



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report-January, 2009

January 1, 2009

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January Meeting Preview—Off to a Running Start!



Ned & Debra Bowers

Our scheduled speakers for the January 7 meeting are

Debra and Ned Bowers, parents of “our driver,” **Matt Bowers**. We heard from Matt at our November meeting, and judging from the remarks and feedback we received, it’s safe to say we were all quite impressed with the poise and stage presence this 17-year old rising star exhibited. Now, it’s time to hear the rest of the story, as Debra and Ned give us a parents-eye view of what it takes to help build a racing career. They’ll talk about the family commitment it takes to achieve what they’ve already achieved in the sport of stock car racing, and they’ll talk about

the challenges that lie ahead as they pursue their family dream of reaching racing’s highest levels. In addition to their plans for the year ahead and their affiliation with Dick Anderson’s New Dixie Racing Team, they’ll cover the strategies they are developing to navigate the turbulent waters of financial planning, sponsorship acquisition, media relations, and just plain getting recognized in the right places.

With the success they’ve racked up so far, their discussions on what lies ahead should provide for a riveting presentation!



Pit Notes from the Crew Chief

It’s been just about a month since our 2008 Hall of Fame Night, and I’m still reliving the event in my mind. What a great night for the club! The program was great, the meal was great, our guests and inductees were all first class, and the Colony Cottage facility far exceeded all of our expectations for the night. Our Master of Ceremonies, tuxedo and all, was outstanding, and the time we

had together to share our memories of our two fantastic years as a club was heartwarming. I don’t think we could have asked for anything more, and I know we were all thankful that the Sumter County Sheriff’s Department agreed, in the spirit of the night, to drop all charges against Buzzie Reutimann! (By the way...we have it on good authority that he

did NOT go home through Coleman that night.)

I also can’t say enough about the tremendous planning work done by **Barbara Nolan and Terri Howard** and everyone else who pitched in. It was another great team effort...one that we plan on repeating (topping?) in 2009. We’ve already

(Continued on Page 2)...



Pit Notes from the Crew Chief (continued from page 1)

started working on it, so if you have ideas for things to change or suggestions for improvement, just let us know.

But that's enough about history. We're looking ahead to another great year for the club and, in the short run, we're looking forward to two great trips to Daytona International Speedway, one for the Bud Shootout, and one for the Daytona 500. Wendy will have more to say about those trips at the January 7 meeting. Also, I know that the normally shy and reserved **Dave Bockman** is beginning to gear up for our third annual charity auction, and

we've begun to stockpile items for the February event. If you have any items you'd like to donate, or if you know anybody who does, please have them get in touch with any of the board members and we'll take care of getting the items to the show.

Looking a little bit further down the 2009 Highway, we're excited about the possibility of a club trip to the 2009 NHRA Gaternationals up in Gainesville. Our resident NHRA insider—**Dave Colbert**—is busily working out the details for what we believe will be a tremendous event for us. Dave will be discussing more details at the January 7 meeting. Looking further into 2009, we also anticipate another spectacular

edition of our club's annual picnic, with **Dick and Mary Anderson** vowing to top last year's summer extravaganza! I don't know how that's possible, given how wildly successful the 2008 event was, but the Anderson's are confident that the sky's the limit on this thing.

Finally, we're all eagerly anticipating the start of Matt Bowers' 2009 season with New Dixie Racing. In fact, by the time we meet on January 7, the "Red Eye 125" will already have been run over at New Smyrna Speedway (scheduled for Saturday, January 3). Watch for Gerry's recap to be posted on our website the day after the race. "Our car" isn't running in this event, but "our driver" certainly is, so head over there and give Matt and Dick your support.

Glen

Crew Chief A "No Show" at 2008 Parade!

Many of you will recall the first-lap problems experienced by Crew Chief Carter in last year's Christmas Parade at the Polo Grounds. Many of you will also remember his pledge to "get 'em next year," and his assertion that the track (at the Polo Grounds) "owed him one." Well, for an as-yet-unexplained reason, Carter failed to make an attempt at qualifying for the 2008 event, instead leaving the pole position in the hands of **Big Dave Bockman**. It looks like we'll never know what could have been, unless of course he offers to clear the matter up at the January meeting. We'll see.

