

## A Night With Harold

### *Club adds Florida Slingshot Racer to its list of favorites!*

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club again demonstrated its commitment to the support of local racing with the October 17 sponsorship of Florida racer Harold Bedell of Bayonet Point at Sumter Motorsports Park (SMP). Bedell, driving the bright red no. 24 in the highly competitive Florida Slingshot Series (<http://floridaslingshots.com>), has become well-acquainted with the club, and represents a lot of what the club is all about. In the words of Wendy Touchette, club Special Events Coordinator, "Here's a man living his dream, and we're honored to have the chance to help him." Bedell is in his first full year of competition in the series, having jumped into the sport as a 68 year old rookie with "the need for speed!"

Despite the fanfare and the excitement as the club conducted an on-track logo placement ceremony at SMP, Harold had a bit of a rough night. He was plagued by what appeared to be fuel pick-up problems during the practice sessions and, after disassembling and reassembling his fuel pump and fuel lines, it appeared he had the problem solved with a strong performance in his qualifier. Taking the track for the Slingshot feature, though, the problem resurfaced, and Harold was relegated from his fourth-place starting position to the rear of the field. He was able to keep pace for awhile, but the erratic performance of his engine caused him to gradually slide backwards.



Although frustrated, Harold was optimistic that he'd be able to resolve his problem over the next few days and position himself to regain some of the points he gave up this week. Going into Saturday night's event, Harold held a 29-point lead over second place Roy Bryan, and was poised to take home the 2009 championship at SMP. Not too shabby for a 68 year old rookie!



Upper Photo: The Club's contingent helping get Harold ready to race.  
Above from left: The man and his car; Club VP Gerry Hafer placing the logo on the left wing; Crew Chief Carter presenting the check to Harold