

# KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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## TRACK TALK

JULY 10, 2023

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### JULY 14 🏁 THE MODS ARE BACK!



Those 4J Trucking open-wheel, bad-boy mods return to race for a \$5,000 to win purse! Also on the card are the Engine Pro Vintage Modifieds, the Crown Vics plus the O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw Front Wheel Drives and the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock.

It's a Big Money night for the Outlaw FWD (\$500 to win sponsored by Honor Credit Union) and the Zoo Stock (\$400 to win sponsored by Howe Patio & Windows).

FRIDAY, JULY 14	
Pits Open	2:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	2:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$18
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM
We will see YOU at the races!	



## JULY 15 🏁 AUTOMODIFIED DRIFT EVENT

On July 15, **AutoMODIFIED** will be on hand for their open drifting event. Ticket windows and the pits open at noon and the track is hot from 2:00 – 9:00 PM. Experienced and non-experienced drivers are welcome! Adult grandstands are \$5; kids 12 and under are FREE. A food truck will be onsite. Drift events are rain or shine!



## JULY 21 🏁 WEEKLY RACING

FRIDAY, JULY 21	
Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

It's been since June 2 since we've had the four weekly classes racing on a single night! On tap for July 21 are the Hutcherson Construction Late Models racing for \$1,200 to win, the Techworks Street Stock, the Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stock.

July 21 is also the rescheduled Dare to be Different Autism Awareness Race with a prime purse of \$1,000 to win and \$300 to start.



### Dare to be Different Race Sponsors

- Finish Line Fabrication ■ Aunt Millie's Bakeries
- Willis Law ■ Tina Lewis ■ Andy Jach ■ Dan Rigoni
- Jason Seltzer ■ CW Motorsports ■ Monroe Motorsports
- Flowers Automotive & Recyclers ■ Residential Opportunities
- (Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research)

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## JULY 8 🏁 KALAMAZOO KLASH RECAP

Over 4,000 people came out on July 8 to catch 250 laps of pure racing. It's only comes once a year: It's the Kalamazoo Klash. Fans who were onsite have spoken and it was all good, hard racing for the Outlaw Super Late Models, the Late Models and the Street Stock.



The **Street Stock** boasted 38 cars with Kyle VanSparrentak taking fast time during single lap qualifying with a lap speed of 14.812 (91.142 MPH). (Pictured at left with Gary Howe, Kalamazoo Speedway Promoter/Manager, receiving his Street Stock fast time award.) In the Last Chance race, 18 drivers competed. Jerry Ballard, starting at the pole position was a strong contender, along with Dave Leonard Jr., Shane Miller, Zach Westdorp and Keith Wilfong. Third place starter Zach Westdorp made his move and took the lead about half way through the 30-lap race. At the finish line, it was Zach Westdorp (pictured below) and Keith Wilfong (runner-up) advancing.



With the addition of Westdorp and Wilfong, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Raber's Street Stock Rumble, sponsored by Performance Plus Auto & Fabrication, had a field of 22 cars for the 50-lap Rumble. Tyler Hufford bolted to the front from his front row starting position when the field went green. Curtis Towne and Colin Bozell made their plays early on. Fifteen laps into the race, Curtis Towne was in the lead followed by Zach Westdorp, Kyle Ribble, Ricky LaDuke and Jeff Town. A few cautions later, with 20 laps remaining, Westdorp still lead, followed by LaDuke, Ribble, Town and Austin Maynard; Brock

Ganus lurked in 6<sup>th</sup> place. The last 10 laps saw Ricky LaDuke and Brandon Zachary exchanging the lead with the #70 of Andy Rutherford bouncing between second and third with Ganus. It was the classic Street Stock nose to tail, door to door racing with Ricky LaDuke (above) pulling out the win over Brandon Zachary. Andy Rutherford finished third, followed by Brock Ganus and Kyle Ribble. Jeff Town led off the second half of the order followed by Jeremy Young, Tyler Hufford, Austin

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Maynard and Zach Westdorp in a great finish having raced his way into the big race via the Last Chance Race. All drivers were on the lead lap and were separated by 4.052 seconds 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> place.

