



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3

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Special points of interest:

- *ISC Rep. Wilkie Provides NASCAR Insights*
- *Our Hall of Fame Comes to Life!*
- *Club Shows Well at Christmas Parade; Crew Chief Logs DNF*
- *Daytona trip packages now available*
- *Late Model Digest Shows "our car"*

Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



"Oh, what a night!" was about all I could think of to say after our First Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on December 5. Seeing eleven of our great guest speakers together at one time really drove home to me what this club has become, and seeing the room packed with so many of our members added yet another

layer of icing on the cake. By the way, there actually was a fair amount of cake and other goodies brought by our members, and this, too, helped make it a great and festive night. Many thanks to all of you, and especially to our talented pit crew for organizing and carrying out this extraordinary event.

I want to say also that I was humbled by the "Founding Father" award presented to me. This has been a labor of love, so to speak, and the trip from a vague idea last summer to what we have today has been great. It's given me the opportunity to make a great many new

friends in The Villages and in the local racing community, and I am thankful for that.

We're already looking forward to the club's 2008 activities, and we'll start off with a bang on January 2, 2008. I'm confident that it's going to be another great year for us, with trips, race sponsorships, and fun activities like we had in 2007, and maybe a few surprises along the way. As always, your pit crew would love to hear any thoughts, suggestions, or ideas that any of you would like to throw out—if it's doable, heck we'll give it a shot! See you in January.

Glen

Hall of Fame Night—Villages Style!

Wednesday, December 2 marked yet another milestone for our club—the official establishing of our very own "Hall of Fame." In this small way, we recognized the talented and gracious individuals who helped to make our monthly meetings a huge success all year long. These are the folks who took the spotlight and shared their experiences in the world of racing with us,

bringing so many interesting insights and perspectives to us. The 2006/2007 inductees (shown in the photo at right) were honored with plaques commemorating the occasion, and their names were inscribed on the club's "Hall of Fame" trophy. As many of you know, the trophy itself was donated by inductee and racing legend Dick Anderson, and we plan to add many more names in (Continued on page 2)



From left: Buddy Pearce, Mike Peters, Dick Anderson, Buster Burt, Buzz Wilkie, Dave Bockman, Sabrina Gardiner, Larry Croom, Steve Griffin, Dean Tillman, Matt Vaughn. Not pictured: Lou Tremblay, Tim Lake, and Don Nerone



Hall of Fame Drivers (from left): Buddy Pearce, Dick Anderson, Buster Burt, Steve Griffin, Matt Vaughn

“This one means the most to me” (Dick Anderson in commenting on his name appearing on the club’s permanent trophy. Dick’s name is on an estimated 1,000 trophies.)

Hall of Fame Night—Villages Style! (continued from page 1)

the years ahead. By way of recap, here is the list of names inscribed on the trophy so far:

- Matt Vaughn
- Dick Anderson
- Buddy Pearce
- Buzz Wilkie
- Mike Peters & Lou Tremblay
- Dave Bockman
- Don Nerone
- Larry Croom
- Steve Griffin
- Sabrina Gardiner

- Tim Lake
- Dean Tillman
- Arthur “Buster” Burt

If you haven’t already done so, please give these folks your thanks and congratulations next time you see them.

Also, those club members who attended the December 5 meeting once again got to see Dave Bockman “perform” in a role that he just seems born for—our Master of Ceremonies. This was a good warm-up for Dave for our February char-

ity auction, and we expect him to be in rare form as he reprises his performance from last year.

Kudos to all club members who brought treats, and special thanks to Silky Meegan, Brad and Linda Turecek and Dale and Sue Gamertsfelder for coordinating the food, and to Bob and Camille Sherman for the tremendous job on the plaques.

See page 6 for individual photos of the inductees on hand at the December 5 meeting.

Bulletin—Crew Chief Carter DNFs in Cup Debut!