Despite the pressure and performance anxieties that usually go along with pointless events of this nature (I say "pointless" only because no points were awarded), Big Dave handled his duties well. Starting on the pole in the 11-car field, he led flag-to-flag, and de-

livered a credible performance for the club. Here are some action shots from the event, beginning with Big Dave providing driving tips to the Belly Dancing Club as they formed next to our group.



Clockwise from top left: Dave & the Head Belly Dancer, Buster and his artwork, Big Dave leading the parade, Big Dave herding the cats before the parade.

Club Members in the News...Folks, We're Everywhere!

The Villages is certainly a big place, but in many respects it's still a small town, and your fellow club members can be found popping up in a variety of places. Take for instance the Saturday, December 13, 2008 edition of The Villages Daily Sun's "The Mix in the Villages North" magazine. On page 2, we find an excellent article by Daily Sun reported Jill Sherman covering the vigorous lifestyle of club member **Harry Perrett**, and highlighting his intense interest in NASCAR and his affiliation with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club. Then, further back in this same edition, we find club member **Mike Heinke**

featured for his pickleball prowess, including his role as a USA Pickleball Association ambassador in The Villages. In the article, Mike shares his views on playing the game, as well as on the innovative of the "pickleboard."

Finally, not to be outdone by the guys, club Secretary **Silky Meegan** found her way in to the Winn-Dixie sponsored Daily Sun "Readers' Cookbook" magazine with her—get this—Bourbon Slurpie drink recipe.

Her recipe is shown below, but since I know it's kind of hard to read, I'm sure Silky would be happy to make a copy for you. Actually, I'm sure that if she was pressured enough, she could be persuaded to mix up a batch for one of our meetings or one of our race-event tailgates.

Page 2 THE MIX IN THE VILLAGES NORTH Saturday, December 13, 2008



VILLAGE OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
Getting his fill

NASCAR, golf and socializing keep this Villager extra busy

By JILL SHERMAN
DAILY SUN

THE VILLAGES — Harry Perrett has a past and his neighbors know it. That is why Perrett gets phone calls when people who live nearby have clogged drains.

Perrett was a plumber for 40 years. Now, he is retired and

living in the Village of Country Club Hills. He moved here three years ago from Uitchfield, Conn. Having leisure time makes Perrett happy. He plays golf three or four times a week, sometimes with his wife, Melinda. An avid fan of NASCAR for a number of years, Perrett is a member of The Villages Racing Fan Club. He and Melinda go to Daytona every July and to Charlotte, N.C., every October to watch NASCAR events in person.

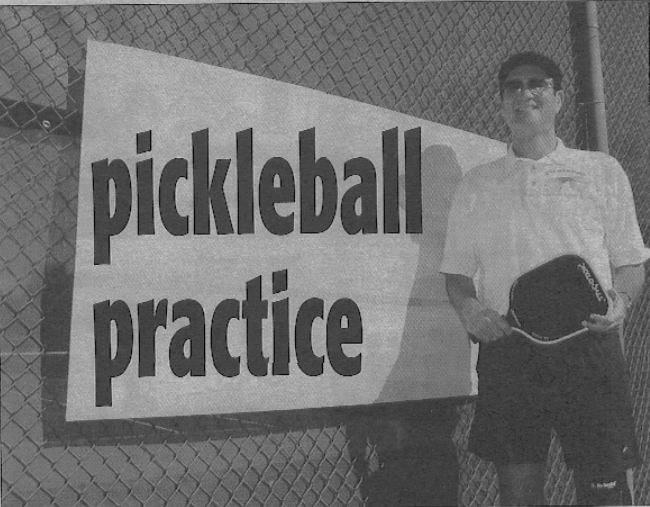
See PERRETT, page 6

George Horsford / Daily Sun

Village of Country Club Hills resident Harry Perrett was a plumber for 40 years and has enjoyed NASCAR since the 1960s.

