



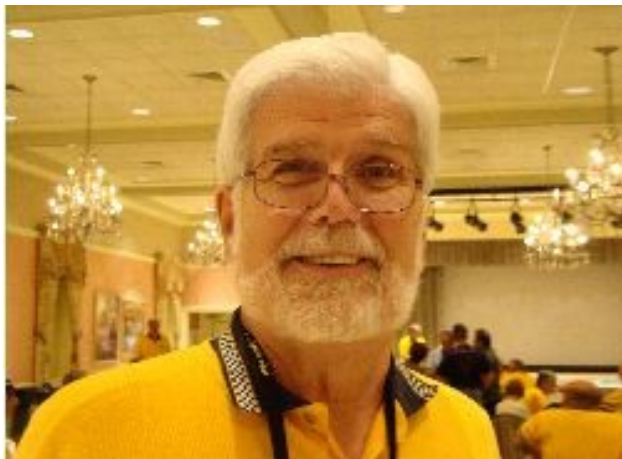
The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

Special Edition—Remembering "Big Dave" Bockman

May 2, 2012—Last Thursday, April 26, we lost a true friend of our local racing community..."Big Dave" Bockman. We all knew him well, and we all welcomed his presence every time we came to a meeting or club function. After all, who could top his delivery of our National Anthem at club meetings? Who could miss him in the crowd at our meetings, no matter how full the room was? Who could not see the aura that surrounded this gentle giant as he moved through the room greeting everybody around him? And, who among us has not traded a few good-humored barbs with the big man?

From a personal perspective, it was my good fortune to work with Dave on so many successful functions over the years, and I was probably the most pleased Pit Crew member when Dave



agreed to stand up and assume the leadership of our great group. It was a testament to his general character that he would even consider it in light of all his other commitments. We all knew his commanding image would serve to continue the growth of our club, and that Dave's sense of humor and dedication would carry us far. We know that Dave would have added greatly to the list of accomplishments *The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club* has logged over the years.

We'll of course go on without him, but we want Margy and his family to know that "Big Dave" will be in our hearts, minds, and prayers as we move forward.

The big smile and hearty greetings will no longer be there, and the frequent good-natured gibes we often leveled at him (and received from him!) will be missing, but we'll be thinking about him. In fact, as I was combing through our archives for photos of Dave to use at his memorial service, I had the benefit of reflecting on some of the most significant activities over the past years in which he played a key role. For example (and this is only a few):

- Our charity auctions, and his incredible display of auctioneering prowess
- His induction into the first class (2006) of our club Hall of Fame
- His "charter membership" in our Thursday morning breakfast club
- His 2008 capturing of the first edition of "Prediction Row"
- Our Bingo fund-raisers, where he consistently displayed total command of the numbers
- His organization of our club's first-ever participation (2007) in The Villages Christmas Parade
- His dedication to "Help Them Call Home" and the collection of over 1,000 cell phones

Continued on page 2

Remembering “Big Dave” Bockman

- And, of course, his entry, despite size issues, in Villages Cup competition

The last item on this partial list should bring a smile to a lot of faces. Who could forget his argument about weight differentials among participants, or the problem of finding a helmet big enough to fit his head. Then, when it seemed we were ready for the racing, there was the issue of how to get his frame folded into a go-kart (and it was a bigger problem getting him out of the kart after the race!) But, when the smoke cleared, and the races were run, we were all happy to see that “Big Dave” powered to a fourth place finish in the 2011 Championship Round.

The photos shown below and on the next page all serve to remind us of the involvement of “Big Dave” in so many of our activities. Take a look at them and I’m sure you will recall these experiences (and probably a few more) from the past six years. In the meantime, rest in peace, big guy!

Gerry Hafer, for the Pit Crew



Remembering “Big Dave” Bockman



Remembering "Big Dave" Bockman



That's why they call him "Big Dave!"



Big Dave Bockman...."I won't fit in there!"



Dave always stood taller than the crowd!

Remembering “Big Dave” Bockman

