

15 members inducted into fan club Hall of Fame

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By Steve Day

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club inducted 15 new members to its Hall of Fame on Saturday night at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

The names will be added to the 58 names already on the Hall of Fame Trophy.

"You have to have had been invited as a speaker in 2013," said Janine Woodsford, chairwoman of the Hall of Fame meeting.

Club secretary Silky Meegan said although the club centers mainly on auto racing, it is for all motor racing.

That fact is evident from the many forms of motor racing represented by the new inductees.

Heck, the club even inducted a jockey one year.

"We do this once a year. We decided to do it in January this year," Meegan said. "You get more people in January."

One of the most celebrated members of the new inductees was Bobby Brack.

Brack competed on the southern stock car circuit for over three decades with great success in Florida.

His NASCAR resume shows he has raced in the Winston Cup series at tracks such as Daytona, Atlanta, Charlotte, Rockingham and Talladega. He finished 12th in the 1971 Firecracker 400 at Daytona.

"I've been interested in auto racing my whole life; I got interested when I was 10. I started driving when I was 17. I've just been doing it my whole life," Brack said. "This is a real honor. Most of the people here are just very knowledgeable. This is a real honor."

Brack, who won at 14 different tracks in Florida, is also in the Hialeah and Palm Beach Fairgrounds Halls of Fame.

While Brack had a long career, Devin McLeod, who turns 21 in April, is hoping to have one as long as the veteran driver.

McLeod has been driving over half his life starting in Champ Karts in 2002.

Last year, McLeod won at the New Smyrna World Series, beating a field that included NASCAR Nationwide driver Stephen Wallace.

"I go to school (St. Leo University) full-time, work full-time and want to race full-time. Racing is what I want to do. It's still my dream, it's still my goal," the affable McLeod said. "It's real cool and an honor to go into the same Hall of Fame as Bobby Brack, who is a living legend."

What's it like to be 20 years old and be inducted into a Hall of Fame?



Peter Travers / Daily Sun
President of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Jerry Conkle, left, stands with 2013 Hall of Fame inductees, from left, George Wagner, John Peters, Elaine Harrold, David Vanderwall, Devin McLeod and Bobby Brack during the club's Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Night on Saturday at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

“It’s really cool,” McLeod said. “People asked me my plans for this weekend. They are running at Auburndale, and I was asked if I was going to be there. I told them I was going to be inducted into a Hall of Fame. They thought it was crazy, but it’s really cool.”

Others inducted into the Hall of Fame included David Gourley, Elaine Harrold, Bill John, Gary LaPlant, Mack Lutes, Jake Perkins, John Peters, Gerri Prusko, Jane Routte, Rick Schmidt, Dora Thorne, Dick Vanderwall and George Wagner.

The keynote speaker of the meeting was radio personality and auto racing announcer Tony Modica.