



# KALAMAZOO Speedway

## TRACK TALK

August 29, 2018



Kevin Barthel

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### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### CALL OF THE WILD 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WORLD SERIES OF COMPACTS

It's that time of year again. The Call of the Wild "Run What Ya Brung" Night. Big boards, little boards, no boards. Wings or no wings. The Outlaw RWD cars must have a minimum 100 inch wheelbase and run on 10" tires; the Outlaw FWD must run on 8" wheels and DOT tires. Safety rules still apply but other than that, drivers can be creative. Drivers can try for the world speed record or just come out for a fun night of racing. The five fastest qualifiers move on to the RACEceiver showdown. Each of the five will get the track to themselves to attempt to break the world record for a 3/8 mile oval. We'll do that for 30 minutes or until the drivers decide they've gone as fast as their car will go and aren't making another attempt, whichever comes first. Mike Shewchuk was the first driver to go under 10 seconds in 2015 with a time of 9.924 and Andy Bozell, not all that happy to see his record fall, came back in 2016 and put an explanation point on his new record, a blistering 9.465 (breaking the record several times on his way to his final time). The RACEceiver showdown is surrounded by features, features, features including the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual World Series of Compacts.

Year	Driver	Fastest Time	MPH
2007	Terry Sroufe	10.800	125.000
2008	Curt Spalding	10.715	125.992
2009	Curt Spalding	10.217	132.133
2010	Andy Bozell	10.038	134.489
2011	Andy Bozell	10.020	134.730
2012	Andy Bozell	10.157	132.913
2013	Andy Bozell	10.121	133.386
2014	Mike Shewchuk	10.552	127.938
2015	Mike Shewchuk	9.924	136.034
2016	Andy Bozell	9.465	142.631
2017	Andy Bozell	9.515	141.881

So what is the Call of the Wild all about? It was introduced in 2007 to challenge Randy Sweet's all-time track (and world) record lap speed. The record had stood since 1982 at 10.746 seconds. The times in red were new world records.

The unexpected is always just around the next turn; don't miss any of it. We will see you at the races.

Right: Midwest Compacts and the Speedway's Outlaw FWDs get ready to qualify on opening night. Sharing the program this Friday, the Midwest Compacts will run their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual World Series of Compacts. The World Series was rained out earlier in the year.



Pits Open	2:00
Pit Pass (12 & up)	\$30
Adult Tickets	\$15
Youth Tickets (6-12)	\$8
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Qualifying Starts	3:15
Racing Starts	7:00
RACEceiver Showdown	8:00

## NEXT UP AT KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

The September post-season continues! Don't forget to enter the drawing for the enclosed trailer donated by Team Spirit Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales. Tickets run \$10 per ticket or 6/\$50. All proceeds go to the Zoo Kares for Kids Christmas Program, bringing a little extra cheer to families at the holidays. The winning ticket will be drawn on Super Shoe Sunday; the winner doesn't have to be present to win—but we all like to see the winner's reaction and get a few photos with the Walt Obrieski and Mike Stutzman (the generous folks who donated the trailer).

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### PIT PARTY AT THE ZOO

Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our drivers. Food, awards, music and fun from 7:00 – midnight. \$20 for adults; \$5 for kids 6-12 and kids five and under are FREE.

7:00 PM Dinner!  
 7:45 PM Awards! No boring speeches!!  
 9:00 PM Party with the Bronk Bros.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

#### NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION

You know the one: monster trucks, trailer & bus races, mini-enduro, mini-van demolition derby and Scarecrow will be back. FIREWORKS close out the evening.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

#### SUPER SHOE SHOTGUN CAMPSITE FOOTRACE

Race to get your campsite for Super Shoe weekend!

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

#### SUPER SHOE NATIONALS

Hundreds of cars. Last Chance Races. Heats. Plus Features, Features, Features. Likely there'll be some partying!

For all listed events, go to [www.kalamazoospeedway.com](http://www.kalamazoospeedway.com) for information, rules, race programs and payouts.



## SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT (in review)

What a night! We were hopping—135 cars! Drivers raced to win their last regular season feature of 2018. Point leaders and those within striking distance raced for the championship in each class. Drivers were racing for position to better themselves in the final standings or to achieve a personal best. Drivers showed up to keep their perfect attendance bonuses intact. And as we say each week, you never know what will happen and that certainly was true on Friday night. Even a couple of sprinkles weren't enough to dampen the mood.