Saturday, December 13, 2008 THE MIX IN THE VILLAGES NORTH

VILLAGE OF ALHAMBRA



pickleball practice

Peter Travers / Daily Sun


Mike Heinke stands with his invention for practicing pickleball, the pickleboard, at El Santiago pickleball courts.

Tuesday, December 16, 2008 17 DAILY

PARTY FAVORITES

Bourbon Slurpie
Submitted by: Silky Meegan, Village of Sabal Chase

Ingredients:	Directions:
2 tea bags or 1 family-size tea bag	Steep tea bags in boiling water for 3-5 minutes. Remove tea bags. Stir in sugar until it dissolves. Blend the concentrate with the bourbon and the sweetened iced water. Put it all in a freezable container and stir in the remaining water.
6 ounces frozen orange concentrate	Note: I have one of those "thunder sticks" and just put everything in the freezer container, since the tea has steeped, and blend. Freeze overnight. Scoop out to serve.
1 cup boiling water	
6 ounces frozen lemonade concentrate	
1/4 cup sugar	
1 cup lemonade	
3 1/2 cups water	
	Yields: 1 1/2 quarts



Silky Meegan
Village of Sabal Chase

"This recipe was given me by my sister-in-law, Pat Southerland, some 30 years ago. It has been a favorite and much requested recipe ever since."

And then, on Saturday, December 20, 2008, The Villages Daily Sun's "The Mix in the Villages" section published the other half of the Perrett story, this time presenting Harry's wife Melinda's "A Day In The Life" story. =====>

Saturday, December 20, 2008 THE MIX IN THE VILLAGES NORTH

A day in the life

Melinda Perrett

Every day is filled with excitement and adventure.

Morning
Every morning — Melinda usually wakes up at 6:00 and gets to the golf course at 6:30. After a quick shower and getting ready for the day, she heads to the clubhouse for breakfast with friends.

Afternoon
Lunch time — Melinda usually makes a delicious lunch for her husband, Harry. After lunch — Melinda usually goes to work with Harry, to his friends and go to doctor appointments.

Evening
Dinner time — Melinda usually goes to the Casino for a delicious dinner that Harry likes. After dinner — Melinda usually goes to the gym and goes to bed between 10-11:00 pm ready for the next exciting day.

Photo: Peter Travers

Special Events Roundup



It's full speed ahead as we launch our club into 2009. The first quarter of the year will feature a number of NASCAR/Daytona events, and we're developing plans for visits to additional venues later in the year. As always, we'd like to hear suggestions from club members for trips, club events, visits, and anything that helps promote our mutual interest in racing. So far, here's what we have on the schedule for 2009.

- **Saturday, January 3**—Red Eye 125 at New Smyrna Speedway. Not a club trip, but Matt Bowers will be entered in the 84X (a car built by Wayne Anderson and engineered by Dick Anderson). Come out and cheer for "Our Driver."

- **Tuesday, January 6**—NASCAR Pre-season Thunder at Daytona—details TBA
 - **February 6-14** - Speed Weeks at New Smyrna Speedway
 - **Saturday, February 7**—Bud Shootout at Daytona (1-day, \$99 package)
 - **Sunday, February 15**—Daytona 500—1-day, \$255 package
 - **Saturday, March 13**—NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville, FL. Dave Colbert is busily researching this event and developing plans for this one-day bus trip. He'll have more to say about this at the January 7 meeting.
- See you all on January 7!
- Wendy

