



TRACK TALK

August 2, 2021

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 WEEKLY RACING

WEEKLY RACING FRIDAY, AUGUST 6	
Pits Open	3:30
Adult Pit Pass (12+)	\$30
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

How can it be August? Right?? There are only two months of racing left in the 2021 season. Don't miss any of it. This week the Outlaw Super Late Models, Template Late Models, Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stock race.

Thanks to Nix Trucking, the Zoo Stocks will race in the Nix Trucking Zoo Stock Bash for extra purse money.

Want to know more details about the August 6 event? Fans and drivers alike may now click on "more info" (red box that lists the next event, times and pricing) and get a few fast facts.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18 KALAMAZOO KLASH XXIX

Wednesday, August 18 (rain date August 19) marks the 29th running of the Kalamazoo Klash. Steve Needles won the 2020 Kalamazoo Klash, run this past June 4 due to not being able to race in 2020. Now that we've caught up, we're looking forward to the 2021 Klash. Look for race information to be published on the Kalamazoo Speedway website later in the week. Drivers (both Outlaw Super Late Models and Template Late Models), please remember to register. There is no fee for registering and all we need is your name, car number, hometown and class. That's it. We would like to get every driver who plans to race in the race program. Email barbara@kalamazoospeedway.com or text 269.355.4628. Thank you for your cooperation.

Advance tickets for the Klash are now available by calling the number listed above. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth 6-12; as always there is no charge for children 5 and under.



Kalamazoo Speedway is also offering reserved seating on the large party deck for the Klash. No matter when you arrive, you will have a seat waiting for you (and the seat has arms and a back!). Reserved seating is \$35 for adults and \$15 for youth 6-12 (must be accompanied by an adult).

TOW STRAPS FOR FRONT WHEEL DRIVE CARS



Tow trucks got a workout at the July 30 event; an occasion we hope not to repeat in this or any other season. But it did provide us with a reminder that we are passing along to our front wheel drive classes: tow straps are required to race at Kalamazoo Speedway. Fans don't care for extended cautions. Drivers don't like to sit in the make-ready chute for extended periods of time or circle the track for laps on end because a fellow driver's tow strap amounted to little more than a rubber band that snapped the minute the tow truck put any pressure on it. We thank you for your cooperation.

3. [FWD CLASS SPECIFIC RACE RULES] **BODY**

-  **Bumpers may be stock or tubular. All cars must have a front and rear strap, cable or chain for a wrecker to use.**
-  **All cars will be equipped with front and rear tow hooks, straps or chains where a wrecker can quickly and safely hoist the car so it can be towed.**

PHOTOS & VIDEOS

In addition to more information being conveniently located for each event offered at the Zoo, we've added another new feature. Photos! Click on Multimedia then on 2021. Select the date and, at minimum, there will be a Victory Lane photo of each winner for that night. As time allows, we will be adding additional photos and past races. Photos and videos are available for purchase by sending a note as indicated on the page. We are doing this on the honor system; we will print the photos and deliver them to you at the next race event that you plan to attend. Fees are posted on the site.

RACE RECAP – JULY 30, 2021

We scored great racing weather, an impressive car count (136) and bleachers full of fans, but, yikes (!) the evening was plagued with cautions that that meant for a few minutes we were racing on Saturday night again. As track announcer Jason Seltzer quipped, "The Night That Will Not End – Volume 7". Thankfully it's not typical that we wear out the yellow flag.

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For the first time since Opening Night, all five weekly classes raced plus it was autograph night. Each class raced for a larger purse than usual with extra laps added to each feature. Madhouse Restarts (drivers pick the inside or outside lane for the double start restarts) were used all night. Trophies were provided by the **International Women's Motorsports Association**.

Aaron Anderson has driven to two feature wins this season and scored his first fast time of the season (16.796) out of the 49 **Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock** drivers who showed up to race. Jason Harrington (below left) won the 15-lap 'C' feature with Wes Allen and Renae Letts rounding out the top three. Travis Loop (below right) won the 20-lap 'B' feature with John Rupe and Lance Gary rounding out the top three. Both Harrington and Loop were first-time winners. Nick Failing took the early lead in the 25-lap 'A' feature and drove out to a substantial lead with Ross Bergman, who started in 11th place, moving up through the field to the second position. Matthew Elsey Jr. had moved up from 14th to 6th when he hit the wall and was retired from the race with 14 laps remaining. With 9 laps remaining, Failing was forced to retire and Bergman took over the lead. Bryson Hosner had been moving well and claimed the place behind Bergman. Bergman (next page top left), in his first appearance at the Zoo this season, made his return count by driving to Victory Lane. **Howe Patio & Windows** sponsored the extra purse money for tonight's Zoo Stock races. Bryson Hosner finished second followed by Charles Anderson, Ryan Osborne, and Ed Clawson. Matt Elsey, Drew Hosner, Aaron Anderson, Logan Meade and Tyler McGhan rounded out the top 10. Tyler McGhan maintains the point lead over Matthew Elsey Jr. (-70).



