



# TRACK TALK

June 14, 2021

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## JUNE 18, 2021 – WEEKLY RACING

<b>WEEKLY RACING FRIDAY, JUNE 18</b>	
<b>Pits Open</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
<b>Adult Pit Pass (12+)</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Youth Pit Pass</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Adult Grandstand</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Youth Grandstand (6-12)</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Kids 5 &amp; Under</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Racing Starts</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

Whether you follow a particular driver or just enjoy a night out at the track, come on out to Kalamazoo Speedway on Friday nights to see some of the best racing around. With COVID restrictions lifted, fans are welcome to purchase a pit pass and walk around the pits (you'll need a pit pass) before the races or visit the pits after the races (no pit pass needed).

We've gotten quite a few phone calls on concessions given all the COVID interruptions when it comes to food service. Concessions are open. Coolers are limited to 14" and are still

allowed most nights; no glass.

Friday, June 18 we've got the Outlaw Super Late Models, the Street Stock, the Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stock in action.

We will see you at the races.

Look for more details on the Speedway website: [www.kalamazoospeedway.com](http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com).



## JUNE 25 WEEKLY RACING

### WEEKLY RACING FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (12+)	\$30
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

For the June 25 weekly race program it's the Outlaw Super Late Models, Template Late Models, Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stock. Sponsor Car City ("We Say Yes") will be on the midway; be sure to check them out.



## JUNE 26 RED, WHITE & BOOM NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION

### RED, WHITE & BOOM SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Pits Open	Noon
Participant Pit Pass	\$30
Adult Grandstand	\$20
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

It's a fun-packed weekend at the Zoo. Regular weekly racing on June 25 then the Red, White & Boom. That's the summer edition of the Night of Destruction. There'll be stunts (Scarecrow is back!), novelty races (Go to the Mattresses and Reverse Chase Challenge to name a couple), a trailer race and, of course, the Zoo's colorful busses race last. Then it's a huge display of fireworks for the (a little early) 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Enjoy Monster Truck rides before the races (and during intermission and after the races as well) plus the traditional bus rides around the track. Both of these will be accessed in the infield pits until 7:00 PM. Monster Truck rides begin at 4:30 and bus rides at 5:00. Check the Speedway website for the Event Schedule and information for

individuals who want to compete in a novelty race, trailer race or Spectator Drags (come on, we know you want to!) Advance tickets for the event will be sold at the ticket windows on both June 18 and June 25 from 4:30-8:30 PM with tickets going on sale the day of the event at 10:00 AM.



All Star Monster Truck Tour

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## GARY HOWE 2021 INDUCTEE TO THE MICHIGAN MOTOR SPORTS HALL OF FAME

We received word on Thursday, June 10 that track owner, Gary Howe, would be formally inducted into the Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame later this year but congratulations could start now. Howe (in yellow), is a hard man to surprise but we managed on Friday night when Jason Seltzer (the Speedway announcer [in red]) shared the news in a brief presentation before the races started. We're proud that Gary's achievements as a driver and as a track owner, his four track championships, a permanent spot on the Kalamazoo Klash for fast time, and his overall leadership and innovations in the sport of stock car racing have been recognized while he is still active and vibrant in the sport. Well done, Gary Howe.



## TEEN DRIVERS – PART II

Makena Snyder, 17, just graduated from high school and already has a few college classes under her belt. Her long-term plans include taking over her dad's business (Street Stock sponsor SS Auto Pro's). Makena raced at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway from ages 9-14. She ran a few races in the Outlaw FWD class in 2018 then raced in both the Outlaw FWD and the Template Late Models in 2019. Her energy is now focused on racing her #23 Street Stock.



Blake Hybels, 14, raced at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway from 2012-2014. He took the next 6 years off from racing and is having a good time piloting his #27 Zoo Stock this year. Blake says his interest in racing isn't to chase points but to race for the sake of having a good time racing. So far, he says that's working out just fine for him.

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Like many of our teens, Alex Sexton, 14, raced at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway before starting out in a front wheel drive car at an area track. This year he's driving the #9 Street Stock (his first year in a rear wheel drive car) in the same class as older sister, Taylor. Alex says he likes the Street Stock better due to its speed. He's shown he's able to handle the car and he'd like to earn Rookie of the Year in his class.

