

(Kaukauna, WI) - If off season pit stall purchases are any indication the Fox River Racing Club's "Thursday Night Thunder" program will have a banner year with half-mile car counts that haven't been seen in many years at Wisconsin International Raceway in Kaukauna.

FRRC president Tom Gee said all 52 poured concrete slab pit stalls located in the D-shaped, half-mile's inner pit area are all sold out. "We're working with Ginger (Van Daalwyk) and Dan (Van Daalwyk) to add eight more poured slabs that will push us to 60 stalls total," said Gee. "We anticipate filling those 52 slabs weekly between the super late model and late model car counts. It's going to be another big year on Thursday nights and our half-mile divisions will be solid once again in 2018."

In 2017 WIR averaged nearly 24 super late models weekly and 16 late models every Thursday night, boasting some of the highest weekly super late model car counts in the Midwest. "We have commitments from 25 to 30 super late model drivers who'll race full time or nearly full time and another 20-25 late models who have pledged to race just as much so we're pretty excited," said Gee. "The additional eight stalls will be desperately needed for overflow for shows like the Red, White and Blue Series and also the Bruce Mueller All Star Memorial race."

A FREE pit party to meet the WIR cars and stars will be open to fans of all ages Thursday, May 17 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Fans young and not-so-young will have full access to the pit area and can meet the drivers with their new cars and mingle with the team's crew members as well. "For us it will be a great time for WIR newcomers to explore the facility and learn what to expect on race day and become part of the greatest race fan family in the country," said WIR's Ginger Van Daalwyk. "We encourage all the fans to take selfies with their favorite driver and race car. We're looking forward to a really fun evening!"

Both the half-mile and quarter-mile ovals will be available for fans to walk and kids may ride their bicycles on the track and bicycle helmets are required. A stock car and drag car show and shine contest will also take place. Live Music by the band "Around Town" will run from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The concessions & Beer stand in the Oval Pits will be open.

The season opening "Thursday Night Thunder" race at WIR will take place Thursday, May 24 at 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday night oval practices are slated to begin on May 1 with Saturday, May 5 serving as the annual FRRC practice and inspection day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Spectator admission is free that day. Fans can pick up free tickets to WIR's "Thursday Night Thunder" with a book purchase March 23-25 at motorsports author Joe Verdegan's booth at NEW MOTORAMA located at Shopko Hall in Green Bay.