Saturday, December 8 is a day that will go down in the archives of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club as our first participation in an organized parade event. It will also go into the archives as the competitive debut of veteran racer and Crew Chief Glen Carter, and it was not pretty. Glen started fourth

in the field of eleven club entries in The Villages’ Annual Christmas Parade, but was unable to hold that spot for a complete lap. After drafting the Crown Royal car driven by Wayne Nolan, Carter’s un-sponsored car faltered entering the first turn, losing power as a result of a serious overload of audio

equipment. With the field bunched behind him, Carter drifted to the outside lane and parked the car, hitching a ride with Dave Bockman for the remainder of the event. The crowd was surprisingly kind, although pretty much abuse was dealt to Carter by his fellow competitors. Incidentally, the event was won by the #48 Lowe’s entry (so what’s new?), driven by Syd Baker. Here’s a photo of the entire field of club entries.



**“That’s just racin...we’ll get ‘em next year!”
...Glen Carter**



Buzz Wilkie Reprises Role as our “Inside Informant” on Nascar Happenings!

Buzz Wilkie, Account Manager for International Speedway Coorporation, returned to the club at our December meeting and shared with us a number of thoughts and ideas on what’s going on at NASCAR. He updated us on

the sponsorship changeovers from Pepsi to Coca Cola, and from Budweiser to Coors, and gave us a number of perspectives on what’s likely to happen in the future NASCAR venue selections.



Looking Ahead to 2008—Daytona Packages Announced

Wendy Touchette announced on November 7 that Sabrina Gardiner of ISC has structured some great NASCAR race packages for our club for 2008. The first of these, of course, is for February at Daytona, and the packages include both the Nationwide (formerly Busch) series and the Sprint (formerly Nextel) Cup events on February 16 and 17. These and other planned trips will be discussed in greater detail at future meetings.

For the February, 2008 trips, two pricing options are available:

Option #1

FRONTSTRETCH

Lockhart Tower tickets for both races

Bus Transportation to and from The Villages

Fan Zone access on Saturday

Tailgate party prior to race each day

Welcome bags

Price—\$455.00 per person

Option #2

SUPERSTRETCH

Lund Tower tickets for both races

Bus Transportation and from The Villages

Fan Zone access on Saturday

Tailgate party prior to race each day

Welcome bags

Price—\$355.00 per person

Also, note that the first fifty to sign up will receive a free program package.



Local Racing Corner

Confirming what Mike Peters discussed with us at our December 5 meeting, Ocala speedway's conversion from asphalt to dirt began on Saturday, 12/8 with the arrival of the first truckload of clay. The conversion is on



Photo from Karnac

target for completion in time for a March opening, and there are many other changes slated for the track in 2008. For a complete recap of the track's change-over to dirt, follow this link <http://www.karnac.com/floridatracks/html/ocala.shtml>.

On Saturday, January 19, Citrus County Speedway will host its "Winter Spectacular VI", with a 75 lap Super

Late Model Race, a 50 lap Mini Stock race, a 50 Pure Stock race, a 50 lap 4 Cylinder Bomber race, and a 50 lap Figure 8 race. Should be great!



2008 World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing

New Smyrna Speedway will host the 42nd "World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing," a nine-day extravaganza of serious racing designed to showcase the region's best racers. Super Late Models, Lare Models, and ASA-type Late Models will compete, along with entries from the NASCAR Touring Modified, TBARA

Winged Sprints, IMCA Modifieds, and other series.

Dick Anderson is planning to run his #92 in selected events during the program, and we understand that **Jeff Choquette** will drive for Dick. Jeff, we believe, will also be competing in his own #70 Super Late Model entry, so we'll all have a lot to cheer for during the series.

Racing begins Friday, February 8, and runs through Saturday February 16, 2008. For a complete schedule of events, see NSS's website (www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org/html/ws-schedule.shtml.)



Visit our website: www.villagesracingclub.com

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

Glen Carter, President (751-6442)
 Gerry Hafer, Vice Pres./Newsletter (751-3643)
 Ted Cahalane, Treasurer (751-2638)
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Linda Carter, Historian (751-6442)
 Mike Touchette, Member at Large (430-0239)
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)

Websites of Interest



This website provides a fair amount of status-type information about NASCAR, including personal data about the activities of individual

drivers. For example, Kasey Kahne's recent off-track woes are covered in the current edition of the site, as are some "look ahead" items pertaining to the 2008 season. There are editorial opinions galore from affiliated authors, as well as links to other NASCAR-specific site. Overall, it's a pretty good site for general information.



