



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK NOVEMBER 21, 2018

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**FIRST PRACTICE OF 2019:
142 DAYS!!**

A TIME FOR GIVING THANKS

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO THE
SPEEDWAY FAMILY!**



OFF SEASON TRACK TALK

Track Talk Exclusive. Street Stock drivers: Get ready for Raber's Rumble. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 31 when one of the biggest Street Stock races in the area will be run at the Zoo in honor of Ben Raber (pictured).

Twin 33 lap features will determine the winner of Raber's Rumble paying \$3,333 to win and \$33 to the leader of each lap. Fast time? Take home \$333! More details to follow.



When the green flag waves in 2019, you're going to see a lot more light on the track and in the infield. The eight poles surrounding the track each sported six 200 watt high output lamps to light the infield and the track. Fourteen of the lights pointed toward the infield with the remainder lighting the track itself. Now, all six lights on the poles point to the track and 10 new LED lamps have been added to light the infield.

Track owner Gary Howe and Colby Geer braved one of the recent unseasonably cold days to work on the lighting.



A. Fisher



A. Fisher



A. Fisher

Haven't marked your calendars yet for April? Do it now!

- 🏁 Saturday, April 13 (open practice)
- 🏁 Saturday, April 20 (open practice)
- 🏁 Friday, April 26 (season opener)



Rules for all classes will be out next week. You'll see very few changes but look for much tighter enforcement in 2019 on several existing rules.



2019 SEASON: 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The following piece of history previously appeared on the Kalamazoo Speedway website; picked up in 2003 by WinterWaterWonderland.com (the source for the photos).

Bob Kitzmiller was a former Alamo Township Supervisor and an avid race fan who followed racing in southwest Michigan. In 1949 some of the local drivers and car owners were looking for a different track to race on. Kitzmiller, who lived off Owen Drive, had a large pasture for his cattle and thought he could locate a track there. So in the summer of 1949, he moved his cattle to a new location on his farm to build a track on the pasture land.

Kitzmiller took his 1949 Mercury to the spot he picked out, put a stake in the ground and drove around in an oval to mark out the 3/8 mile that he wanted. It took him three tries to get the exact distance of 3/8 of a mile. Then he marked his tire tracks with more stakes to check the distance. The tire tracks mark the inside of the track which still stands today, as the fastest 3/8 mile in the world.

Kitzmiller knew he had a lot of work to do to get the track opened by the following year (1950) and was joined by many car owners and friends to make the opening a reality. A cement block grandstand was built along with a judge's stand and a retaining wall. Lights came later for night racing.

Sunday afternoon racing was planned for the first couple of years. It all came together and on July 20, 1950, Kitzmiller was able to open his new dream. Sixteen cars showed up and about 300 fans welcomed the new race track (then named B & K Speedway). Ward Sootsman was the announcer and Roy Yeager was the starter.



Circa 1993



Bob Kitzmiller



1954 – Archie Bradshaw

Check out the following for additional historical photos:



<http://www.waterwinterwonderland.com/autoracing.aspx?id=1741&Type=9>