

SPECIAL REPORT
INAUGURAL “RACING IN THE VILLAGES” EVENT
BRINGS STOCK CAR FEVER TO THE VILLAGES

At just past 3:00 on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon, about 75 club members and guests were treated to those words most coveted in the world of motor sports: “Drivers: Start your engines!” With that, a field of six carefully crafted, finely detailed hand-made race cars were placed on the starting grid along with a field of highly talented drivers to begin the first of five grueling races in this first-ever “Racing in The Villages” event. From the drop of the green, there was no holding back as the racers tried different lines on the track, often running three- and four-wide. This was a restrictor plate event, with the horsepower controlled by a set of carefully-thrown dice that governed the pace.

All five of the races were hotly contested but, at the end there could only be one car in the winner’s circle. The five event winners for the day were:

<u>Race</u>	<u>Car No.</u>	<u>Driver</u>
1	48	Marlene Wilkie
2	24	Brad Turecek
3	48	Pete Lockwood
4	20	Linda Turecek
5	48	Pete Lockwood



All five events were caution-free, with the only near-accident being a brief off-road excursion by the No. 8 car driven by Silky Meegan. She was able to gather it back in without any damage.



In addition to the spectacular racing, the members enjoyed a fine picnic outing. Hot dogs and hamburgers were provided by the club, and grilled on the Citizens First Bank mobile grill. Here’s Mike Touchette preparing to light the grill, accompanied by two worried members of the track’s support staff. Since the event was also a pot luck side dish event, there was an incredible amount of food and ample opportunity for event attendees to kick back and enjoy the day.

Another great aspect of the event was the appearances of Florida racing legends Dick Anderson and Buddy Pearce. Dick brought with him the Super Late Model car (below left) he will be entering April 17 in ASA competition at Bronson Motor Speedway, with his driver David Wilson. Buddy likewise delighted the crowd by appearing with his 1930 Ford Model A (below right).



Local media representatives were also on hand to cover the event. Here's Special Event Coordinator Wendy Touchette being interviewed prior to the start of the event.

In this photo, Daily Sun reporter Katie Evans is interviewing Florida racing legend Buddy Pearce.



Here are some other photos from the event:



Dick Anderson (L) and Buddy Pearce (R) enjoying the day



Club President Glen Carter with Buddy and Beth Pearce



Dick Anderson and Buddy Pearce reminiscing about their on-track adventures



Buddy and Beth Pearce preparing to throw the dice as Bill Wilkie looks on



The event registration desk...how's that for "the racing look"