



# KALAMA 700 YEARS SPEEDWAY

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## TRACK TALK

April 17, 2019

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A. Fisher

**NINE (!) Days to the Season Opener featuring the Intimidator 100**

### OPEN PRACTICE

The final pre-season Open Practice session is this Saturday: April 20. The pits open at noon, pit passes are \$20. Practice itself runs from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Grandstands are FREE! Results from the April 13 session start on page 3.

### SEASON OPENER

One week from THIS Friday — **April 26** — Join us for the Season Opener of Kalamazoo Speedway's 70<sup>th</sup> consecutive season of racing. You'll find Fast, Family Fun this and every Friday night! The Zoo Stocks, Outlaw FWDs, Street Stocks, Late Model Sportsman all run an extended feature plus the Outlaw Super Late Models run their 19<sup>th</sup> annual season opening event: the **Intimidator 100**, paying out 0\$2,500 to win and \$400 to start.

We will see YOU at the races!



**RETRO MOMENT:** Now called the Intimidator 100, the event was started by former track owners Marty and Callie Sue Jones as the traditional season opening event. Originally the “Are the Nuts and Bolts Tight 100”, the event was renamed in 2001 following the death of NASCAR superstar, Dale Earnhardt. Gary Howe had just bought the track weeks before and, a fan like so many of us, changed the name in tribute to the seven-time Cup champion.



Tyler Roahrig (2017 Intimidator 100 winner) and Jeff Ganus (looking to defend his 2018 win) line up at practice last Saturday.

## 2019 SEASON CHAMPION: LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN

Technical difficulties from last week overcome, here's what Buddy Head had to say going into this year's season. Last year's crash on season championship night didn't leave much to salvage so Head will be defending his Late Model Sportsman championship in a newly built car. We talked about Head's six consecutive championships and Andy Bozell's eight. Head offered "Honestly, Andy has been someone I've looked up to over the years and I don't directly compare myself to Andy. I have been blessed to be part of a great group of people and these championships are truly a group effort. We focus day by day, race by race and at the end we have found ourselves on top. We will keep doing what we do and see what happens at the end."



He concluded by telling us "I'm really looking forward to this season. There are many new faces in our division as well as some returning faces. It is exciting to see our division growing. I often get asked if I will move up; but my passion for this sport is still right here in the Late Model Sportsman class. At the very end of last season, we lost an important crew member, Mike Tubergen. It has made prepping for this season different, but the team has rallied together and will race in his memory this season. That's the way Crazy Mike would want it, so we don't plan on disappointing him."



## ROOKIE DAY (April 12)

Rookies and their families had a chance to put a few laps on the track without veterans buzzing around them. Thank you Kenny Head for setting it all up.



Clockwise: Makenna Long awaits her turn to get on the track; Tyler Bronk was one of the young rookies to come out on Friday; Dennis Letts was looking forward to driving his car somewhere other than the driveway and Matt Elsey Jr. (driver's side) looks over his car. (Photos A. Fisher)

## RESULTS: APRIL 13 OPEN PRACTICE

Ninety-five cars, their drivers and crews came out to practice on a day when the wind made things a bit brisk. The season opener race program (*The Fifth Turn*) will look like we've listed a lot of drivers in the wrong class: Keith Wilfong, Jeff Bozell and Makena Snyder, for instance, will be racing in the Late Model Sportsman. Bozell's kids have moved classes as well: Colin (Zoo stock track champion) to the Street Stocks and Valerie to the Outlaw FWDs. Another Bozell, Justin, will make his track debut in the Zoos. Jeff Ganus and Bill Tomlinson had cars in the Outlaw Super Late Models and the Late Model Sportsman. Snyder also practiced in an Outlaw FWD. Taylor Imus, Larry Bryie and Jerry Ballard have moved up to the Street Stocks. Gabe Carr is back in the #15 Outlaw FWD and brother Johnny practiced in the same class, having gotten a taste of racing when filling in for Gabe at the close of last year. Though practice laps don't count toward records (no tech) keep an eye on Gabe Carr who clocked a 15.013 second lap, faster than Paul Bittle's record breaking lap of 15.098 last year. Check out the top 5 in the Zoo Stocks, all either dipping below or flirting with the fastest lap time (16.850) allowed for the Zoos. (Dip below that speed on a sanctioned race night and it's graduation time to the Outlaw FWD class). On the next page, the top ten drivers clocking the fastest lap times in each class.