Chris Shannon drove to the top of the 24-driver leaderboard in **Late Model** qualifying with a time of 13.819 (97.692 MPH). (Pictured at right) Andy Bozell, starting in the front row along with Tanner Jack, burst out to the early lead with Kenny Head moving into second place with 70 of the 75 laps remaining. A series of cautions shook up the field throughout the race (below right cars line up after a madhouse restart). Head took the lead following a caution with 65 laps remaining and held the lead through several more. With 40 laps remaining, it was still Head in the lead with Jerry Pierman in second, followed by Andy Bozell, Jeff Ganus and Chris Shannon. Five laps later Ganus had gotten around Bozell, Tanner Jack took the 5<sup>th</sup> position pushing Chris Shannon to 6<sup>th</sup>. Head still lead with 30 to go but two laps later Ganus moved around him and led with Head and Bozell trading for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Several cautions with under 15 laps to go had veteran Ganus off to a strong restart with equally experienced driver Head right there. Bozell had moved back into 3<sup>rd</sup>. Caution with 6 laps remaining pitted Ganus and Bozell against each other. Bozell (right with grandkids Bryce Bozell and Mason Metzger both of whom race at Kalamazoo Speedway) got around Ganus with 5 remaining and took the checkered. Jeff Ganus was the runner-up, followed by Jerry Pierman, Chris Shannon, AJ Foote, Nick Pressler, Billy Shannon, Lucas Krick (who gets honorable mention for the most torn up car racing), Keegan Sobilo and Tanner Jack. Kenny Head suffered a tire going down and though he finished on the lead lap, he'd slipped to 12<sup>th</sup> place.



The night's finale was the running of Kalamazoo Klash XXXI for the **Outlaw Super Late Models** and that \$15,000 purse.



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Mark Shook, the runner-up in the 2022 Klash, took fast time of the 24 cars qualifying (12.431 (108.599 MPH). Pictured on the previous page throwing the dice for the inversion and with Gary Howe (left) receiving his fast time award.

Jeff Ganus, from the pole position, compliments of Mark Shook's roll of the dice, jumped out to the early lead, with Rick Senneker in the number two spot. With 10 laps in, Ganus (the 2015 Klash winner) was lapping the field; Adam Terry (runner-up 2019) had moved into second with Senneker slipping to third, the 2011 and 2022 Klash winner, Phil Bozell, in 4<sup>th</sup> and Brian Bergakker rounding out the top 5. Bergakker was the Klash runner-up in 2014, 2015 and 2018

and claimed fast time in 2021. Bergakker was on a mission and began serious challenges to Ganus, prevailing with 100 laps remaining. Ganus continued to challenge with Phil Bozell looking to repeat his 2022 win, Adam Terry looking for his first win and Andy Bozell looking to tie Terry Senneker's record of five Klash wins (Senneker also has 4 fast times). Bozell has been the runner-up four times and claimed fast time once).



Mark Shook pitted during a caution with just under 100 laps remaining returning at the tail of the lead lap, almost a full half lap behind the leader. Bergakker continued to dominate the field, skillfully handling restarts following cautions. Lapped traffic to contend with, will tires hold up, will a tangle of cars ruin chances of finally a win? Mark Shook with a fast car and having come so close last year was on a mission of his own. With 75 laps remaining, he'd moved into 7<sup>th</sup> place and then proceeded to catch and pass those standing between him and the leader. With 50 laps remaining he moved into third with only Phil Bozell and leader Bergakker standing in his way. Caution flew with 38 laps remaining with Bergakker, Bozell and Shook all out strongly. Bergakker, while Bozell and Shook battled it out for second, posted a healthy lead. With 30 to go, Shook claimed the second position. His tires allowed him to hold the second position but it was, at long last, Bergakker's night and win. Shook finished in the runner-up position a half a second behind with Phil Bozell finishing in third. Andy Bozell finished in 4<sup>th</sup> followed by Adam Terry, Scott Hantz, Jeff Ganus, TK Whitman, Rick Senneker and Matt Frazier rounding out the top 10. Congratulations to all the drivers (pictured on the next page) who came out for Kalamazoo Klash XXXI.



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The 2023 drivers running in the Klash: From left to right. Sarah Maxwell (Speedway Race Operations Manager), Rick Senneker, Jeff Ganus, Harold Fair, Jr., Craig Everage, Michael Thayer, Andy Bozell, Matt Frazier, Brian Bergakker, Monte Tolan, Mike Williams, Rick Hahn Jr., Hunter Smith, Scott Hantz, Nick Larabee, Gary Howe (Promoter/Race Director). Front row: Phil Bozell, TK Whitman, Adam Terry, Steve Needles, Buddy Head, Zack Cook, Doug True and Paul Jakubik. (Not pictured: Matt Sullivan who crashed during practice)



**Raber's Street Stock Rumble**



**General Event Sponsor**



**Trophy Sponsor**



The complete set of Klash photos will be posted on the Speedway website by July 16.



**Fast, Family Fun for 73 Years**

Photos A. Fisher

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