 or so super fans who came out for qualifying and got wet last Friday, turn in that \$12 rain check and get into this week's \$15 event at no extra charge. For anyone holding a pit pass from May 18, turn it in to receive a new one (free) for May 25.

NEXT UP AT KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

STOCK FOUR NIGHT

Auto Value Winged Super Sprints
Late Model Sportsman, Street Stocks,
Outlaw FWD & Zoo Stocks race

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

OFF NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

STOCK FIVE NIGHT

All five classes race

We're back to normal: qualifying, heats and features!!!



MAY 18 RECAP



The black mourning page border is back. If we were superstitious we'd say that in order to finish the 2018 Intimidator 100 we need to send out a memo to all concerned: do not walk under ladders, do not break a mirror, step over cracks in the sidewalk, avoid black cats and thank our lucky transponders there's no Friday the 13th left in sight.

It wasn't a total loss on the 18th, the Outlaw FWDs and the Zoo Stocks completed qualifying. The Late Model Sportsman finished Session #1 but didn't start Session #2 so no points can be awarded. The Street Stocks and Outlaw Super Late Models never put a tire on the surface to start qualifying. Kalamazoo Speedway has a longstanding track record of calling the weather with some accuracy—but not always! Says Gary Howe, track owner, "When the weather is iffy we're not going to call the night based on what we think might happen as most times we're spared and get the full night in, think 2016 Super Shoe weekend, for instance. We raced under threatening skies most of the weekend, but got the whole program in before the skies opened up. Trust me, the last thing we want is to have 100 cars on the property and then have it rain."

Despite not counting, Late Model Sportsman driver Keegan Dykstra had fast time (13.843) in session #1, narrowly putting up a faster time than Kenny Head. Jason Essex posted fast time in the Outlaw FWD with a time of 15.304 cutting Paul Bittle's point lead to two points over Essex. Duane Green put up a blistering time of 16.550 in the Zoo Stocks with 3 other drivers who also beat the existing track record of 17.065 held by Valerie Bozell. It's Colin Bozell by nine points over Curtis Towne in the Zoo Stocks. See the companion article to the Zoo Stocks under the Hot Laps – Fast Facts on page 3.

HOT LAPS – FAST FACTS

A WORD FROM TECH

Tom Wright, Head of Tech, (right) took a few moments before cars started rolling into the tech area to talk with us. Tom raced for 31 years before taking over the tech detail for the Speedway last year bringing both a driver's and management's viewpoint to the job. Tom's made it his goal to be as fair and consistent as possible and if his goal was evaluated based on pit road chatter he's been very successful in a short amount of time. Particularly in the Zoo Stocks and Outlaw FWD classes, safety aspects are checked before anything else. For instance, Tom notes that debris in the car has got to go, it can become a



flying missile impacting driver safety or in the event of a rollover, nuts/bolts/screws and other objects can litter the race track and cause other drivers grief later in the night. There's long been talk that tech should be checking every car for any infraction. Tom remarked this just isn't feasible. If tech spent three minutes on each car and the track hits its average of 100 cars a night, that's a minimum of 5 hours to get cars through tech. So a more practical and functional approach must be taken. Each week a different set-up component is the focus of tech's review. Spoilers are checked each week plus the top five in a division or two each week are singled out for a more thorough look. Overachievers in any division are more likely to receive extra scrutiny. Much like the IRS and taxes; anomalies draw attention. Teams also tend to "tech" other and make suggestions to officials regarding their findings.

Tom believes that there is a right way to go about interactions to effect corrections or solutions and that this involves respect and a "good luck" to each driver. In most instances he finds this respect is returned.

ZOO STOCK DRIVERS GRADUATE EARLY

We had a few overachievers in the Zoo Stocks last week. As regular followers know, Kalamazoo Speedway aligned rules with other local tracks to make it easier for drivers to race on different tracks without having to contend with different set-up packages and rules. While this has had the desired outcome in terms of flexibility, the Zoo Stocks still remain Kalamazoo Speedway's entry level class. So, per the Zoo Stock rules, we're promoting our overachievers to the Outlaw FWD class where they'll be more on par with their fellow competitors in terms of lap times and driving skills.



Last week our top overachiever legally ran a 16.55 (81.571 MPH) lap (that's over 1/2 second faster than the Zoo Stock record set last year). Several additional drivers also ran under the previous Zoo Stock track record of 17.065. Drivers running in the middle of the pack were ticking off laps of 17.719 (76.189 MPH) which is a perfectly respectable time for this class. At those speeds, the lead drivers would be roughly 9 1/2 car lengths ahead of the mid-pack drivers and outpacing drivers closer to the rear of the field by nearly 25 car lengths; the gap growing with each subsequent lap.

So, to preserve the Zoo Stocks as the entry level class it was and will remain, wheel off a faster lap than 17.000 and we'll be holding a graduation party for the driver. Should this happen during qualifying or a heat, the car and driver will be running in the Outlaw FWD class for the feature. If the driver goes faster than 17.000 in the feature, the driver will be disqualified (but will receive their start money) and next week it's report to the Outlaw FWD class. That's the rule: one lap speed under 17.000 and it's graduation time for the remainder of the season. If a driver has a car with the need for speed, then voluntarily moving up might be something to consider.

Graduates will benefit from higher payouts and more laps to race. The Outlaw FWDs are required to race on Hoosier race tires (790s or 850s); however, any Zoo Stock moving up will have a grace period of two features to run legal Zoo Stock DOT tires.

Additionally, for all Zoo Stocks, the camber rule has been eliminated. There was a spot of confusion on this point last week, which was NOT tech's fault. Elimination of the camber rule will increase tire wear and make Kalamazoo Speedway rules more compatible with the neighboring tracks.

