






Kalamazoo Speedway TRACK TALK April 25, 2018



IT'S TIME TO GO RACING!

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SEASON OPENER THIS FRIDAY

The 2018 season opener is finally here! Friday, April 27 at 7:30 PM.

The Zoo Stocks, Outlaw FWD, Street Stocks, Late Model Sportsman and the Outlaw Super Late Models all take to the track to open the season. We were 101 cars strong at the practice session on Saturday and expect a huge car count at Opener.

As added bonuses at the Opener, we've got the Midwest Compact Touring Series joining the Outlaw FWDs in a \$1,000 to win feature and the \$2,500 GT Products Intimidator 100 for the Outlaw Super Late Models.

Buster Martin (right) has the green flag out and is ready to wave it on Opening Night.

Details: Pits Open 3:00 PM
 Pit Passes \$30
 Adults (13 and up) \$15; Kids (6-12) \$8;
 5 and under FREE
 Racing Starts 7:30 PM



PRACTICE FAST TIMES AND NEW LOOKS

Ridderman Oil has delivered the Dragon racing fuel and 101 cars took advantage of the pre-season testing session. Several drivers have moved up a class or two. A number of cars sported a new look including Keith Wilfong's #75 Street Stock (right). There were some peppy cars out there at practice. Unlike race nights, drivers aren't subject to tech inspections and there are no trophies or a notation in the record book should someone break the record. Regardless of the lack of hardware or being enshrined in the record book, it's a nice confidence booster to run a fast time and it definitely provides some bragging rights. As it happens, Buddy Head flirted a bit with brother Kenny's track record in the Late Model Sportsman. Kenny Head put his name in the record books at the end of the 2012 season and, of the current record holders, has held a track record the longest. Colin Bozell, a novice to racing and driving the speedy Zoo Stock driven last year by younger sister Valerie Bozell, broke Valerie's track record (17.065 seconds) and quickly established himself as someone to watch.



April 21, 2018 Top Ten in Practice

LATE MODELS	SPORTSMAN	STREET STOCKS	OUTLAW FWD	ZOO STOCKS
Tyler Roahrig 00:12.775	Buddy Head 00:13.697	Danny Oxford 00:14.769	Drew Losey 00:15.591	Colin Bozell 00:16.972
Todd Harrington 00:12.814	Chris Shannon 00:13.732	Kyle Ribble 00:14.775	Brandon Sweat 00:15.668	Nick Failing 00:17.437
Mark Shook 00:12.817	Austin Maynard 00:13.740	Keith Wilfong 00:14.837	Doug Smith 00:15.733	Andy Sutton 00:17.702
Andy Bozell 00:12.835	Kenny Head 00:13.750	Greg Brown 00:14.841	Ricky LaDuke 00:15.961	Gabe Garr 00:17.855
Adam Terry 00:12.850	Jeff Vochaska 00:13.775	Brandon Zachary 00:14.877	Brock Sweeter 00:16.048	Cam Barthel 00:17.887
Brian Bergakker 00:12.874	Brandon Zachary 00:13.895	Andy Rutherford 00:14.903	Dave Leonard Jr 00:16.083	Grant Lofquist 00:17.919
Phil Bozell 00:12.876	Jerry Zachary 00:13.986	Zack Cook 00:14.939	Wil Slaughter 00:16.146	Riely Meade 00:17.965
Craig Everage 00:12.918	Shawn Amor 00:13.992	Mike Zordan 00:14.978	Jeremy Young 00:16.239	Renae Letts 00:18.093
Justin Claucherty 00:12.955	Matt Maurer 00:13.997	John Chapman 00:14.997	Matt Searles 00:16.249	Don Porter 00:18.198
Matt Frazier 00:12.959	Denver Sweat 00:14.096	Jerry Pierman 00:15.099	Makena Snyder 00:16.359	Mason May 00:18.258



Clockwise: Colin Bozell will take the wheel of the #11 Zoo Stock; Valerie Bozell moved to the Street Stocks with a car design similar to her last year's Zoo Stock; Kevin Sweat also moved from the Zoo Stocks to the Street Stocks and took a few turns around the oval to test it out; Denver Sweet moved from the Zoo Stocks to the Late Model Sportsman class with a flashy new car; Greg Brown stayed with the Street Stocks but showed up at practice with a car entirely unlike last year's ride; Kyle Ribble also remains in the Street Stocks with a sporty new look to his car; Brandon Sweat moved up to the Outlaw FWD in a colorful new ride; moving to the Street Stocks was a popular destination and Taylor Sexton will also race in that class having moved up from the Outlaw FWDs.

