

# KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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## TRACK TALK

July 29, 2024

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### FRIDAY, AUGUST 2. WEEKLY CLASSES RACE.

RACE DAY INFORMATION	
<b>Ticket Windows Open</b>	<b>2:30 PM</b>
<b>Pit Passes (13 years and up)</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Junior Pit Passes (12 and under)</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Adult General Admission (13+)</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Youth (6-12) General Admission</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Kids 5 &amp; under</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Pits Open</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
<b>Hot Laps Begin</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Qualifying Begins</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Racing Starts</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

WEEKLY CLASS racing is on tap for the first Friday of racing in August. The AFC Metal Supply Late Models run for \$1,500 to win and Wild Card Night is back compliments of the West Main Steak 'n Shake. This time it's the Front Wheel Drive - DOT class that will benefit from Steak 'n Shakes generosity. The Techworks Trailer Street Stock are racing for an extra \$500 to win (compliments of WaterWorx), Honor Credit Union Limited Late Models and the O'Reilly Auto Parts Front Wheel Drive - Outlaws wrap up the August 2 Event Schedule. We will see YOU on Friday!






**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9. FIVE WEEKLY CLASSES.**

**\$5,000 TO WIN LIMITED LATE MODELS.**

<b>RACE DAY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Ticket Windows Open</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
<b>Pit Passes (13 years and up)</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Junior Pit Passes (12 and under)</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Adult General Admission</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Youth (6-12) General Admission</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Kids 5 &amp; under</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Pits Open</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
<b>Hot Laps Begin</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Qualifying</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Racing Starts</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

THE AFC Metal Supply Late Models, Honor Credit Union Limited Late Models (\$5,000 to win rescheduled from June 21), Techworks Trailer Street Stock, O'Reilly Auto Parts Front Wheel Drive - Outlaws and the Spartan Insulation Front Wheel Drive - DOTs are all on the program as the weekly race season winds down to its finale on September 6 for Season Championship Night. PLUS it's the rescheduled Autograph Night. AND, compliments of AFC Metal Supply, we'll be offering up a  skybox with a food package for the night. Watch

Facebook and next week's Track Talk for details!

## REMINDERS.

Tickets for the Legendary Night of Destruction (Saturday, September 14) are available now by phone (269.355.4628). Please note there is a \$3 convenience for tickets purchased over the phone. Advance ticket are only available by phone.

Lost & Found. Currently looking for owners: cell phone, gold ring with diamond like stone, toddler shoes, kid's and adult sunglasses and several sets of keys. Call 269.355.4628.

Break out times for all classes are now 0.2 seconds. (Qualifying time less the 0.2 seconds is a driver's break out time). Drivers are disqualified from their heat or feature if they clock 2 laps in a single race under their break out time.

## JULY 26, 2024: RACING RECAP.

The Street Stock, both Front Wheel Drive classes and the Vintage Modifieds joined the 4J Modifieds on Friday night. Tonight was the first night that the break out time for all classes moved to 0.2 seconds. The Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club was on hand and presented Gary Howe with recognition for his sportsmanship, support of the track and his decades of dedication. On behalf of the track, Gary Howe and Barb Fisher accepted a Certificate of Appreciation from the MARFC President for the track's continued service and support.



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For those of you who missed the Friday night races, we've included a few highlights.

### Front Wheel Drive - DOT



It was a \$500 to win night for the DOT's. Gunner Gale made an early run at proving his mettle with a fast time of 16.239 (83.133 MPH). Bo Brady (right), Hanna Zwart (below) and Steve Thomson (right) won the heat races.



Bri Brady (below) won the 15-lap 'B' feature. Jacob Montgomery-Froelich (below right) was the runner-up followed by Josh Forney (below right), Travis Petto, Steve Thomson, Ethan Emerson and Bryson Beebe. Two other drivers broke out and were disqualified.



