

# KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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## TRACK TALK

May 31, 2021

### IN THIS EDITION

- 🚩 JUNE 4 RACING  
KALAMAZOO KLASH &  
RABER'S RUMBLE
- 🚩 IN THE MAKE-READY CHUTE  
JUNE 11 WEEKLY RACING
- 🚩 RACE RECAP – MAY 29

TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK



### JUNE 4, 2021 – KALAMAZOO KLASH XXVIII & RABER'S RUMBLE

<b>KALAMAZOO KLASH XXVIII Raber's Street Stock Rumble FRIDAY, JUNE 4</b>	
<b>Pits Open</b>	<b>12:30 PM</b>
<b>Adult Pit Pass</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Youth Pit Pass (11 &amp; under)</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>All Reserved Seating</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Adult Grandstand</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Youth Grandstand (6-12)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Kids 5 &amp; Under</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Racing Starts</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

We're making up the Kalamazoo Klash that didn't happen last year and it's happening this Friday. That makes TWO Kalamazoo Klash events in 2021 (Kalamazoo Klash XXIX runs on Wednesday, August 18). Sharing the program for the evening of June 4 is the second running of Raber's Street Stock Rumble. And just in time for these premier events, capacity restrictions are lifted! For individuals who want to watch the race from the comfort of a chair with a back and arm rests and knowing exactly what seat they'll be in, we are offering reserved seating on the larger deck. Call 269.355.4628 to make your reservation. Reserved

seating will be sold by phone until 9:30 AM; after this time any remaining seats may be purchased at the ticket windows.

Look for more details on the Speedway website: [www.kalamazoospeedway.com](http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com).



## FRIDAY, JUNE 11 – WEEKLY RACING

### WEEKLY RACING FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Pits Open	3:30 PM
Practice/Qualifying	5:20 PM
Adult Pit Pass (12 and older)	\$30
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand 6-12	\$5
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

On June 11 Kalamazoo Speedway gets back to weekly racing with the Template Late Models, Street Stock, Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stock racing for points. The Outlaw Super Late Models are taking the night off following the Klash.



## RECAP – MAY 29, 2021 AMERICAN SPEED U.S. NATIONALS

Kalamazoo Speedway welcomed the American Speed U.S. Nationals on May 29, 2021. Designed as a two-day event, this Must See Racing leased event was compelled to combine the two days into a single day program when the weather forecast looked ghastly (and was). The Zoo Stock and National Compact Touring Series represented the front wheel drive classes and three open wheel winged classes headlined the program. The event was televised by Speed Sport.

Steadfast for Veterans (Indianapolis) sponsored the opening ceremonies to honor veterans on this Memorial Day weekend. It was a moving experience even for the most stoic in the stands and the pits. Steadfast ([www.steadfastveterans.org](http://www.steadfastveterans.org)), a non-profit, builds homes for homeless veterans throughout the Midwest. Our own Jack Goodrich offered the Invocation and the ceremonies included a Color Guard, Missing Man formation flyover, taps, 21-gun salute, service music played by Ronald Ross on the bagpipes, Morgan Blonde (spouse is Sprint driver Jason Blonde) sang the National Anthem and the ceremonies ended with an additional flyover.



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Matthew Elsey, Jr. was fast qualifier (16.767) for the Zoo Stock. Keegan Letts claimed the first lap in the 25-lap feature. The second lap was a jumble of cars vying for the lead with Drew Hosner coming out on top. Hosner led until 15 laps remained when there wasn't quite enough real estate for everyone to get through the turn. Matt Elsey took a turn at the lead before Nick Failing moved to the head of the pack. Matthew Elsey, Jr., put in a bid for the lead but Failing held him off only to lose the lead to C.J. French late in the race. It was French (next page left) taking the checkered followed by Failing, Elsey, Jr., Sheldon Lindlag and Christina Rantz. Mark Gunthorpe came in 6<sup>th</sup> followed by Ed Mozader, Matt Elsey, Ira Hosner and Bryson Hosner.

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Dave Leonard, Jr. drove to a fast time of 15.170 in the National Compact Touring Series. Ben Wilcox (above right) won the 40-lap Great Lakes Nationals' feature despite a collision with 26 laps left in the race. Both Jake and Pete Doxey made a run on the leader but Wilcox prevailed followed by Jake Doxey, Pete Doxey, Tim Finstad and Carlos Pizarro, who was sent to the tail of the field and shot back into the top five in short order. Chris Harman, Nick Failing, Ben Watson, Bill Kenny, Jr. and Dave Leonard, Sr. finished up the top 10.



The Must See Racing Winged Lights saw Dylan Watson zip to the top of the leaderboard in qualifying (11.758). James Rader and Dylan Watson won the heat races. Joey Wyckoff from Elyria, Ohio, led after lap one in the 25-lap feature and he was still leading 25 laps later, claiming the win. Dylan Watson finished second and Charlie Schultz third.

Troy DeCaire took fast time (11.003) in the Must See Racing Winged Sprints. Tom Geren, Charlie Schultz, and Jason Blonde won the heat races. Jimmy McCune (Toledo, OH), Jason Blonde (Litchfield, MI) and Troy DeCaire (Tampa, FL) finished in the top spots in the 50-lap feature. McCune led for the top half of the feature before Blonde got around him. Following a caution, with 15 laps remaining, McCune executed the restart best and shot back into the lead.

**Jason Blonde, Jimmy McCune and Troy DeCaire**



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Jim Paller drove to a fast time of 11.231 in the Midwest Supermodified Series. Greg Furlong and Jim Paller won the heat races. Kyle Edwards (Bartlett, TN), Jim Paller (Amherst, OH) and A.J. Lesiecki (Erie, MI) finished in the top 3 places in the 35-lap feature that boasted speed as well as a car on fire and a horrific crash when the throttle of Greg Furlong's car stuck slamming him into the retaining walls before finally becoming stationary. Kalamazoo Speedway Track and Safety was immediately at the scene and assisted the still alert driver from the mangled car.

**Jim Paller, Kyle Edwards and A.J. Lesiecki**



**Top: Supermodifieds**

**Above: Perhaps some ideas should not leave the drawing board**



Photos by A. Fisher

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