

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

est. 1950

TRACK TALK

April 24, 2024

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FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024: INTIMIDATOR 100 (\$5,000 to win).

FRIDAY, APRIL 26	
Pits Open	2:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	2:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$20
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

DON'T MISS the 24th running of the Intimidator 100. Joining the Howe Patio Outlaw Super Late Models are the Techworks Trailers Street Stock and the Front Wheel Drives. O'Reilly Auto Parts sponsors the FWD-Outlaw division and Spartan Insulation sponsors the FWD-DOT.



Thank you for patronizing our great 2024 class sponsors!



Gary Howe bought the track in 2001 shortly before Dale Earnhardt lost his life during the last lap of the 2001 Daytona 500. In honor of Earnhardt, the inaugural Intimidator 100 was run in 2001. (For the purists out there, in 1999 and 2000, former owner, Marty Jones, ran the Are the Nuts and Bolts Tight 100.)

Who takes home the \$5,000 to win Intimidator 100 trophy in 2024?

Intimidator 100 Honor Roll

YEAR	WINNER
2024	
2023	Brian Bergakker
2022	Tyler Roahrig
2021	Tyler Roahrig
2020	Track closed due to COVID
2019	Adam Terry
2018	Jeff Ganus
2017	Tyler Roahrig
2016	Tyler Roahrig
2015	Brian Bergakker
2014	Mike "Bubba" Brooks
2013	Steve Needles
2012	Steve Needles
2011	Phil Bozell
2010	Terry Senneker Jr.
2009	Terry Senneker Jr.
2008	Andy Bozell
2007	Brandon Lyons
2006	Fred Campbell
2005	Tom Thomas
2004	Tom Thomas
2003	Rick Sexton
2002	Tim DeVos
2001	Todd Currier

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MAY 3, 2024: WEEKLY RACING.

Friday, May 3	
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
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

THE FOUR weekly classes are back in action on Friday, May 3. Don't miss the AFC Metal Supply Late Models, Honor Credit Union Limited Late Models, the Techworks Trailers Street Stock and the Front Wheel Drives sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts (FWD-Outlaws) and Spartan Insulation (FWD-DDT).



APRIL 27-28: OPEN DRIFTING WEEKEND. (Leased event)

THE FIRST of three multi-day **AutoMODIFIED Drift Club** events is this weekend. Thus far the open drifting events are off to a smashing start. The pits have been full and the grandstand crowd is growing.

Ticket windows (pits and grandstands) open at noon; the track is hot from 2:00 - 9:00 PM. Adult grandstand tickets are \$5; 12 and under are free. General pit passes are \$20. Rain in the forecast? No worries! Drifting is a rain or shine event. Experienced and new drifters welcome.



APRIL 12: OPEN PRACTICE RECAP

A quick word about the April 12 Open Practice session before we over a few more words about the Season Opener. A nice showing of cars showed up to tune and test. In the Outlaw Limited Late Models, young Bryce Bozell posted the fastest time with a 13.511 lap speed (99.919 mph). Dave Leonard Jr. posted the fastest time of any of the Front Wheel Drives with a 15.084 (89.499 mph). Billy Shannon led the pack in the Late Model class putting up a time of 14.046 (96.113 mph) and Alex Sexton came out with determination in the Street Stock boasting a 15.007 lap speed (89.958). A few guest classes took to the track with Phil Bozell posting a 12.814 (105.354 mph) in the Outlaw Super Late Models.

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APRIL 19: 74th SEASON OPENER RECAP

Kalamazoo Speedway fans showed up despite the chilly temperatures for the 74th Season Opener. The brand spanking new PA system got accolades! Can you hear us now? YES! All bleacher boards are now aluminum. This was the 3rd Annual Dare to be Different Race for Autism. We lost Jack Goodrich over the off-season and his sons Doug and Todd offered the invocation and sang the National Anthem in his place.

Fast dash races for all classes started off the night (the 4 top qualifiers race racing 4 laps) to earn the checkered flag) followed by features, features, features! The Late Models ran for \$1,500 to win while the rest of the classes were racing for \$1,000 to win.

Picking up where he left off, defending champion, Matthew Eelsey Jr., was the fastest qualifier in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Front Wheel Drive - Outlaws with a time of 14.856 (90.872 MPH). He went on to win the Fast Car Dash (right). The feature had 15 cars slated to start. Ira Hosner shot out to an early lead before incurring a breakout time violation. That set the stage for Dave Leonard Jr. to take the lead with Matthew Eelsey Jr. close behind. A caution with 14 laps remaining set up a restart where Matthew Eelsey Jr. wrested the lead from Leonard Jr. with 12 laps remaining. At the checkered it was Eelsey Jr, followed by Leonard Jr., Matt Eelsey Sr., Chris Elwell and Drew Hosner pushing Scott Gates to 6th. For the second half of the order it was Scott Gates, Tyler May, Eric Mepyans, Marcus Starnes and young Mason Metzger.

