

KALAMA 700 YEARS SPEEDWAY

est. 1950

TRACK TALK

March 20, 2019

INSIDE THIS EDITION

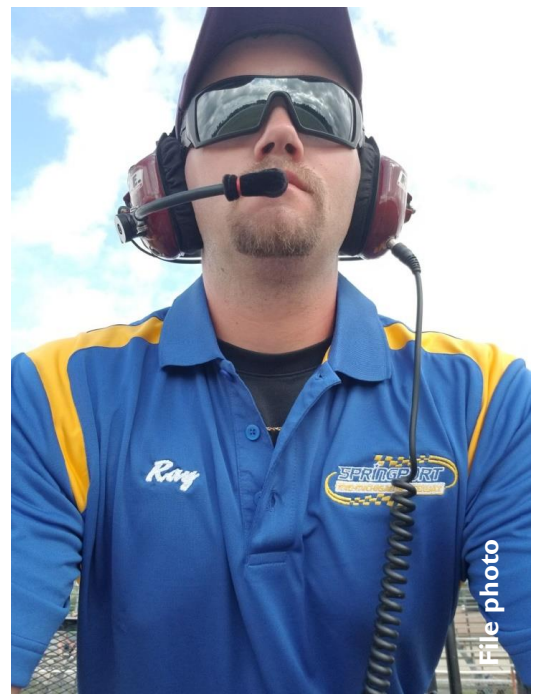
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37 (!) Days to the Season Opener featuring the Intimidator 100



NEW TO THE ZOO

There will be a new starter in the flag stand in 2019 when Rusty Diehlman (most people call him Ray) joins assistant starter Buster Martin. Racing has been a family affair for Diehlman, going to short tracks since he was two weeks old. His grandmother worked multiple positions at tracks (from pit steward to scorer) and he started flagging at Galesburg Speedway when he was 14. Two years ago he made the move to Springport Mid-Michigan Speedway as their starter. He's also helped out at a handful of other tracks over his 12 years of flagging experience. Says Diehlman, "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to officiate at one of the premier racing facilities in the area as well as working side by side with Buster and the rest of the top notch crew at Kalamazoo Speedway." He added he's also looking forward to the challenge of working two tracks in two nights over the season. Let's give Ray a warm Kalamazoo Speedway welcome.



FRONT WHEEL DRIVE CLASSES

News Flash: All cars competing in the Kalamazoo Speedway front wheel drive classes (Zoo Stocks and Outlaw FWD) must be equipped with front and rear tow hooks, straps or chains. Whichever device a driver elects to use must be simple and strong enough for Speedway personnel to quickly get a hook on a disabled car and safely tow it back to the applicable pit stall. This rule is applicable to drivers who race in the class on a weekly basis as well as visiting drivers. Thank you for your cooperation.

And while we're talking about the Front Wheel Drive classes—here's what the two 2018 track champions have planned for the 2019 season.

Colin Bozell will not be defending his Zoo Stock track championship. Bozell has a new Street Stock ride (right) for this season. Like so many of us, he's looking forward to the start of the season and a new set of challenges. Bozell tried out a Street Stock after the close of last year's racing season and felt good with the change. Sister Valerie ran in the Street Stocks last year but brother and sister won't be competing against one another in 2019 as Valerie will be driving in the Outlaw FWD class. Bozell was the Zoo Stocks' Rookie of the Year last year and is shooting for Rookie of the Year in the Street Stocks this year—and he wouldn't mind picking up a feature win (or more) either.



Outlaw FWD track champion Jason Essex (also Rookie of the Year) will be defending his title this season in a revamped version of the same car (pictured) he drove to the championship last year. Essex will be sporting a different design this year to spotlight sponsor Rev-X, racing as car "X". We'll be assigning a number given the scoring tower has only learned its numbers thus far. Essex will also be racing a second (very sporty) car in the Midwest Compact Touring Series in 2019. His goals for the season are successfully defending his 2018 track championship and adding a championship in the Midwest Compact Touring Series (North).



CIRCLE OF LIFE

Please keep the Howe family in your thoughts over the coming weeks and months. John Howe, 82, track owner Gary Howe's dad, passed away peacefully on Sunday evening (March 17). Says Gary, "My dad had a good life. He didn't have a bucket list of things he hadn't gotten around to doing. He had a life well-lived and can we really reasonably expect any more than that?" Regardless of the blessings, the very close-knit Howe family will greatly miss the patriarch of the family. Many of you will remember John from the track. From the year Gary bought the track in 2001 up through 2011, John could be found selling pit passes at the front tickets windows. After that time he was a regular spectator at the track, whether he and his wife Donna rode the bleachers or watched from a skybox.

Friends may meet with the family on Tuesday, March 26 from 2 – 4 pm and 6 – 8 pm at the Winkel Funeral Home in Otsego. A private family funeral service will be held.



RW Motorsports Marketing



Howe Family Photo

John & Donna Howe hit the dance floor at the Pit Party last September; John Howe with great grandson JJ.

Brent Hook FUNDRAISER
 Saturday, March 30th, 2019 3pm - 8pm

DONATIONS AT THE DOOR

SPAGHETTI DINNER
50/50 RAFFLE
RAFFLES
AUCTIONS
BAKE SALE
T-SHIRTS, DECALS AND MORE!

17 ToughCoat

100% OF MONEY RAISED GOES TO THE FAMILY!

FEATURING DISTANT ROADS & DJ STRAKKAFILAKKA

GUN RIVER CONSERVATION CLUB
 689 11TH ST. PLAINWELL, MI

Most of you have likely heard that Brent Hook suffered multiple gunshot wounds on February 26. A fierce competitor on the race track, Hook was the 2009 Modifieds track champion and more recently drove the #17 in the Street Stocks. He is bringing that same fierceness to the days that lie ahead. Brent's family is most grateful for everyone's support and prayers. All the best to Brent and we'll see all of you on the 30th.



Steele Family Photo

Welcome Charlotte, daughter of Jake (Chief Director of Track Safety) and Kelsey Steele (their first). Charlotte made her appearance on Friday, March 15. Many congratulations!


OPEN PRACTICE/OPENING NIGHT

After a long and hard winter, it's almost April and time to get back to racing!

APRIL 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Open Practice Noon – 5:00 PM \$20 Pit Pass
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Open Practice Noon – 5:00 PM \$20 Pit Pass
21	22	23	24	25	26 Season Opener Racing starts 7:30	27
28	29	30				

Free Grandstands

Download your Driver Information Form and bring it with you to one of the practices or if you don't plan to make one of the practices, drop it off when you pick up your transponder on opening night. Remember: No form, no payout. ALL drivers need to file a form for 2019. The first link will take you to the driver form and the second will let you print off an updated schedule.

 <http://www.kalamazospeedway.com/driver-info/forms/>

 <http://www.kalamazospeedway.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-Schedule-AF2.pdf>



Danny Oxford (Street Stock) and Andrew Snyder (Zoo Stock) arriving for opening night 2018

TRACK TALK TRIVIA



Do you recognize any of the folks in the picture? No, this isn't the time to tell us you weren't even born then! From left to right, it's Charlie Keckler (promoter), Ed Santora Sr. (Ed Jr. is running the Galesburg Speedway for 2019) and on the end? Our own Skeeter.



The Speedway's Kalamazoo Track Services gets ready for its annual training this weekend.



FAST FAMILY FUN FOR 70 YEARS
We will see you at the races.