

# Racing enthusiasts enjoy radio-controlled car cup race

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By Katie Sartoris

Miniature radio-controlled cars sped around a parking lot Wednesday at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

Some took sharp turns and flipped multiple times; others crashed, lost wheels or drove into bushes at The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club's first-ever Radio Controlled Car Village Cup Race.

Buster Burt, a retired NASCAR driver and club member, was on the sidelines, cheering on his friends and fellow club members as they raced. Although he wasn't racing, Burt thoroughly enjoyed watching.

"I love it, I'm right here wishing I could be out there," he said. "If you ever race and get it in your system, you don't get it out."

Burt hasn't gotten it out of his system since 1949, when he started racing full-size cars.

"It was a different time. I used to race on the beach, Daytona Beach," the Village of Santiago resident said. "And I raced on the new track in 1995, and after that I got out of it and raced locally. I came a long way, and I've been at it a long time."

To the club, Burt's experiences and stories are priceless.

"He's our legend," said Wendy Touchette of the Village of Sunset Pointe. "It's just so great to know somebody who knows how things were back then."

Touchette said that back then racers of Burt's generation had a different perspective on the sport. She added that race car drivers today still work hard, but it is just different.

"They had to work for every tire, every carburetor, and they worked hard," she said. "Those were the good old days."

Burt knows all about the good old days of racing, Touchette said.

"It's just great to hear about the drivers he used to race with," she said, adding that during their meetings, Burt will often share stories. "It's so much fun for the guys (to hear Burt's stories.)"

Although Burt isn't racing now, he's still clearly passionate about the sport and helped the club move from racing go-karts to racing radio-controlled cars.

"We raced go-karts for a couple of years and a couple people got hurt. It got a little bigger than what we could handle," Burt said. "(Radio-controlled cars) seemed to fit in good, and it was inexpensive and it wasn't too hard. We got started with one car, and we've been going every year with it."

This was the first time the club hosted a radio-controlled car cup. They had two classes: modified and stock.

In the stock class, Larry Anderson of the Village of Belle Aire took first; Dave Allen of the Village of Hemingway took second; and Village of Poinciana resident Don Day took third. Anderson also took first in the modified class, as Allen took second again. Third place went to Tony Cahl of the Village of Sanibel.



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Daryl Davis, left, of The Villages with Tom Salerno of The Villages talk during The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club RC race event Wednesday at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.