

OCTOBER 22, 2022 🏁🏁 AWARDS PARTY

The 2022 Awards Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 22. Come out for one last visit with friends before the long off-season and offer congratulations to the top 10 drivers in each class. The schedule includes award presentations (no long speeches!!), food, fun and dancing under the big top (with heat if it's chilly) at Kalamazoo Speedway.

Tickets are on sale now. \$30 for adults/\$10 for kids under 12. Call 269.355.4628.

OCTOBER 🏁🏁 HAUNT PARK

Voted one of the Top 10 Halloween attractions in Michigan, the Haunt Park returns to Kalamazoo Speedway on Friday, October 7 and runs through Halloween night to scare the pants off you.

The Haunt Park offers four different features:

Psycho Ward
Nightmares
The Mansion &
Zombie Revenge

www.hauntpark.com for times and ticket pricing.



SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 🏁🏁 SUPER SHOE XXXV

The open practice session was held on Friday, September 23 as scheduled but the promise of a wet Super Shoe Sunday prompted the consolidation of the rest of the weekend into a packed Saturday-only Super Shoe event. Thankfully the rain held off on Saturday for racing and post-racing festivities, but, as forecast, Sunday was wet.



Gary Howe (left), Kalamazoo Speedway Promoter, held a drivers' meeting broadcast over the PA system and broadcast live on Facebook. Then it was cars on the tracks starting at 10:30 AM.

In the 87 drivers strong front wheel drive division, Matthew Eley Jr. was the fastest qualifier (14.781). Ben Wilcox holds the record (set in 2021) with a time of 14.777. All drivers were placed into a feature race based on their qualifying time.

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The 20-lap 'D' feature got off to a rough start with the caution flag flying before the cars cleared turn one. That wasn't the last time it flew but, in the end, it was Marq Eaton (left), who took the lead six laps into the race and then held off all challengers. Brandy Emerson was the runner-up followed by Tyler Vanderhoff, Bryce Trinklein and Ryan Hufford. Finishing a lap down to round out the top 10 were Chet Losey, Doug Adams, Ethan Emerson, Rodney Archer and Patrik Hare.



Brian Reames (left) crossed the finish line first in the 25-lap 'C' feature. Austin McKee led for the first 16 laps and fought to regain the lead but was sent to the tail of the field with 2 laps remaining. Bailey Pauwels crossed the finish line next followed by Chaz Weage, Ed Clawson and DJ LaPlace; Eric Mepyans was sixth with John Gonzales, John Rupe, Jordan McDowell, Duane Crum and Amanda Weatherwax rounding out the top 10.



Matt Elsey (left) started from the front row and had the car to hold the lead for the remainder of the 25-lap 'B' feature. Kodee Thompson and Ryan Diamond made valiant runs but couldn't score the win. Thompson was the runner-up followed by Bruce Wilson, Ryan Diamond and Drew Hosner. The second half of the top 10 ran Daniel Abercrombie, Tod Watson, Andrew Weage, Anthony Kiser and Wes Allen.

In the first (and only) caution-free race of the night, it was Ben Wilcox (top left on next page) winning the 30-lap FWD Super Shoe Nationals title. Ira Hosner took the early lead and kept it for 10 laps before Wilcox moved into the lead. Both Matthew Elsey Jr. and Dave Leonard Jr. made it a race, but it was Ben Wilcox making it two Super Shoe titles in a row when the checkered flag flew. Matthew Elsey Jr. was the runner-up followed by Dave Leonard Jr., Paul Bittle and Ryan Osborne. Gavin McGuffey topped the second half of the order followed by Rodney Russell II, Ira Hosner, Corey Holtzlander with Sheldon Lindlag completing the top 10.



Adam Terry, the 2019 Outlaw Super Late Model champion, qualified fastest (12.799) amongst the 81 competitors in the rear wheel division. Mike Brooks set the Super Shoe speed record (12.565) in this division in 2013. Like the front wheel drives, this division was also divided into four features.

Left: Ben Wilcox, FWD Super Shoe Nationals champion.



The dreaded black flag flew for a few drivers in the 25-lap 'D' feature for breakout violations. Jack Cook had the dubious honor of breaking out twice, the second time costing him the win. That gave Bobby Bering Jr. the win; Bering Jr. had been steadily moving through the field over the course of the race. Jeremy Cronenwett finished second followed by John Culp, Dave Sensiba, Ryan Westfall, William Waldon, Rick Roach, Tyler Casper, DJ Provost and Todd Smith.



Ricky LaDuke (2022 Street Stock Champion) showed why he's the Street Stock champion in winning the 30-lap 'C' feature. Starting in 15th place he moved to the lead with 12 laps remaining. Ken Kirby was the runner-up, followed by Danny Oxford, Tom Sprague, Corey Woods, Adam Van Avery, Calvin Kelley, Cody Lollar, Joe Gonzales and Rick Davis wrapping up the top 10.



A number of drivers gave Josh Trammell (left) a workout in the 35-lap 'B' feature, but Trammell prevailed. Matt Sullivan was runner-up with Gage Harris, Caleb Barron and Greg Studt finishing in the top five. In the second half of the order it was Billy Rumbaugh, Jeremy Vanderhoff, Scott Rugg, Jonathan Rangel and Tommy Burke completing the top 10.



A jubilant Billy Shannon (left), the 2022 season champion in the Template Late Models, added the 2022 Super Shoe Nationals title to his resume. Shannon also earned the 1995 Template championship. Shannon's drive to the checkered flag was a masterful performance from a 12th place starting position. Zack Cook mounted a formidable challenge half way through the 50-lap feature and Adam Terry made a run later in the race before retiring following a front stretch crash with four laps to go. Cook was the runner-up, followed by Nick Pressler, Bobby Schisler and Rich Boal. Bryce Bozell, Thomas O'leary, Ron Allen, Adam Terry and Justin Lanting finished in the top 10.



Above: Live music (generously provided by Tim Horvath); golf carts were everywhere; Nathan Koester with a pal and a Saturday night party scene.



FAST, FAMILY FUN FOR 72 YEARS

photos by A. Fisher

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