HOT LAPS – FAST FACTS

We thank our sponsors for their generosity. Please visit them and let them know you appreciate them with your patronage.

Ridge NAPA Auto Parts. Check out the colorful new flags waving about the venue. A little history about Ridge NAPA: While on their honeymoon in 1928, Everett and Julia Ridge had car trouble while passing through Manitowoc, Wisconsin. They couldn't get the parts needed for repairs and they never made it to their destination. The time wasn't wasted though, Everett saw an opportunity and returned later that year establishing the Ridge Company. With little inventory, Everett had to focus on service. He made calls on the local garages during the day then ordered the parts from Chicago manufacturers for delivery the next day. People and service distinguished Ridge from the competition and by 1950, the Ridge Company had grown to 33 stores spread across the Midwest selling auto parts and providing automotive machine shop services. In the early 50's, Everett began selling his stores to many of his store managers. In 1953, Howard Goodhew, Ridge's operation manager, purchased six Ridge Auto Parts stores in the Michiana area, including the headquarters, now located in South Bend.



Howard began working for Mr. Ridge at the age of 16 delivering parts on his bicycle. Under Howard's leadership the company grew to 11 stores. Today his sons serve as President and Vice President overseeing 16 Ridge NAPA Auto Parts stores, 2 automotive machine shops plus a Performance Coatings division. Ridge became affiliated with NAPA Auto Parts in 2002 and quickly grew to become one of the country's largest volume NAPA affiliates. (Thank you to the Ridge NAPA website for the history)



<http://www.ridgeap.com/>

AMERICANTRUCKS. AmericanTrucks' passionate and experienced teams of enthusiasts strive to provide customers with the best Ford F-150, Dodge Ram 1500, Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and GMC Sierra 1500 aftermarket parts and accessories available at the best possible price. They stress that ordering from a trustworthy and reliable online source is vital. AmericanTrucks was created to remove the stress out of the parts buying process, providing knowledgeable and friendly experts all while offering its customers with parts that don't come with high shipping and handling fees. Check out the AmericanTrucks website, request a free catalog, read some reviews, or give them a call if you have questions. Whether your Ford F-150, Dodge Ram 1500, Chevrolet Silverado 1500 or GMC Sierra 1500 spends its time working on the job site, heading off road, or daily driving, give them a call to talk about parts to complete your next project at pricing to fit your budget. AmericanTrucks is one of the Safety Truck sponsors.



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

Team Spirit Custom Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales.

Raffle tickets go on sale at the Season Opener for the enclosed trailer, generously donated by Team Spirit Custom Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales. All raffle proceeds go to the Zoo Kares for Kids program to offer kids (and their families) a little extra cheer at Christmas. Be sure to express your support and thanks to Walt Obrieski (Techworks) and Mike Stutzman (Team Spirit).



2017 enclosed trailer moments before Oscar Heritz' name was drawn.

Raffle tickets run \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The winning ticket will be drawn during Super Shoe weekend; the winner does NOT have to be present to win.



<http://techworkstrailers.com/>

<https://teamspirittrailers.com/>

Schedules. Need a current 2018 race schedule? There is a printable schedule on the website. Look for the pocket schedules in local shops and trackside.



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

Alerts. For automatic alerts in case of inclement weather, sign up by clicking on the RACETEXT box on the homepage of the website.



Michigan Speedway Promoters Association. Track owner, Gary Howe, continues serving on the Board of the Michigan Speedway Promoters Association as the statewide representative for paved tracks. The Association is one of only three statewide short track associations in the nation. Howe was the recipient of the MSPA Dick Beebe Memorial Promoter of the Year Award in 2008, 2011 and 2016.



Branson Adam Terry. Adam Terry, General Manager of GT Products, and his spouse Kimmie, are the proud parents of Branson Adam Terry born 6:17 AM on Tuesday, April 24. Kimmie is the daughter of Donna Howe's sister, Kay, so this joyous occasion is a family affair. Many of you have seen Kay lending a hand on race nights, running the track being a family affair as well. The proud papa will be racing in the GT Products Intimidator 100 on opening night.

