

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

est. 1950

TRACK TALK

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

IN THIS EDITION

- 🏁 SEPTEMBER 8 OFF WEEK – NO RACING
- 🏁 SEPTEMBER 16 NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION
- 🏁 SEPTEMBER 22-24 COMPETITION DRIFTING
- 🏁 SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1 SUPER SHOE
- 🏁 SEPTEMBER 1 RACING RECAP



SEPTEMBER 16 🏁 THE LEGENDARY NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Pits Open	1:00 PM
Participant Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Participant Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	11:00 AM
Adult Grandstand	\$25
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:00 PM



It's the Legendary Night of Destruction and it's almost here! Saturday, September 16.

Tickets are only available at the ticket windows at the track. Ticket windows open on September 16 at 11:00. Blankets to save seats are allowed with proof of a paid ticket. Skyboxes are sold out.

Participants! Registration forms and events where we could use YOU are posted on the home page of the website under Legendary Night of Destruction.

There's a pit party in the infield (no pit pass required) from 4:00 – 6:30 PM. The National Guard will have a display up on the midway. Check out the Event Schedule on the next page.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

TICKET WINDOWS OPEN	11:00 AM
PIT GATES OPEN	1:00 PM
PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION CLOSES (PIT GATE)	5:00 PM
DRIVERS' MEETING	5:15 PM
PIT PARTY IN THE INFIELD (NO PIT PASS NEEDED)	4:00 – 6:30 PM
NATIONAL ANTHEM	6:55 PM
PROGRAM	7:00 PM
Stacker Car Races	
Tough Trucks' Obstacle Course	
Drift Cars	
Semi-Trucks Race	
Trailer Race	
INTERMISSION	
Train Race	
Skid Plate Race	
Tough Trucks' Send it Challenge	
Bus Race	
FIREWORKS	



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

SEPTEMBER 22-24 🏁🏁 COMPETITION DRIFTING (LEASED EVENT)



It's the second (and final) competition drifting event for 2023.

Friday, September 22 is an all-day practice session. Competitions run on Saturday and Sunday (September 23-24).

The \$240 driver fee includes the driver, one team member plus the camping fee for the three-day event. If not participating for the full three-days, there is a \$100 driver fee for each day.

Drivers spending the night, even if only participating on one day, will pay a \$25 camping fee. Drivers should provide their fees via PayPal in advance.

Adult pit passes are \$20; youth 12 and under are FREE. Adult grandstand tickets are \$5; youth 12 and under are FREE. Limited skybox rentals are available. (To rent contact Kalamazoo Speedway directly [269.355.4628])

Drivers (and passenger) must wear a helmet. Harness & seat belts must be worn. A fire extinguisher must be mounted in each car within easy reach. Convertibles must have a hard top or roll bar.

Message AutoMODIFIED on Facebook or call 269.841.2264. Drifting events are rain or shine!

SEPTEMBER 29- OCTOBER 1 🏁🏁 SUPER SHOE XXXVI

All information about Super Shoe is on www.kalamazoospeedway.com. Look for the Super Shoe post.

Campers from 2022 have until September 8 (an extra two days) to claim (and pay) for their 2023 campsites.



Unclaimed campsites may then be rented by others who want them. Upper or 3rd pit rentals will be taken until they're gone. \$100 per pit stall. There are plenty of pit stalls in the infield; these are available at no charge.

Modifieds and Crown Vics. Sixteen (16) cars need to be registered (with registration fee paid) to have your own classes. Call 269.355.4628 to register no later than September 8.

Questions? Email barbara@kalamazoospeedway.com or gary@kalamazoospeedway.com.

SEPTEMBER 1 🏁🏁 RACE RECAP

The regular season came to a close on a gorgeous night. Leslie Stuller sang the National Anthem, Jack Goodrich offered the Invocation, Jason Seltzer was announcing and we were off to the races. By the end of the night, the Zoo Stock and the Outlaw FWD classes saw a first time, teen-aged Kalamazoo Speedway champion and the Street Stock and the Late Models recognized champions whose last championships were close to the turn of the century! (And still have youth on their side!)

The **Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock** put up 36 cars for the final Zoo Stock race of the regular season with Ryan Osborne putting up fast-time of 16.704 (80.819 MPH). Let's give a big shout out to Spartan Insulation for their season long support of this class and to Howe Patio & Windows for sponsoring the six \$400 purse nights (including tonight).



