

Motor Racing Club members experience thrill of a lifetime

'Flash' Conkle, 'Cyclone' Seyler compete in stock car race at Citrus County Speedway

The Villages Daily Sun
Friday, November 2, 2012
By Adam Rogers

For many racing fans, there's nothing better than heading out after a busy week and taking in the sights and sounds found at the local race track.

Nearby Citrus County Speedway for example, provides the perfect setting for a motorsports enthusiast looking to get their racing fill for the week. But under the lights last Saturday night, two members of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club got enough racing thrills to last a lifetime.

By the luck of the draw, Jerry Conkle and Gary Seyler won the opportunity to get behind the wheel of real race cars, in a real race at the 3/8-mile asphalt track in Inverness. Club members, often sporting their bright yellow shirts, are staples in the stands for weekly racing at the facility, and management happily rewarded the group for their loyalty with two free spots in their hornet division race. The track-owned cars are normally rented out to thrill-seekers.

Conkle and Seyler have been lifelong racing fans. Seyler said his passion stems from some drag racing he did as a teenager, and Conkle was introduced to racing at a young age in Indiana.

"My parents used to take me before World War II. I just loved it," Conkle said. "I hitchhiked to my first Indy 500 in 1952."

So "Flash" Conkle and "Cyclone" Seyler headed out to the track, slipped on a fire suit, racing shoes and helmet and climbed through the window of their race-ready stock cars – the chorus of Steppenwolf's "Born to be Wild" likely running through their heads.



Photos by Robert Crawford
Gary Seyler, top, and Jerry Conkle, above, of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club, compete Oct. 24 at Citrus County Speedway in Inverness. The pair won a chance drawing held by the club that earned them spots in the track's hornet division race.



Photos by Robert Crawford
Above: Gary Seyler, of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club, leads Brittany Brown on Oct. 24 in the 15-lap hornet division race at Citrus County Speedway in Inverness. Below: Club member Jerry Conkle, left, who finished third, is interviewed following the race.