



KALAMA 700 YEARS SPEEDWAY

est. 1950

TRACK TALK

April 24, 2019

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A. Fisher

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

SEASON OPENER

It's finally here. The 2019 season opener. The 70th consecutive season opener for Kalamazoo Speedway. There is only one of them! Pits open at 3:00 – Racing starts at 7:30. Don't miss it.

Extended features for all 5 classes!

The Outlaw Super Late Models run their 19th annual Intimidator 100!

Rick Senneker (right) makes some adjustments to his Super Late during the April 20 practice.

The Intimidator 100 pays \$2,500 to win and \$400 to start.

All classes have something extra to race for to commemorate the 70th season of racing at Kalamazoo Speedway.



Zoo Stock: Galesburg Speedway is kicking in \$100 for the winner of the 'A' feature (Kalamazoo Speedway will be doing the same for the Burg Stock 'A' feature at Galesburg's opener.) Mary Wright donated \$100 for the 'B' feature winner in memory of Jerry Martin. (Pictured Zoo Stock driver Danielle Osborne.)



Outlaw FWD: Anonymous donors have provided \$100 for the winner of the 'A' feature in memory of John Howe. (Pictured [left] Outlaw FWD driver Tod Watson.)

Street Stock: Justin LeRoy, Turn 1 and 2 Gang, donated \$100 for the winner of the 'A' feature. (Pictured [below] Street Stock driver Matt Corliss.)



Late Model Sportsman: Melinda Russell, IWMA Nation, donated \$100 for the winner of the 'A' feature in memory of Ben Beeler. (Pictured Late Model Sportsman drivers Chris Shannon [below left] and Barry Jenkins [below right].)



Additionally, for opening night as well as for the remainder of the season, we've got the NAPA Contingency Awards for the **Zoo Stocks**, **Outlaw FWD** and **Street Stocks**. All weekly 'A' & 'B' feature winners displaying the Ridge NAPA decals on their cars will receive a \$100 product certificate for their accomplishment(s). Pick up decals from the infield scoring tower.



DETAILS: SEASON OPENER

Pits Open	3:00
Pit Pass (12 & up)	\$30
Adults	\$15
Youth 6-12	\$8
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30

Drivers: If you haven't turned in your 2019 Driver Information Form, complete it before you get to the track on Friday and turn it in when you pick up your transponder. If you need the protective pouch for your transponder, these will be available for purchase (\$15) at the transponder table.

We will see YOU at the races!

RETRO MOMENT

Bob Kitzmiller, a former Alamo Township Supervisor and an avid race fan, lived off Owen Drive and pastured his cattle right where he thought a track would nicely fit. So in the summer of 1949, he moved his cattle to a new location on his farm and took his 1949 Mercury to the spot he picked out, put a stake in the ground and drove around in an oval to mark out the 3/8 mile he wanted. It took him three tries to get the size right. He marked his tire tracks with more stakes to check the distance and those tire tracks mark the inside of the track we race on today.

Sunday afternoon racing was planned for the first couple of years and it all came together on July 30, 1950 when Kitzmiller fulfilled his dream. Sixteen cars showed up and about 300 fans welcomed the new race track (then named B & K Speedway).

Fast time was taken by Al Osmun (22.2 second lap time) followed by the first feature which was won by Ken Coleman (right). Does anyone else think the man right next to Osmun bears a striking resemblance to Gary Howe? (Photographer(s) unknown)



Al Osmun set fast time (22.2) Opening Night, 7-30-50.



Ken Coleman wins Kalamazoo's first feature, 7-30-50.

RESULTS: APRIL 20 OPEN PRACTICE

Eighty-eight cars took to the track at the second open practice; pretty close to the 95 who showed up last week. Some drivers were practicing at the track for the first time this year and others were making a second go of it. All told, 125 drivers made one or both practices. Following this week's practice sessions, drivers had a chance to run in a series of mock qualifying trials. While track records can't be broken during practice (no tech), Gabe Carr put up a 15.013 quick time in the Outlaw FWDs last week (going faster than Paul Bittle's record of 15.098). Bittle responded this week by putting up a 14.991.

FRONT WHEEL DRIVE TOP TEN (Practice Laps)

Rank	Zoo Stocks	Outlaw FWDs
1	Nick Failing (16.663)	Paul Bittle (14.991)
2	Dillon Rose (16.941)	Drew Losey (15.338)
3	Rielly Meade (16.942)	Camille Lewis (15.889)
4	Grant Lofquist (16.964)	DJ Oxford (15.957)
5	Kenny Head II (17.002)	Tod Watson (15.996)
6	Logan Hiemstra (17.178)	Tyler McGhan (16.027)
7	Maggie Zwart (17.190)	Dan Roodvoets (16.231)
8	Collin Whitfield (17.201)	Mike Edwards (16.479)
9	Jared Blanchard (17.202)	Valerie Bozell (16.535)
10	Danielle Osborne (17.251)	Keith Dixon (17.360)

REAR WHEEL DRIVE TOP TEN (Practice Laps)

Rank	Street Stock	Late Model Sportsman	Outlaw Super Late Models
1	Kyle Ribble (14.796)	Buddy Head (13.680)	Andy Bozell (12.928)
2	Al Trammell (14.805)	Chris Shannon (13.739)	Phil Bozell (12.968)
3	Matt Corliss (14.978)	Chris Garrett (13.875)	Matt Frazier (13.011)
4	Zach Westdorp (15.068)	Ryan Minton (13.888)	Billy Shannon (13.019)
5	Colin Bozell (15.069)	Kenny Head (13.918)	Monte Tolan (13.057)
6	Doug Gallandt (15.082)	Dylan Stovall (13.931)	Chad Poorman (13.162)
7	Josh Trammell (15.118)	AJ Foote (14.111)	Steve Needles (13.187)
8	Christina Rantz (15.131)	Keegan Dykstra (14.123)	Brandon Lyons (13.224)
9	Greg Brown (15.273)	AJ Foote (14.285)	Rick Senneker (13.301)
10	Jerry Pierman ((15.275)	Bill Tomlinson (14.286)	Cayden Lapcevich (13.342)

Nick Failing (Zoo Stock 16.863); Drew Losey (Outlaw FWD 15.411); Kyle Ribble (Street Stock 14.869), Buddy Head (Late Model Sportsman 13.688) and Steve Needles (Outlaw Super Late Models 12.793) were the top drivers in their respective class during the mock qualifying session.

Combining both practices, Nick Failing (Zoo Stock 16.648); Paul Bittle (Outlaw FWD 14.991); Kyle Ribble (Street Stock 14.660); Tyler Hufford (Late Model Sportsman 13.658) and Tyler Roahrig (Outlaw Super Late Models 12.771) were the fastest. Failing and Ribble were fastest at both practices.



Clockwise: Buster Martin (left) and Ray Diehlman work the flags together for the first time; Kalamazoo Track Services gets in some practice as well; Dillon Rose shows us his newly detailed Zoo Stock; Greg Brown (black fire suit) drew a crowd when his car developed trouble.



Clockwise: Monte Tolan gets ready for his practice session; almost 30 Zoo Stocks showed up to practice; Zach Westdorp shares a word; Todd Harrington's crew at work: Dylan Stovall needed both hands to make an adjustment on his car (come on, we've all done it!); the 30F of Erv Gambee, Dan Roodvoets and Ed Huizinga (not pictured) – they'll be taking turns driving the "old f...s" car; (center) a few modifieds practiced with the Street Stocks.



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