Dave Leonard Jr.'s dominance in the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD** class continued. Leonard Jr. qualified at the top of 18 other drivers vying for fast time (15.262), his fifth in a row and seventh overall. Cautions marred this race, the first with hard contact putting Logan Hiemstra into the backstretch wall and out of the race. Nick Layman led early with Leonard Jr. passing him with 19 laps remaining and then distancing himself from the rest of the field. Pete Doxey drove into the second position with 18 laps remaining. Drew Losey made his way through the field as did Will Slaughter; however, there was no catching Leonard Jr. and he made it a perfect night of competition points for the second week in a row by going on to win **Randy's Auto Service 30**, his fifth feature win this season. The running order at the checkered flag was Leonard Jr., Doxey, Losey, Slaughter, Layman, Nick Failing, Jake Doxey, John Munro, Jordan Brinkert and Bob Brown, Jr., making his first appearance this year. Will Slaughter continues his hold on the point lead followed by Drew Losey (-62) and Leonard Jr. (-72).



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In the **SS Auto Pro's of Grand Rapids Street Stock**, Shawn Amor clocked his second fast time of the season with a lap speed of 14.680, the fastest qualifying time of any driver this season, then went on to win his second feature of the season, the **SS Auto Pro's of Grand Rapids 40**. Thirty Street Stock showed up to race and 14 of them ran in a 15-lap Last Chance race. Danny Oxford crossed the finish line first with Bob Metheny, Scott Gary Jr. and Brian Slaton all advancing to the main event. Jerry Ballard walked away unscathed after hitting the outside wall along the front stretch, rolling and sliding along the outside wall before coming to rest opposite the pedestrian crossover on the inside retaining wall; he was running in the fourth position with just over a handful of laps remaining at the time of the crash. In the main event, Taylor Sexton took the early lead with Greg Brown following. Brown got the jump off the line following the only caution of the race. Shawn Amor (bottom left), charged through the field and once clear of a couple of cars that had him hemmed in, he handily moved into the lead spot and proceeded to outpace the field. At the checkered it was Amor, Brown, Sexton, Colin Bozell and Brock Ganus in the top five. The

second half of the order started with Brandon Zachary followed by Shane Miller, Matt Weenink, Josh Zordan and Mike Zordan. Matt Weenink continues as the point leader over Greg Brown (-7).



A fan favorite and one of the younger drivers in the **Hutcherson Construction Template Late Models**, Dylan Stovall took fast time (13.825) and then prevailed over the field of 19 to win the **Hutcherson Construction 50**; his first win of the season. It was a good night for Hutcherson Construction as well, having its own perfect night of not only sponsoring the class for the season, but sponsoring the extra purse money for the feature and sponsoring Stovall's car. Jake Hopwood took the early lead before Chris Shannon moved around him 5 laps into the race. Jeff Bozell was making a statement and drove to the lead with

about 40 laps remaining. Following a caution with 31 laps remaining it was Jeff Bozell and Dylan Stovall squaring off at the restart. It took a few laps but Bozell was able to clear Stovall. They squared off again following another caution with 21 remaining. This time it was Stovall out first and Bozell pulled out of the race shortly after. This left Stovall and Zack Cook to square off at the restart (Cook having purchased Keegan Dykstra's car). Stovall won that battle and maintained his lead for the remainder of the race. Billy Shannon continues his success in a Template car, finishing in second place. The top five were Stovall (pictured above with Nick Hutcherson), Shannon, Bill Tomlinson (taking the busiest driver prize for racing in 3 classes), Chris Shannon and Zack Cook. The second half of the order read out Brandon Smith, Brent Drobny, Billy Yates, Larry Richardson and Bob Bliss. This was not a point race for the Template class. The class returns to point racing next week; Nick Pressler is the point leader.

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The **Landscape Forms Outlaw Super Late Models** were back in action after rain wiped out their last two races. Following in the trend set by the Outlaw FWD and persisting through all but the Zoo class, the same driver clocked the fastest qualifying time and then went on to win the feature. In this instance it was Steve Needles (12.977). Rob Hardy led for the 16 laps surviving a couple restarts. With 59 remaining Harrington took the lead following a restart. Unfortunately Harrington blew an engine and was done for the night. At the next restart, Kyle Crump squared off with Hardy with Crump taking the lead. Adam Terry had moved into third place and quickly moved around Hardy. When caution flew yet again, Steve Needles and Terry were in the front row with Terry taking the lead off the restart. Terry maintained the lead until another caution when Terry took the outside lane and Needles took the inside in the madhouse restart. Needles got the jump over Terry this time. With under 5 laps to go Terry got sideways collecting Mark Shook and Doug True; all in the top 5. Needles and Kyle Crump were the final restart pairing with Needles prevailing in the restart and the **GT Products 75**. Crump finished second followed by Zack Cook, Brandon Lyons, Doug True, Kevin Stewart, Patrick Kirkendall, Adam Terry, Mark Shook and Paul

Jakubik. This was Needles' second win at Kalamazoo Speedway this season. Former track champion Todd Harrington maintains the point lead over defending champion Adam Terry (-13), 2017 Street Stock champion Zack Cook (-30) and Doug True (-48).



July 30 Autograph Night.



Fast, family fun for 71 years

Photos by A. Fisher

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