Taylor Imus, 17, had very successful beginnings while racing at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway. She moved to Kalamazoo Speedway in 2018 when she drove the #30 Zoo Stock and continued her success with a feature win. She moved up to a Street Stock for 2019 and continues in the #30 Street Stock in 2021 running her first race at the Zoo in Raber's Street Stock Rumble and then again this past Friday. Her hope is to bring the car home each night in one piece and take a few checkered flags during the season. Outside of the track she's looking forward to in-person learning for her senior year in high school.

## RECAP – JUNE 11, 2021

Despite the heat, 83 drivers across 4 classes showed up to race. The scoreboard seemed to suffer from heatstroke a few times but managed to recover. As the sun got lower in the sky it turned into a nice night.



Will Slaughter took fast time for the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock clocking in at 16.944. Dennis Mudd, Travis Petto (first time in this car), Aaron Anderson and Will Slaughter won the heat races. Ira Hosner reached the finish line first in the 15-lap Zoo Stock 'B' feature (his second of the season). Kyle Letts was second followed by Nick Ruimveld, Dennis Mudd and Chris Elwell rounding out the top five.

In the 20-lap 'A' feature Eric Mepyans took the early lead with Drew Hosner and Logan Meade bolting out of the pack in hot pursuit. Aaron Anderson took the lead about halfway through the race. Hosner

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and Meade continued the pursuit as Will Slaughter joined the party. Anderson (right) outpaced the field and picked up his first win this season. Following him across the finish line was Will Slaughter, Logan Meade, Tyler McGhan, Matthew Elsey, Jr., Ryan Osborne, Eric Mepfans, Keith Dixon, Drew Hosner and Bryson Hosner. Tyler McGhan holds a one point lead over Elsey, Jr.



Dave Leonard, Jr. took fast time in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWDs with a time of 15.315 and went on to win the 25-lap feature, his second of the season. Sheldon Lindlag and Will Slaughter won the heat races. John Munro took the lead until about 5 laps in when Will Slaughter made the pass for the lead. With 13 laps showing on the tower, Slaughter left the track in a cloud of smoke after making contact with the wall. Dave Leonard, Jr. who had been trying to get around Slaughter, assumed the lead with Drew Losey, Jake Doxey and Pete Doxey in pursuit. Jake Doxey and Drew Losey narrowed the gap but Dave Leonard, Jr. (right) took the checked flag. He was followed by Jake Doxey, Drew Losey, Pete Doxey (confusing us all by not piloting his usual #28), John Munro, Camille Lewis, Tyler McGhan, Nick Failing, Logan Hiemstra and Jordan Brinkert. Will Slaughter has the point lead by 23 points over Drew Losey.



Mike Brooks was fast qualifier (14.847) in the SS Auto Pro's of Grand Rapids Street Stock and later won the 30-lap feature, his third this season. Two 10-car heat races created mini-feature experiences with DJ Oxford and Brandon Zachary taking the wins there. Multiple lead changes occurred throughout the race. At the half-way point, Matt Corliss was in the lead before Brandon Zachary raced to the lead. Brooks was making his move and was door to door with Zachary, both in pursuit of Corliss. Both Zachary and Corliss spun with under five laps to go. Corliss left the race leaving Brooks and Zachary to duke it out. The race finished with Brooks getting to the finish line first followed by Zachary, Matt Weenink, Greg Brown and Andy Rutherford completing the top five. In the second half of the order it was Taylor Sexton, Ricky LaDuke, Budd Hybels, Barry Jenkins and Jerry Ballard. Brooks (above) was racing in the Template Late Models feature so we caught up with him in his pit stall after the races. Brandon Zachary is the point leader with newcomer Matt Weenink training by 21 points.



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Nick Pressler took fast time (13.923) in the Hutcherson Construction Template Late Models. Mike Brooks and Eric McGlothlen won the heat races. Chris Shannon picked up his third win of the season in the 35-lap feature race. Cory Pressler took the early lead with A.J. Foote moving into the lead with 30 laps remaining. Mike Brooks moved into the lead for a short time before Foote resumed the lead. Chris Shannon had been moving up through the field and Kenny Head, having his best race of the season, were right there. It looked like Foote might make it to the checkered still in the lead when his car blew

causing a red stop caution. Chris Shannon took the checkered followed by Kenny Head, Nick Pressler, Brandon Lyons and Buddy Head in the top five. The bottom half of the order was Dylan Stovall, Makena Snyder, A.J. Foote, Jerry Jansen and Cory Pressler (not all having completed the race). Chris Shannon remains the point leader in the class with Nick Pressler 22 behind him.



**Fast, Family Fun for 71 Years**

Photos by A. Fisher

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