Scott Monroe, in his first appearance this season, won Heat #1. Joel Areaux claimed Heat #2 and Kylee Letts repeated last week's heat win with another win this week. This was her second race of the season and she's two for two.



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK



Clockwise: Zoo Stock heat winners. Scott Monroe, Joel Areaux and Kylee Letts.

Jeremiah Bouma had the distinction of breaking out (going faster than his adjusted qualifying time) in his heat race and then again in the Zoo Stock 'B' feature having shot out to the lead. Even with the penalty lap drive through the infield he managed a 6th place finish on the lead lap. By lap seven, Cory Kruzel had wrested the lead from Bouma. Surviving a caution with a couple of laps remaining, Cory Kruzel got the win. The runner-up was Bo Brady (making his first appearance of the season) followed by Anthony Foote, Keith Hentschel and Phoebe Hosner. Leading off the second half of the order, was Joel Areaux, JJ Brooks, Jeremiah Bouma, Travis Petto and Terry Kline (driving his not so peppy enduro car); all finished on the lead lap.



Right, Bo Brady, Cory Kruzel and Anthony Foote. Below, Cory Kruzel and his group.



Would he, or wouldn't he? That was the burning question. Would Matthew Eelsey Jr. run two laps under the fastest time allowable in the Zoo Stock class and be disqualified for a fourth consecutive year or were the stars aligned right for him this year to pick up his first Zoo Stock championship? An M. Eelsey DID get disqualified for that reason, but this year it was dad, Matt Eelsey, quipping after the race that he was just keeping it in the family. CJ French took the early lead in



TRACK TALK

TRACK TALK

TRACK TALK



the Zoo Stock 'A' feature. Dave Miller and Ed Clawson set their sights on French (both in their first Zoo Stock point races of the season) and worked their way through the field with Miller taking the lead with under five to go. Dave Miller picked up the win, CJ French was the runner-up with Ed Clawson finishing third. Rielly Meade followed in fourth place, then Eric Mepyans, Charles Anderson, Christina Rantz, Ryan Osborne (in his first appearance of the season), Matthew Elsey Jr and Mason May wrapping up the top 10; all on the lead lap. Matthew Elsey Jr. earned the Zoo Stock season championship. Scott Elsey was the runner-up (-93), then CJ French (-139), Mason May (-157) and Charles Anderson (-208).

Above left, Ed Clawson, CJ French and Dave Miller. Opposite, the Dave Miller clan. Below. Matthew Elsey Jr. 2023 Season Champion Zoo Stock.

And with that we were up to the O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWDs. We appreciate class sponsor



O'Reilly Auto Parts and Honor Credit Union for their sponsorship of the six \$500 purse nights; this evening being one of them.



Honor
CREDIT UNION

Matthew Elsey Jr. was the fastest in practice with a 15.310. He went on to take fast time in single car qualifying with a 15.258 (88.478 MPH). And, he took Heat #1. Eric Mepyans (also driving in his usual Zoo Stock class) won the second heat with both Dave Leonard Jr. and Caitlin Tomlinson breaking out. In the front wheel drives it was Matthew Elsey Jr.'s night. With a Zoo Stock season championship added to his resume minutes before, he also won the feature in the Outlaws. He had such a commanding lead in the point in this class that he could have sat home and still walked away with the championship. Bryson Hosner took the early lead in the feature. Wayne Stack took a turn leading the pack before Elsey Jr. moved into his familiar position at the head of the class. Nick Failing gave him a good run but it was Elsey Jr.'s night. Dad, Matt Elsey, having graduated from the Zoo Stock earlier in the night, ran in the Outlaw FWD feature and was lapped (twice) by his son. At the finish line Matthew Elsey Jr. had another feature win on his resume, Nick Failing was the runner-up followed by Dave Leonard Jr. and Wayne Stack all finishing on the lead lap. Chris Elwell finished fifth, followed by Bryan Gates, Bryson Hosner, Eric Mepyans, Matt Elsey (-2) and Caitlin Tomlinson (-2) who broke out for a second time. (Photos on next page)



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK



Above left, Matthew Eley Jr. Outlaw FWD feature winner, above, Nick Failing (2nd place), Eley Jr. and Dave Leonard Jr. (3rd place) in the feature. Opposite, Matthew Eley Jr. and his family and supporters celebrating his first season championship in the Outlaw FWDs.