**BULLETIN:** Too many transponders were frying so this year all cars must have a protective mounting pouch to hold their track furnished transponders; no more plastic transponder brackets will be allowed. The pouches will be available for sale in the infield (\$15) where you pick up your transponder; Lane Automotive also stocks them.



## FRONT WHEEL DRIVE TOP TEN (Practice Laps)

Rank	Zoo Stocks	Outlaw FWDs
1	Nick Failing (16.648)	Gabe Carr (15.013)
2	Kenny Head II (16.803)	Drew Losey (15.361)
3	Grant Lofquist (16.872)	Adam Van Avery (15.427)
4	Rielly Meade (16.989)	Camille Lewis (15.635)
5	Jordan Brinkert (16.995)	Johnny Carr (15.790)
6	Ross Bergman (17.114)	Tyler McGhan (15.797)
7	Jared Blanchard (17.176)	Phillip Novotny (16.119)
8	Justin Bozell (17.189)	Billy Yates (16.223)
9	Kyle Knapp (17.268)	Tod Watson (16.501)
10	Summer Velasquez (17.298)	Dan Roodvoets (16.685)

## REAR WHEEL DRIVE TOP TEN (Practice Laps)

Rank	Street Stock	Late Model Sportsman	Outlaw Super Late Models
1	Kyle Ribble (14.660)	Tyler Hufford (13.658)	Tyler Roahrig (12.771)
2	Brandon Zachary (14.786)	Jon Beach (13.788)	Andrew Brest (12.826)
3	Colin Bozell (14.946)	Buddy Head (13.800)	JR Roahrig (12.910)
4	Doug Gallandt (15.017)	Andy Bozell (13.803)	Monte Tolan (12.915)
5	Zach Westdorp (15.019)	Kenny Head (13.815)	Billy Shannon (12.972)
6	Barry Jenkins (15.027)	Phil Bozell (13.843)	Matt Frazier (13.084)
7	Mike Zordan (15.029)	Ryan Minton (13.855)	Doug True(13.094)
8	Jerry Zachary (15.110)	Jeff Bozell (13.916)	Steve Needles (13.136)
9	Matt Elsey (15.126)	Cole Allers (14.009)	Chad Poorman (13.241)
10	Lee Slayton (15.176)	Chris Shannon (14.041)	Jeff Ganus (13.320)

**NOTE:** Readers who look up race results on the track website and are mystified by the classes not appearing will benefit from this tip from Shawn McLaughlin (Race Director): Highlight the page and the classes will show up. We're working on a fix (we don't operate the page so are reliant on others to fix it.)

**EDITORIAL:** Governmental bureaucracy strikes at the Zoo. What to do with the approximately 25 gallons of "gray" water used to wash dishes and staff hands in the infield concession stand for about 25 nights a year? Answer: No it couldn't be handled in the environmentally sound way it's been handled previously. The track had a drywell in the infield; drywells can no longer be used in commercial settings. Track owner Gary Howe noted that the drywell has never needed to be pumped in the 18 years he's had the track. So, instead, three (3) 1,500 gallon tanks (10' x 6.5) with two trenches that span 90' and 40', a lift station, a siren and light warning system (should the tanks ever reach capacity in anyone's lifetime) had to be installed and inspected. Next up is putting down asphalt over the trenches. We think a little more gray matter was in order when the new rules were developed.







Clockwise: Drivers lined up to get their pit passes early on the first day of practice; Buster Martin had flagging honors for practice; Summer Valasquez will be racing the 4x in the Zoo Stocks; Bill Tomlinson was a busy guy at practice with a car in the Late Models Sportsman and the Outlaw Super Late Models; even with the brisk weather (the wind!!) our fans come out! Photos A. Fisher.

## TRAILER RAFFLE IS BACK!

Tickets are on sale now through Super Shoe Sunday, when the winning ticket will be drawn. \$5 each or 5 for \$20! Thanks to Team Spirit Custom Trailers and Accessories & Techworks Trailer Sales for donating the nicely equipped 24' Track Champ enclosed trailer. All raffle proceeds go to the Zoo Kares for Kids program, bringing a little extra cheer to about 40 kids and their families at the holidays.



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