In addition to a wealth of NASCAR-related information, this site contains information related

to virtually every racing facility in Florida...a must for those who want to experience local racing around the state.



This site offers a fascinating selection

of historical data about NASCAR through six decades of competition (website URL: <http://www.decadesofracing.net>). Some of the stats are out-of-date, but the history is worth the visit.



So you don't need to look it up...

Now, here's an interesting look at individual driver performance that might surprise you a bit. USA Today, using the services of Covers.com, provides a recap of Chase driver finishes compared to their starting position, and it shows some intriguing things. For example, Jeff Burton didn't fare very well in the final Cup standings, even though on average he finished 5.1 positions higher than he started. That tells you he's a better racer than qualifier. Denny Hamlin's statistic of having an average finish 1.6 places behind his starting position would indicate he's a better qualifier. So what's that bit of knowledge worth? Probably not much, but it is interesting!

Ranking by Start-to-Finish (click column headers to sort) - Chase										
Rank	Driver	Avg Start-to-Fin	Races Won	Avg Finish	Avg Start	DNF	Top 5's	Top 10's	Total Pts	Points Rank
1	Matt Kenseth	+6.9	2	13	19.9	1	13	22	6298	4
2	Jeff Burton	+5.1	1	13.8	18.9	4	9	18	6231	8
3	Tony Stewart	+4.4	3	13.1	17.6	2	11	23	6242	6
4	Jeff Gordon	+4	6	7.3	11.3	1	21	30	6646	2
5	Clint Bowyer	+3.5	1	13.8	17.4	0	5	17	6377	3
6	Kevin Harvick	+2.9	1	15.5	18.4	1	4	15	6199	10
7	Carl Edwards	+2.9	3	13.9	16.8	4	11	15	6222	9
8	Kyle Busch	+0.9	1	14.1	15	2	11	20	6293	5
9	Jimmie Johnson	-0.9	10	10.8	9.8	3	20	24	6723	1
10	Martin Truex Jr.	-1.2	1	16.4	15.2	3	7	14	6164	11
11	Kurt Busch	-1.6	2	15.2	13.7	3	6	14	6231	7
12	Denny Hamlin	-1.6	1	14	12.4	2	12	18	6143	12

Now, to take this analysis even one step further, the following chart shows the top 20 starting spots and the average place the driver occupying that spot finished. It says that, even though the pole-sitter on average finished a bit lower than 12th, it was still the place to be, since 12.3 was the highest average finish of all of the top 20. The pole also tied for the most wins (4).

Got a headache yet?

2007 Cumulative Season Results Through Race 36 of 36										
Start Pos	Avg Finish	Finish Rank	Avg Start-to-Finish	Avg Base Points	Races Won	Win %	Top 5's	Top 5%	Top 10's	Top 10%
1	12.3	1	-11.3	133.6	4	11.1	19	52.8	24	66.7
2	15.4	4	-13.4	121.1	3	8.3	9	25	15	41.7
3	19.1	10	-16.1	108.1	1	2.8	5	13.9	11	30.6
4	16.9	6	-12.9	116.4	4	11.1	7	19.4	17	47.2
5	19.4	11	-14.4	107.5	1	2.8	5	13.9	11	30.6
6	14	2	-8	125.8	3	8.3	11	30.6	19	52.8
7	16.5	5	-9.5	117.4	1	2.8	10	27.8	18	50
8	20.1	13	-12.1	105.7	1	2.8	8	22.2	13	36.1
9	20.3	14	-11.3	103.3	0	0	3	8.3	5	13.9
10	20.4	15	-10.4	104.1	1	2.8	6	16.7	7	19.4
11	19.9	12	-8.9	105.4	1	2.8	6	16.7	10	27.8
12	18.5	9	-6.5	110.2	1	2.8	6	16.7	12	33.3
13	21.8	20	-8.8	99.3	0	0	5	13.9	9	25
14	20.7	16	-6.7	103.4	1	2.8	5	13.9	13	36.1
15	18.4	8	-3.4	111.2	3	8.3	5	13.9	13	36.1
16	25.3	35	-9.3	89.3	1	2.8	6	16.7	9	25
17	17.9	7	-0.9	111.3	0	0	7	19.4	12	33.3
18	14.5	3	+3.5	122.5	1	2.8	7	19.4	14	38.9
19	22.1	21	-3.1	98.5	1	2.8	3	8.3	7	19.4
20	23.2	25	-3.2	95.1	2	5.6	2	5.6	6	16.7

Happy Holidays from your
Pit Crew!