Let's start off with thanking the Street Stock class sponsor, Techworks Trailer Sales and the

Street Stock sponsor of the six \$1,000 to win purse nights.

Kyle Ribble was the fastest in the **Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock** practice with a time of 14.996 and then, in single car qualifying, was at the top of the leaderboard again with a time of 14.942 (90.349 MPH). The Streets put up two first time 2023 winners in the heat races: Shane Miller (below left) and Rob Hardy (below right), neither strangers to the Speedway.



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

In the 35-lap feature, Bubba Brooks went out to the lead before caution flew 2 laps into the race. Brooks picked up where he left off and continued in the lead with Rob Hardy, Danny Oxford and Keith Wilfong behind him. Ricky LaDuke had been moving up the field along with Kyle Ribble (with the #25's distinctive thrum that makes it heard before it's seen) and Kyle VanSparrentak who was further back in the field. With 20 laps remaining, LaDuke had taken the lead and with 15 remaining had quite the lead over Kyle VanSparrentak who'd moved into second with Kyle Ribble behind him. Ribble made it around VanSparrentak with 8 laps remaining but a caution put VanSparrentak back to the runner-up position. When the checkered flag flew it was Ricky LaDuke, Kyle VanSparrentak, Kyle Ribble, Zach Westdorp (in another strong finish) and Shane Miller in the top five. Danny Oxford headed up the second half of the order followed by Bubba Brooks, Nick Stremme, Keith Wilfong and Chad VanSparrentak. Kyle VanSparrentak won the Season Championship followed by defending champion Ricky LaDuke (-71) and Kyle Ribble (-100).



Clockwise. Ricky LaDuke Street Stock feature winner, Kyle Ribble (third place feature), Kyle VanSparrentak (2023 Season Champion), Ricky LaDuke and his group. VanSparrentak won the Late Model Season Championship in both 2002 and 2003.

And then we were one race away from the end of the 2023 regular race season at Kalamazoo Speedway. Coming into tonight, the **Hutcherson Construction Late Model** class boasted the tightest contest for the season championship, Lucas Krick having a 45 point lead over Kenny Head.



Thank you to Hutcherson Construction for sponsoring the class and the \$1,200 purse nights, tonight being the last of the six.



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

Billy Yates was the fastest in practice putting up a time of 14.161. Kenny Head scored the top speed in single car qualifying with a 13.958 (96.719) cutting into Krick's point lead. Like Kyle VanSparrentak, Krick hasn't earned a season championship recently. He has a 2004 Late Model championship to his credit as well as a Street Stock Championship (2003). Ironically, in 2003, Kyle VanSparrentak was the Late Model champion. Krick could have played it safe in the race and won the championship but he went for the win and finished the season with a win in the 40-lap feature and his third season championship.

Jorden Brinkert set the pace initially. Brent Drobny then took a turn at the front. Kenny Head and Rick Senneker starting from the 14th and 15th positions were both charging to the front. Senneker made it to third with 35 laps remaining and to second with 32 laps remaining while Billy Shannon took the lead from Drobny. Head was on a similar burn making the top five. Lucas Krick cracked the top 6 with 34 laps left. showing as remaining. With 28 laps left he rounded Jorden Brinkert to move into 5th place. Senneker took the lead with 21 laps remaining. Krick and Head were trying to lay claim to third place. Following a caution with 12 remaining, Senneker drove to a strong restart and Krick and Shannon were door to door fighting for second place. Sparks were evident under Krick's car. A couple more cautions and this time it was Krick with the stronger restart and he rounded Senneker. With three remaining it was Krick, Senneker, Head, AJ Foote and Billy Yates. And the position changes weren't complete. When the checkered waved, Lucas Krick had won the feature and the 2023 Season Championship, AJ Foote was the feature runner-up, Rick Senneker finished third followed by Jorden Brinkert and Billy Yates. Brent Drobny led off the second half of the order, Billy Shannon followed, then Kenny Head, Keegan Sobilo and Jared Blanchard; all finished on the lead lap.

Kenny Head finished 69 points behind Krick (chasing his 5th Championship). The defending Late Model champion, Billy Shannon, finished 100 points out.

Right, Lucas and Gina Krick celebrate the feature and championship win. Below, the Krick group.



Fast, Family Fun for 73 years

TRACK TALK

TRACK TALK

TRACK TALK