Right: Matt Eelsey Sr, winner Matthew Eelsey Jr., mom Christina Rantz and sister Chloe.



The **Honor Credit Union Outlaw Limited Late Models** made their feature debut after an absence of 18 years. Jeff Ganus qualified with a 13.213 lap speed (102.172 MPH) and followed that up with a win in the Fast Car Dash (skipping a Victory Lane photo). Paul Jakubik and Louis Miller (formerly Outlaw Super Late Model drivers) led the field to green in the 25-lap feature. Jeff Ganus moved to the lead handily and 12 year-old Bryce Bozell parked himself in the runner-up position. At the checkered it was Jeff Ganus (left) picking up another win at Kalamazoo Speedway, followed by Bryce Bozell, Josh Trammell, A.J. Foote and newcomer Cody Hawn rounding out the top five.

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The **Techworks Trailer Street Stock** saw Jeff Town at the top of the leaderboard in qualifying with a time of 14.837 (90.989). Defending champion Kyle VanSparrentak (right) drove to the win in the Fast Dash. The Street Stock ran a 35-lap feature with a full field of 25 cars. Zach Westdorp and Madison Snyder led the field to green. Westdorp took the early lead while the field sorted out behind him. Defending champion Kyle VanSparrentak starting 9th, had moved to third place with 24 to go. A caution with 21 laps remaining saw Mike Zordan take the lead for a couple of laps before Kyle VanSparrentak moved to the head of the pack. The yellow flag waved a few times with five laps to go and flew again with 2 laps remaining. VanSparrentak had the lead with Brock Ganus in pursuit. Appearing as if VanSparrentak would start the season where he left off, Ganus changed that through hard racing and moved into the lead with Mike Zordan on his tail. Ricky LaDuke and Jeff Town had also been holding their own throughout the race. At the checkered (blink and you missed it), it was Brock Ganus (right) getting the win, Kyle VanSparrentak in the runner-up position, with Mike Zordan, Jeff Town and Ricky LaDuke wrapping up the top five. The second half of the order started with Alex Sexton, Zach Westdorp, Dave Leonard Jr. (running in two classes this evening), Danny Oxford and Kyle Ribble.



In the **AFC Metal Supply Late Models**, Jerry Pierman had the fastest car on the property with a time of 13.868 (97.346) MPH. Kenny Head took the Fast Dash win (right). For the 30-lap feature, Chris Garrett shot out to the early lead before Nick Pressler passed him with 22 laps remaining. Pressler's lead was short-lived as Billy Shannon made his move to take the lead with 19 remaining. Meanwhile Kenny Head was driving and moved into third. With 14 laps remaining a crash in turn 3 took Rick Senneker, Nick Pressler and Bill Tomlinson out of the race. When back to green, Billy Shannon resumed his lead until 3 laps to go when a persistent Jerry Pierman got around him and took the checkered flag for the first Late Model race of the season. Billy Shannon was the runner-up followed by teammate Jared Blanchard, Kenny Head and Chris Garrett. Taylor Sexton led off the second half of the order followed by 12 year old Mason Metzger (both on the lead lap) then Jorden Brinker, Nick Pressler and Rick Senneker.



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The Dare to Be Different Race for Autism, Spartan Front Wheel Drive-DOT division, purse sponsored by Finish Line Fabricating brought out 32 cars to vie for the \$1,000 to win purse and the 6 foot tall trophy. Terry Humphreys was the top qualifier with a time of 16.355 (82.544 MPH) (yes, done is the speed limit for the FWD-DOT drivers). He followed up being on top of the leaderboard with a win in the Fast Car Dash (right).



Fifteen drivers attempted to finish in the top four in a 15-lap Last Chance race in order to advance to the Dare to Be Different feature. Terry Kline won the Last Chance race. To the right, Kenny Wright, promoter for the Dare to Be Different FWD-DOT race, presents Terry Kline with the Last Chance trophy. Also advancing were John Rupe, Louie Lohrke and Eric Rabb.



In the 35-lap feature, Hannah Zwart took the early lead. With 28 laps remaining she gave up the lead to Terry Humphreys. Behind the leader, Scott Elsey, Gunner Gale, Desmond Watkins and Rielly Meade were vying for position. With seven laps remaining caution flew. Humphreys retained the lead while with three laps remaining, Watkins had passed Scott Elsey. Bo Brady had also entered the top 5 gunning to move up in the field. At the checkered it appeared as though Terry Humphreys had won the race. Unfortunately, there was a tire violation and he was disqualified. Scott Elsey was the winner, followed by Desmond Watkins, Rielly Meade, Bo Brady and Jason Lee. Gunner Gales led off the second half of the order followed by Mike Currier, Ethan Emerson, Kenny Wright and JJ Brooks. Last Chance race winner, Terry Kline, came in a respectable 13th. Rielly Meade left the track from his third place finish with a shredded tire.



We'll see you back at the track for the Intimidator 100 on Friday April 26!



FAST, FAMILY FUN for 74 YEARS

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