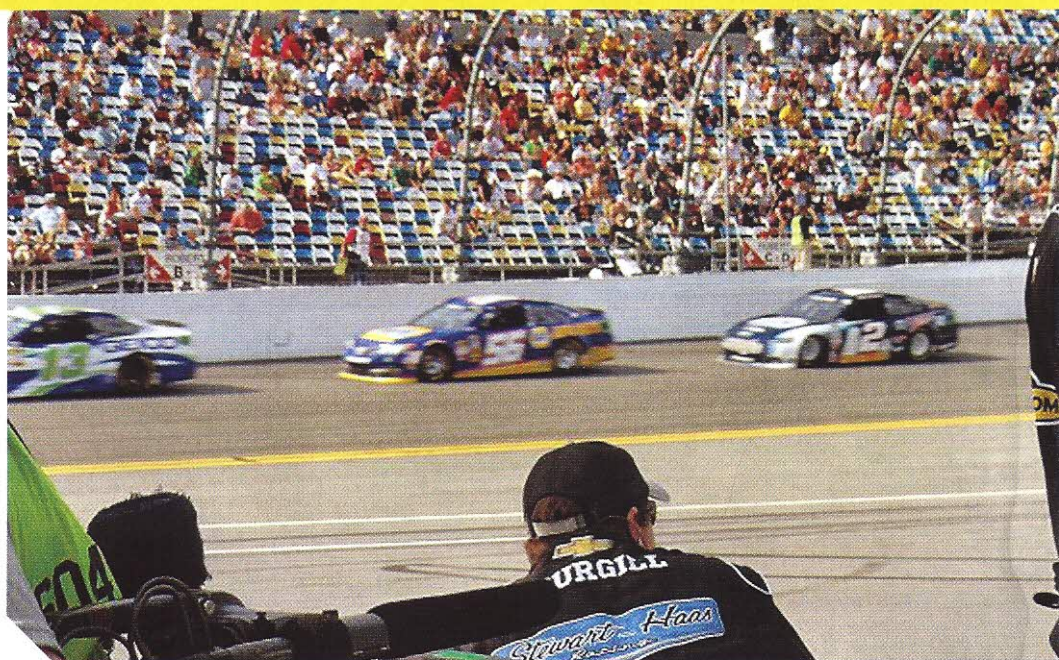


# THE VILLAGES MOTOR RACING FAN CLUB

**J**erry Conkle has been a racing fan since he first watched cars whiz by at the Armscamp Speedway in Indiana as a child. He has continued his love of the track here by becoming crew chief — or president — of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club. He has made many memories with his board members — better known as the pit crew — and other club members who share his passion.

“The camaraderie of our whole club is very friendly,” said Conkle, of the Village Rio Ponderosa. “Everyone is interested in racing.”

Conkle shares more about The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club here:



## WHAT DOES THE CLUB DO?

We have guest speakers from all over and all kinds of racing — not just NASCAR or IndyCar. We’ve had a female jockey, two Daytona 500 race winners and mini-boat racers. In January, we induct our speakers for the year into our hall of fame. Our club goes to races in Daytona, Governor’s Cup (200) race in New Smyrna, Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala and Citrus County Speedway (in Inverness). We have several people bring racecars to our meetings, too. We do Camp Villages every year. We have little RC cars and we set up a little track at La Hacienda Recreation Center and we give out trophies and certificates to them. We donate to different organizations and we also award scholarships to high school students.

## HOW IS THIS CLUB UNIQUE?

We have 175 members (who have moved here) from all over the country. What really makes it unique is we have people from all different kinds of racing that belong to our club.

We have sponsored 35 different racecars. They have our club logo on their cars. We sponsor Dick Anderson, Jake Perkins, Randy Anderson — several of them.

## WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE NASCAR SEASON SO FAR?

I’m a Jeff Gordon fan. This is his last year and he hasn’t had a whole lot of luck this year. But overall he has been great. There’s younger people coming up and there’s other people dominating. This year, Kevin Harvick dominated most of the year, Kyle Busch came back after his accident and he is doing good, and maybe Joey Logano. Those three are probably the top three drivers now in NASCAR. Matt Kenseth dominated a lot of the races, too.



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. For information, call Jerry Conkle at 750-1185 or visit the club’s website at [villagesracingclub.com](http://villagesracingclub.com).