The 'A' feature had a rough start with multiple cautions leaving the field down by about a third when all was said and done with that unfortunate phase. Drew Hosner led the race until almost the halfway point and then departed the race, running in the top five, with only a handful of laps remaining. Jordan Brinkert, having broken out in his heat, moved into the lead position close to the halfway point. Gunner Gale and Scott Eelsey were making their moves and Desmond Watkins, having started in 14<sup>th</sup>, moved into the top five. At the checkered it was Jordan Brinkert with his first feature win on of the year. The runner-up position went to Gunner Gale with point leader Scott Eelsey medaling in third place. Desmond Watkins was fourth followed by Brandon Chadwick and Bo Brady. Finishing down a lap or more it was Hannah Zwart, Drew Hosner, Austin McKee and Duane Green III rounding out the top 10. Scott Eelsey holds a comfortable lead in the points over Dillon Rose (-173) and Desmond Watkins (-190).

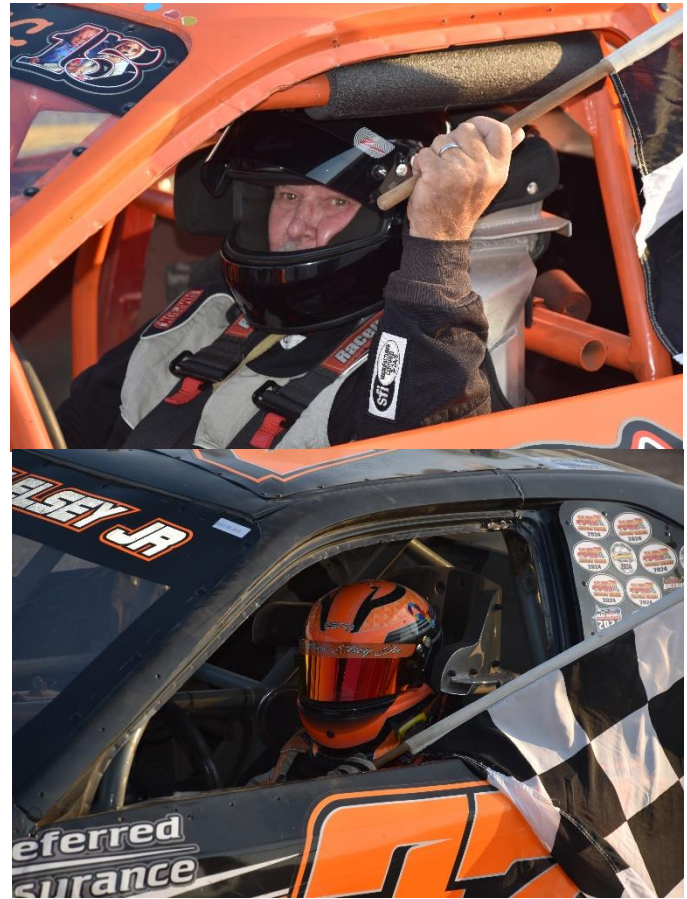


Below: Jordan Brinkert and Joe Blood (car owner) in Victory Lane. Joe Blood's Spartan Insulation is the class sponsor for the Front Wheel Drive - DOTs. Right: Scott Elsey (3<sup>rd</sup>), Jordan Brinkert and Gunner Gale (runner-up).



**Front Wheel Drive - Outlaw**

If you guessed that Matthew Elsey Jr. drove to the fastest lap in qualifying, you'd be right! He clocked a 15.211 (88.752 MPH) in qualifying and then proceeded to better that time in the feature (15.122). After missing Victory Lane for the feature last week when his car developed mechanical issues late in the race, he made up for it this week by taking one of the heat races (right) and going on to win the feature. Charles Anderson (top right) won the second heat race. Dinah Jean led the first couple of laps of the 25-lap, \$750 to win feature, and Matthew Elsey Jr., (from the 12<sup>th</sup> starting position) rocketed through the field to assume the lead shortly thereafter. Matt Elsey held third place early on but Wayne Stack and Tyler May had a bead on Victory Lane. Dave Leonard Jr., a frequent and friendly rival to Elsey Jr., finished as the runner-up. Wayne Stack medaled in third place. Tyler May earned a fourth place finish and Matt Elsey rounded out the top five. Nick Layman led off the second half of the order with Drew Hosner (-1) following, then Charles Anderson (-1), Amanda Weatherwax (-2), and Bryan Gates (-8). Matthew Elsey Jr. retains the point lead over Matt Elsey (-111) and Bryan Gates (-186).