All the statistics (top 10, which drivers won features, heats, took fast-time, etc.) will be in next week's Track Talk.

Even before the racing started on Friday night there was plenty to do. Qualifying to get the starting lineups set. Over 100 backpacks were given away (with two to spare!) and fans were able to meet up with the drivers, get photographs and autographs. Those backpacks proved handy to carry the candy and other things some of the drivers were giving away. Below, two of the kids wanted a picture with the #5 of Jeff Ganus. At right, AJ Foote's family (in the foreground) wait to pick up their backpacks. Below (left) Madilyn Blanch (Zoo Stock driver) signs an autograph for a fan and the make ready chute was filled with cars from the upper pit areas during the autograph session.



All of the pre-race activities complete, it was time to get racing. Jack Goodrich led us off with the invocation and the National Anthem and then the sweet music of car engines and fans cheering filled the air.



## ZOO STOCKS

**Fast Qualifier:** Jerry Ballard (17.042)  
**Season Champion:** Colin Bozell

**Feature Winner:** Grant Lofquist

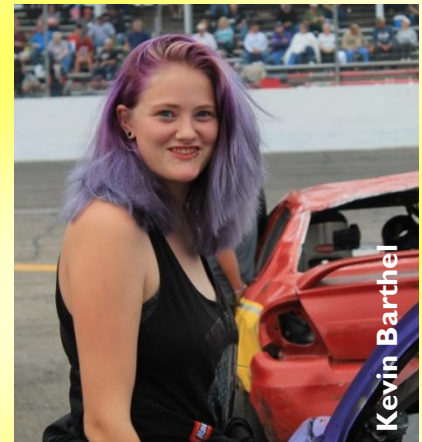
Rookie Jerry Ballard clocked his second fast-time of the season (17.042) to start things out. Regular readers will remember that Ballard took the wheel of a Rent-a-Ride last year and this is his first season of racing, Curtis Towne came into the night up 23 points over newcomer Colin Bozell. Five laps into the 20-lap feature, Towne was in 12<sup>th</sup> place and Bozell was in 9<sup>th</sup>, each place worth 4 points. With 14 to



go it was Mason May in the lead followed by Grant Lofquist. Lofquist got around May with 13 to go and then shot out ahead of the rest of the field. With 5 remaining it was Lofquist followed by May, Rielly Meade, Cody Day and Renae Letts. Bozell was in the 6<sup>th</sup> position and Towne in the 10<sup>th</sup>. At the finish line it was Lofquist, May, Meade, Bozell and Cody Day. While Towne took the checkered flag in a position to secure the championship, both Towne and Ballard clocked laps under 17.00 seconds. A Zoo Stock driver cannot dip below 17.00 seconds in qualifying, a heat or a feature without being disqualified. It was especially painful for Towne that the lap that disqualified him was the white flag lap. This meant neither Towne nor Ballard (who also turned his fastest lap in lap 18) would earn points for the feature nor would Towne be the 2018 Zoo Stock Champion. Instead, Rookie Colin Bozell won his first championship with the season of a champion: 2 fast times, a feature win, and 8 top 10 finishes, 7 of those being top 5. Towne finished second in the point standings, followed by Ballard, Meade and Logan Hiemstra. Nick Failing won the B feature and Kyra Donald won the C Feature.



Clockwise:  
Feature winner  
Grant Lofquist;  
Zoo Stock Season  
Champion Colin  
Bozell; Kyra  
Donald, C Feature  
Winner; Nick  
Failing, B Feature  
Winner; Colin  
Bozell





We had to wait out a bit of a sprinkle (which had given a harmless preview during the Zoo Stock feature) before the Outlaw FWD feature could run. Staff made quick work of getting the track surface dry and let's give out a shout out to Josh and Mike Zordan for lending a hand to the drying efforts.



**OUTLAW FWD**

**Fast Qualifier:** Paul Bittle (15.120)  
**Season Champion:** Jason Essex

**Feature Winner:** Todd Metz Jr.

With Pete Doxey back in Colorado, there was no one within 150 points of Jason Essex going into tonight's race, giving him his first Kalamazoo Speedway Championship. Todd Metz Jr., the 2017 FWD Super Shoe Champion, was on a mission and he passed Ricky LaDuke for the lead with 14 laps to go in the 20-lap, caution-free feature. LaDuke, in a borrowed car having sold his regular ride, will be moving to the Street Stocks next year. Drew Losey ran a strong race and finished second. Paul Bittle, starting at the tail of the field along with Metz Jr., Essex and Adam VanAvery, flew through the field and moved up to third. Kyle Jansen came in fourth followed by Jason Essex rounding out the top five. John Carr, driving his brother Gabe's #15, came in 11<sup>th</sup>. Carr suffered a foot injury while dirt biking last weekend and had to scratch for this race. Carr, 15, still earned the 8<sup>th</sup> slot in the point standings after joining the Zoo Stock class on May 18 and immediately timing out into the Outlaw FWD class. LaDuke finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the final point standings followed by Jansen, Brock Sweeter and Doxey.



