








# KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK April 11, 2018



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**OPENING NIGHT – BE THERE!**

## OPEN PRACTICES

Really? Sunday morning treated us to sub-20 degree weather. Monday it was snowing so hard US 131 was moving slower than one of the Kalamazoo Speedway golf carts! It's time to go racing and it's time for spring to make an appearance!

This Saturday's open practice is looking a bit weather-grim at this point, but hope springs eternal! Keep an eye on the Speedway website and Facebook. For automatic alerts, sign up by clicking on the RACETEXT box on the homepage of the website.

Come on out, what have you got to lose? No charge for the grandstands.

Saturday, April 14 (1:00 – 5:00)

Saturday, April 21 (1:00 – 5:00)



Need a current 2018 race schedule? There is a printable schedule on the website and the pocket schedules will be available in local shops and trackside shortly.



<http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com/schedule/>

## SEASON OPENER

The 2018 season kicks off on Friday, April 27 at 7:30 PM. Pits open at 3:00. We've streamlined the age groups to make ticket purchases easier. Adults are considered 13 and up, kids are 6-12 and kids 5 and under are still free. Pit passes are \$30.



All of the five Kalamazoo Speedway classes will be racing at the season opener with a couple of special features on tap for the night. The Midwest Compact Touring Series will race with the Outlaw FWDs in a \$1,000 to win feature. The \$2,500 to win GT Products Intimidator 100 for the Outlaw Super Late Models will close out the night. Will Tyler Roahrig make it 3 consecutive Intimidator 100 wins in a row? Will Mark Shook get off to a fast start in his quest for a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Season Championship?

Our thanks to our sponsor for the 2018 Intimidator 100, GT Products. GT Products was established in January 2003 occupying a 2,000 square foot warehouse in Royalton Township, Michigan. As a CNC machine shop it focused on machining components for the automotive performance aftermarket industry. In addition to the primary focus of CNC machining, in 2008 GT Products began to work with customers to source products internationally. This has allowed GT Products to offer specialized machining, stampings, extrusions, and castings. With a focus on manufacturing, it also aids in the design and development of new products.



GT Products now occupies a 15,000 square foot facility located in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL KTS TRAINING

Over this past weekend (April 7-8), Kalamazoo Speedway's safety crew, Kalamazoo Track Services (KTS for short) sponsored its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual safety training for over 44 professionals representing 17 tracks and coming from as far away as New York and Wisconsin. The 2-day training was a mix of classroom training as well as field exercises (for instance, extrication training for rollovers). Classroom training included incident responses and addressed various threats including weather, fire and bombs. Thanks to all involved and to WWMT for providing some positive coverage on track events.



Ron Farr, State Fire Marshall, makes a point while Jake Steele, Chief Director of Track Safety, appears to be throttling Plainwell Public Safety Officer Jeff Welcher (actually he's demonstrating a C-Spine extrication technique).

## MEET THE DRIVERS

Cam Barthel is looking forward to the 2018 season of racing at Kalamazoo Speedway. "I'm excited to announce the #76 Zoo Stock will be sponsored this year by St. Julian Winery and Distillery in Paw Paw Michigan. I am hoping to get some wins and finish in the top with the new sponsor on board. Last year I came to Kalamazoo in midseason and finished 9th in points. I'm looking to climb the ladder this year and have fun racing #fastfridays at the Zoo". Barthel's car is slated to be painted and detailed before competing on opening night.



Taylor Imus joins the Kalamazoo Speedway family in a Zoo Stock for 2018. Last year Imus swept the Unrestricted Animal Class Track Championship in the Tuesday Night, Friday Night and Saturday Night Racing Series at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway. She also captured the 2017 Driver of the Year. Imus says she is looking forward to learning the feel of a bigger car and is already wishing it was faster. "I want to keep Ralph (the car) in one piece and learn the line at the track. I want to be competitive but know it's going to be tough with being a rookie." She has her sights set on a track record but knows Ralph isn't as sporty as some of the two door cars she'll be competing against. Imus plans to race at both tracks for one Friday night; something that's never been done before.



Dylan Stovall also met with success at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway in 2017 sweeping all nights of racing in the Heavy 160 Class and earning the Sportsmanship Driver of the Year. Stovall plans to work at "getting comfortable in his Late Model Sportsman car and staying confident". He set a goal of winning a heat race in 2017 and hopes to give Kenny Head a serious run for the money.



## HOT LAPS – FAST FACTS

**Gun Lake Casino.** Just a few miles north of Kalamazoo off US 131, we thank first-time sponsor Gun Lake Casino for their support.



<https://gunlakecasino.com/>



**International Women's Motorsports Association.** Also, a first-time sponsor, the IWMA Nation's mission is to connect and celebrate females of any age, involved in any capacity, with any type of motorsports, now or in the past. Check out their "Send Out Cards".



<https://www.iwmanation.com/>



## TWIST Talk



TWIST Talk Live is a weekly Facebook Live show hosted by Jason Seltzer (track announcer) and Larry Richardson (2017 Outlaw FWD Season Champion). TWIST Talk provides a platform for local tracks to get their information to the fans. It's designed to be a fun and interactive show where fans can learn all about what's going on in the short track racing world. Says Richardson, "No more having to go to multiple websites or Facebook pages to find out the who, what, where, when, and why. We bring it all right to you every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm (EST). Fans can voice their opinions and ask questions to be answered live on air. Future plans include doing driver interviews and shop tours."

To watch, go to TWIST Talk Live on Facebook and hit "like" to receive notifications when shows are about to go live.



<https://www.facebook.com/TWISTTalkLive/>

## Team Spirit Custom Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales

Team Spirit Custom Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales generously donated an enclosed trailer in 2016 and 2017. Raffle tickets were sold with all sales going toward charitable causes. In 2017 the proceeds went to the Speedway's Zoo Kares for Kids program to offer kids (and their families) a memorable Christmas. For an unprecedented 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, Kalamazoo Speedway will be the beneficiary of an enclosed hauler generously donated by Team Spirit and Techworks. As before, all raffle proceeds will go to the Zoo Kares for Kids program. We'll be showing off the hauler shortly. Be sure to express your support and thanks to Walt Obrieski (Techworks Trailer Sales) and Mike Stutzman (Team Spirit Custom Trailers).



<http://techworkstrailers.com/>  
<https://teamspirittrailers.com/>

## Pit Party at the Zoo

The crowd pleasing Bronk Bros. band has been booked to play at the Pit Party at the Zoo on Saturday, September 8 to celebrate the accomplishments of drivers and staff. Awesome!



Photo credits to C. Geer, A. Fisher, featured drivers and K. Head,