See next page for Victory Lane photos.





Matthew Elsey Jr. in Victory Lane for his win in the Front Wheel Drive – Outlaw Feature. Right, Wayne Stack (3<sup>rd</sup>), Dave Leonard Jr. (runner-up) and Matthew Elsey Jr. are the top three finishers in the feature.

**Vintage Modifieds**



Dave Sensiba, runner-up in Kalamazoo Klash II was the fast qualifier with a time of 15.138 (89.180 MPH) for the Vintage Modifieds. Sensiba and Larry Bryie Jr. won the heat races. Ken Quimby took the early lead in the 25-lap feature, then John Ray and Jeff Holden took a turn before Dave Sensiba (below) asserted his dominance and drove his way to another Victory Lane. Jeff Holden was the runner-up (bottom right, far right) followed by John Ray (yellow fire suit), Dave Cutler and Larry Bryie Jr., all finishing on the lead lap. Ken Quimby and Duane Debonte finished one lap down. Johnny Montgomery wrapped up his feature down two and Tyler Holmes down nine. Jared Blanchard's night ended during the practice session. We'll look forward to seeing him in a Vintage Modified the next time the series visits.





## Street Stock



Kyle Ribble continues to get his car dialed in and was the fastest Street Stock on the property with a time of 14.835 (91.001 MPH). Blake Hybels (right) and Colin Bozell (top right) won the heat races.

The feature was arguably the best race of the night. Kyle VanSparrentak came from a sixth starting position to lead. Brock Ganus took the lead for about 5 laps before VanSparrentak took it back. Meanwhile, Kyle Ribble had worked his way through the field and challenged VanSparrentak for a good half of the race, first on his bumper as VanSparrentak successfully blocked him. Ribble was persistent trying high and low and finally managed to gain a few feet and pull to VanSparrentak's side. And even then, VanSparrentak held on to his lead, that is, until the white flag lap when Ribble made the pass without a lot of real estate left and took the checkered flag 0.098 seconds ahead of runner-up Kyle VanSparrentak (grey shirt). Chad VanSparrentak (blue shirt) had moved into the third place early in the race and held the position for most of the race, having a front seat view of what played out in front of him. Brock Ganus was fourth followed by Blake Hybels, Alex Sexton, Madison Snyder, Mason Montgomery, Kenny Head II and Patrick Kirkendall (-1). Kyle VanSparrentak holds the point lead over Alex Sexton (-159).



## Modifieds

For the Modifieds \$5000 to win 40-lap feature night, Brian Bergakker was the top qualifier at 14.083 (95.860 MPH). The Modifieds didn't run heats, running a scuff session instead. Lon Putnam led the first couple of laps of the feature, Matt Dimit then took over and led for more than half the rest of the race. Brian Bergakker, Matt Maurer and Jeff Ganus had all moved into striking distance. Dimit held off Bergakker lap after lap but Bergakker made it to the front with about 12 laps remaining. At the checkered it was Brian Bergakker with the win, the runner-up was Matt Dimit and Matt Maurer was third joining the other two on the podium. Jeff Ganus was fourth followed by Donny Matteson Jr., Brock Ganus and Mark Flierman all on the lead lap. Rick Sibila (-1), Tyler Hufford (-1) and Lon Putnam (-1) wrapped up the top 10. Photos follow on the next page.



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Feature winner Brian Bergakker and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher Matt Maurer, Bergakker and Matt Dimit in Victory Lane.

## SATURDAY, JULY 27. OPEN DRIFTING RECAP (leased event)



Brought to you by AutoMODIFIED, it was another Saturday of drivers showing off their cars and skills. Experienced and first-time drivers are always welcome. The next Open Drifting event is Saturday, August 17. Non-driver pit passes are \$20 (ride-a-longs possible!), adult grandstands \$5 with kids 12 and under FREE! Food Truck! Rain or shine!



Pictured: Tucker Newsome (AutoMODIFIED founder and owner) and Ben Schultz (cart) show how a tandem is run.



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photos A. Fisher

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