Todd Metz Jr. (above) Outlaw FWD Feature Winner;  
 Jason Essex, Outlaw FWD Season Champion

Kevin Barthel



## STREET STOCK

**Fast Qualifier:** Kyle Ribble (14.552)

**Feature Winner:** Kyle Ribble

**Season Champion:** Greg Brown

**Last Chance Race Winner:** Taylor Sexton

Kyle Ribble drove to his 7<sup>th</sup> fast-time of the season in qualifying. Twenty-seven Street Stocks showed up forcing a Last Chance Race. Taylor Sexton won the race and earned the right to advance along with Joe Gonzales (in his first trip to the Speedway this season), Heath Bronkema and Bob Miller. John Chapman and Al Heritz led the field to green. Heritz took a seat in the #20 car after retiring from racing 15 years ago. Heritz, a long-time Kalamazoo Speedway Race Director, just retired from that position at the end of the regular season. We'll have more on Heritz in an upcoming issue of Track Talk. Chapman led the first lap with Andy Rutherford giving challenge. With 30 to go, it was Chapman, Rutherford, Shane Miller, Tom Rutherford and Mike Zordan.



Tonight instead of tight pack racing in the middle of the pack, it was the front six going at it. Kyle Ribble wanted to show off a little more speed and shot around the leaders in a 3-wide move and then kept on going. Greg Brown, coming into the night 48 points ahead of Zack Cook, the defending champion, was in mid-field fighting to not find himself second in points for a third year running. With 10 to go Zack Cook was looking strong but Brown was keeping pace. Late in the race Ribble was in an entirely different race than the rest of the field. Ribble won the caution-free 35-lap feature followed by Tom Rutherford, Cook, Zordan and Keith Wilfong. Brown finished in the 6<sup>th</sup> spot, 34 points ahead of Cook and earned his first Season Championship. Keith Wilfong, Ribble and Shane Miller round out the top five in the final point standings.



Kyle Ribble (upper left) won the feature race; Ashley & Addison Brown share Greg Brown's moment; Taylor Sexton (left) won the Last Chance Race; Greg Brown's interview