Our Car Makes National News!

The article appearing below appeared in the December 5, 2007 edition of the Late Model Digest, a bi-weekly publication originating in North Carolina and dedicated to coverage of Late Model Stock Car Racing news across the country. This edition's main feature coverage was the 40th Annual Snowball Derby up in Pensacola where, as you know, Dick Anderson and Jeff Choquette competed with "our car." In this case, an astute contributing reporter for the Digest (Jim Carson) picked up on the fact that there was something special about the sponsorship of Dick's car. (I know the article is a bit hard to read, since it was copied from a newspaper; if you want to see the entire page or the entire publication, see Glen Carter.)

(Note also the article in the upper left corner, covering comments from Wayne Anderson)

Return for three:

Logie dictated that Wayne Anderson would have been one of the busiest men in the Five Flags pits over the weekend. In addition to making a return to the race which he won in 2001, Anderson also kept track of the two other Super Late Models that he maintains, driven by Ryan Sieg and Ryan Foster.

But it wasn't that frantic for the veteran from Wildwood, Fla.

"I really wasn't too busy at all; I let them handle their own thing," Anderson said. "They came in and talked to me a little bit, and whatever I did on my car, they did. All three of 'em made the Derby race, so I felt very proud of that. (Foster) wound up eighth and Ryan (Sieg, with whom he has worked for more than a year) was running really good before he got crashed."

Anderson was also a crash victim, collected in the wreck which took out Crane and also local favorite Scott Carlson. — *Jim Carson*

Dillner's dollars:

Speed Channel race reporter Bob Dillner has been owning and fielding a car for Zach Stroupe III, and it didn't take long for the television personality to learn how expensive asphalt short track racing can be for participants.

"We got the car in May and we've learned so much this season it's been hard to believe," Dillner said.

"We've had our ups and downs and made some mistakes, but it's been a very good learning experience.

"One thing, though. You figure out real quick what it costs to do this stuff and I don't see how some of these guys do this week in and week out. Every time my wife has to write a check for the race team, she looks at me and goes, 'What? Are you kidding me?'" — *Brian McLeod*

Bonus hood showing:

Jeff Choquette made his third Snowball start, and his first driving a



The hood of Jeff Choquette's car was adorned with signatures from a group of Dick Anderson's central Florida race

car owned by Florida short track legend Dick Anderson. The combination produced a 10th-place finish; Scott Hantz nipped him for ninth on the last lap.

Choquette raced the same car he used to win the Governor's Cup at New Smyrna Speedway two weeks earlier, and with the same hood with the logo of a fan club from the Villages.

"For the Governor's Cup, they all signed the hood; anybody could sign the hood for \$25 apiece. That got 'em in free and their name on the car," Anderson said. "Two bus loads of 'em did it, and they had a whole section in the stands. When we won they were all there."

"They got their money's worth too," Choquette added.

However, a few of the fans still figured it was Anderson behind the wheel of his familiar No. 92, and they didn't realize that Choquette was driving until he climbed out in victory lane. — *Jim Carson*

Unexpected return:

Former crew chief Mike Toemmes has made a return to sport and is working with 14-year-old driver D. Brannon, who recently won his first career feature event in a FASCAR Goodyear Challenge Series Oct. 13 at DeSoto Super Speedway.

Toemmes, who once teamed with former TNT Motorsports in south Florida until the business shut its doors, stayed away from sport for seven years until an unexpected phone call arrived from Brannon's team.

"I went through a difficult time and just to be kept away from the sport because that's what I had to do," Toemmes said. "I don't know how they got my number, but someone must have told

continued

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Hall of Fame Inductees—December 5, 2007



Row 1 , left to right: Matt Vaughn, Dick Anderson, Buddy Pearce

Row 2, left to right: Buzz Wilkie, Mike Peters, Dave Bockman

Row 3, Left to right: Larry Croom, Steve Griffin, Sabrina Gardiner, Buster Burt

Row 4: Dean Tillman