

NASCAR fan club gathers to watch final race

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By Amanda Drapiewski

Silky Meegan is considered one of the guys in The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.

On Sunday, the Village of Sabal Chase resident geared herself up for the final Sprint Cup race of the season by gathering with other fans at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

"I'm one of the guys and I appreciate it a lot," she said.

Being a NASCAR fan for 20 years, Meegan said she has been to Lowe's Motor Speedway, Charlotte and Daytona.

"I love the noise and I love being there," she said.

While at Lowe's Motor Speedway one year, Meegan said she actually got to ride in a race car around the track.

"That was so much fun," she said. "It gives you a different appreciation of the drivers and the track because it looks so easy the way they do it."

Meegan said she has watched Indy cars her entire life, and never thought she would like NASCAR.

"My daughter took me to a NASCAR race, she said. "It won me over immediately. It sounds so much better live."

Wendy Touchette agreed. The Village of Sunset Point resident has been to Dover Motor Speedway, Charlotte and Daytona.

"It's so much better being there," she said.

Touchette said she enjoys being a part of the club because she likes to share her passion with others.

"It's a good chance to watch here with friends instead of by yourself in front of the television," she said.

According to Jerry Hafer, president of the club, members gather to watch the opening and closing races of the season.

"It's an opportunity to get together and talk about racing," said the Village of Summerhill resident, who has been following NASCAR since he was 13 years old.

Hafer has also been to Daytona to watch the qualifying races.

"I like the competition," he said. "It's such a different sport. People don't realize what's involved in racing."

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. The group is open to any residents who share an interest in motor racing.



Peter Trowers / Daily Sun
Members of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club watch the Ford EcoBoost 400 on Sunday at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.