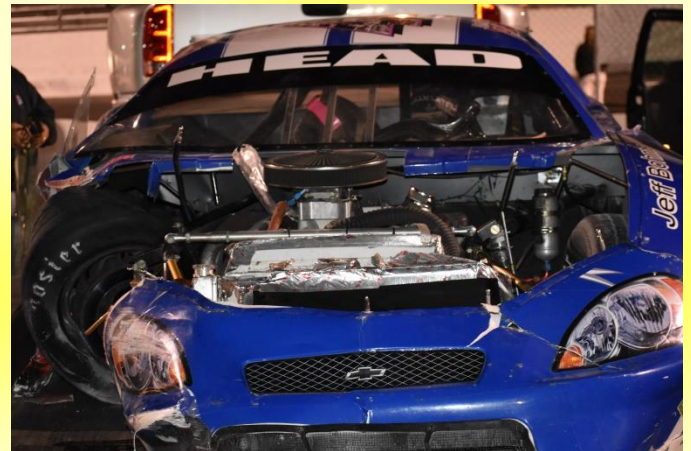


**LATE MODEL  
SPORTSMAN**

**Fast Qualifier:** Buddy Head (13.772)  
**Season Champion:** Buddy Head

**Feature Winner:** Dylan Stovall

Nineteen cars qualified and ran in the 35-lap feature. Dylan Stovall, in his first year racing at Kalamazoo Speedway and two-time track champion Jeff Vochaska led the field to the green flag. Dylan Stovall took the lead and raced to keep it. With 24 to go, Stovall had a sizeable lead over Vochaska, in his first race this season at the Speedway, holding in second place. Keegan Dykstra was driving strong in third followed by Austin Maynard, AJ Foote, Buddy Head and Kenny Head. Buddy Head's accelerator got stuck and he went hard into the outside wall and the car left the track hanging between two wreckers. Both Kenny Head and Lane Head were having issues of their own and made trips to the pits during the caution. Back to green, Dykstra was making his move to get around Vochaska for the second spot. AJ Foote was in 4<sup>th</sup> and challenging for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position culminating in a red flag stop and Dykstra and Foote's cars leaving on wreckers. During the break in the racing action, Rick Beebe showed us his dance moves to Michael Jackson's Billie Jean. Who knew? Eric McGlothlen got his second wind during the stop and came charging for the leaders. What looked like it might become a race between two of the younger drivers in the Late Model Sportsman (Stovall and Dykstra) became a duel between the rookie Stovall and the more seasoned McGlothlen. The laps ticked down and Stovall managed to hold off a determined and in-your-face McGlothlen. When a late race caution came out, Stovall executed a textbook perfect restart but McGlothlen wasn't finished trying for that checkered. Coming down the front stretch on the final lap, Stovall got loose and it looked like the race was McGlothlen's, but Stovall didn't let up and got his wheels back under him crossing the finish line 0.029 seconds in front of McGlothlen in a photo finish. THAT was racing. Vochaska finished third followed by Maynard and Bill Tomlinson. On the sidelines, Buddy Head won his 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive season championship and his 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Kenny Head finished second in the final point standings followed by AJ Foote, Keegan Dykstra and Lane Head.



Dylan Stovall in Victory Lane, showing why he's called "Too Tall".

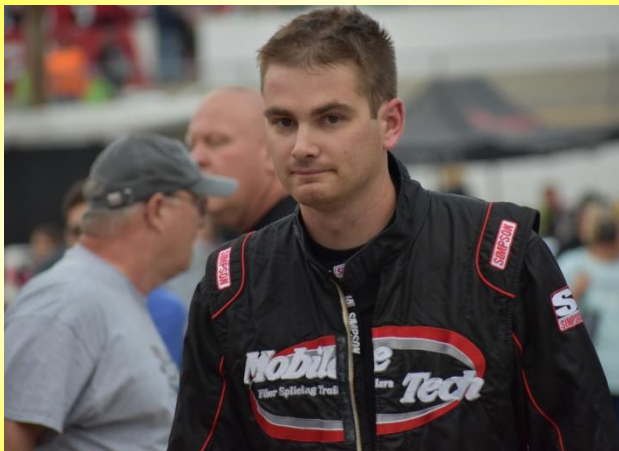
Buddy Head's mangled car and being interviewed as the 2018 Late Model Sportsman Season Champion.



**OUTLAW SUPER  
LATE MODELS**

**Fast Qualifier:** Tyler Roahrig (12.893) **Feature Winner:** Tyler Roahrig  
**Season Champion:** Todd Harrington **Last Chance Race Winner:** Chris Nash

Twenty-six drivers showed up to race in the 100-lap season finale. Chris Nash won the Last Chance Race with Tom Rutherford (who also ran in the Street Stocks), Jeff Bozell and Rob Hardy advancing to the main event. The inversion put Jeff Ganus and Rich Boal on the front row. When the green flew Ganus was off like, well, a Comet. Harrington had a slim 11 point lead over Mark Shook coming into the night. Frazier went into the wall with 64 laps to go and was done for the night. When the race went back to green it was Ganus, Boal, Adam Terry, Brian Bergakker and Tyler Roahrig. Ganus was out again fast and sharp. Bergakker moved into second with 60 laps to go. Ganus continued his lead with Bergakker behind him. Roahrig passed Bergakker and had caught up with Ganus by lap 36. Another caution flew and Ganus got the better restart; Adam Terry moved into third behind Roahrig. By lap 35 Ganus had some daylight to work with. Roahrig could catch the Ganus but Ganus held him off. This duel went on for lap after lap until a caution was thrown with 8 to go. Roahrig got the better restart and the daylight now was all his. At the checkered it was Roahrig, Ganus, Bergakker, Terry and Mark Shook. Steve Dorer game in 6<sup>th</sup> with Harrington in 7<sup>th</sup>. Harrington said he struggled some this season, but his struggles paid off and he earned his first season championship at Kalamazoo Speedway. Defending champion Mark Shook came in second in the final standings followed by True, Terry and Rick Senneker.



Clockwise: Tyler Roahrig wins the 100-lap season finale; Todd Harrington wins his first Kalamazoo Speedway Season Championship; Todd Harrington and family; Chris Nash and family. Nash won the Last Chance Race.