Local Racing Corner

Location	January Event Schedule
Ocala Speedway 9050 NW Gainesville Rd Ocala, FL 34482 (352) 622-9400 (www.ocalaspeedway.com)	<u>January 29-31</u> 2009 Winternationals and UMP Dirt Car Modifieds
Citrus County Speedway U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds. (352) 726-9339 (www.citruscountyspeedway.com)	<u>January 3</u> First Winter Spectacular VI Open Wheel Mod. 75, Sportsman 50, St. Stock 50, 4 Cyl Bombers 50, Fig 8 50 <u>January 17</u> Second Winter Spectacular VI Super Late Model 75 laps, Mini Stock 50, Pure Stock 50, V 8Thunder, FL Pro Challenge, Outlaw Mod Mini
New Smyrna Speedway Corner of State Route 44 and 415. P.O. Box 1500 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170 (386) 427-4129 (www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)	<u>January 3</u> Red Eye 125 Super Late Models 125, Pro-Trucks 35, Super Stocks 25, Strictly Stocks 20.
Orlando Speedworld 19164 East Colonial Drive (Highway 50 just west of 520 Cocoa cut-off) Orlando, FL 32833 407-568-1367 (www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org)	No January Events Scheduled
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 466A near The Villages) Florida's oldest 1/8th mile clay oval Go-Kart track; less than a mile from The Villages! See website for schedule (www.speedwaypark.net)	No January Events Scheduled

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)
- Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)
- Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)
- Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)
- Tom Horrmann, Official Photographer (430-0195)

Website Review

WorldRacingGroup.com

I'll readily admit that I'm a die-hard fan of asphalt (or concrete) racing, but I'll also acknowledge that dirt track racing seems to be gaining traction again as a popular form of competition ("traction"...get it?) I'll also admit that having Ocala Speedway as a dirt track, and having Buzie Reutimann as a club affiliate, have sort of stirred my interest in dirt racing. A few weeks ago, I subscribed to DirtVision.com and, through links provided on this website, was able to drill upward to find their parent site, WorldRacing-Group.com. This site is like a buffet for dirt track fans, with their homepage smacking you right in the face with opportunities to link out to six different, major dirt-oriented sites. Among these are the ever-popular "World of Outlaws" and "World of Outlaws Late Model" series sites, as well as the "Advance Auto Parts Super Dirt Car" series and the "Dirt Car Racing" site. There is also a link to the "DirtVision" site, a collection of fascinating current and archived dirt racing footage and special reports from racing venues in many different locales.

This is a good series of websites for you died-in-the-wool dirt track fans help navigate the mid-winter blues!



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

The 2008 "Chase for the Cup" is now history, and one of the things I always like to do is check and see how the pre-Chase point system would have arranged the finishing order. This time around, it's interesting to see that under the "Chase" format, Jimmie Johnson's consistency during the final 10 events allowed him to overcome what would have been a Carl Edwards Championship. It's equally interesting to see how Kyle Busch's performance in the Chase events resulted in a slide from what would have been a third place finish to a lowly 10th place finish. All of this really means nothing in the final analysis...it's simply food for idle thought.

Championship Points Rankings

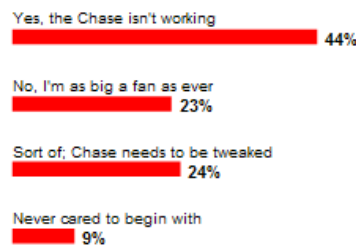
Pts Rank	Driver	Points	Pts Behind	Avg Fin	Races Won	Top 5's
1	Jimmie Johnson	6684	Leader	10.5	7	15
2	Carl Edwards	6615	-69	9.5	9	19
3	Greg Biffle	6502	-182	12.9	2	12
4	Kevin Harvick	6408	-276	12.4	0	7
5	Clint Bowyer	6381	-303	14.1	1	7
6	Jeff Burton	6335	-349	12.5	2	7
7	Jeff Gordon	6316	-368	14.5	0	13
8	Denny Hamlin	6214	-470	15.4	1	12
9	Tony Stewart	6202	-482	14.9	1	10
10	Kyle Busch	6186	-498	12.5	8	17
11	Matt Kenseth	6184	-500	16.4	0	9
12	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	6127	-557	14.1	1	10

Traditional Points Rankings

Pts Rank	Driver	Points	Pts Behind	Avg Fin	Races Won	Top 5's
1	Carl Edwards	5236	Leader	9.5	9	19
2	Jimmie Johnson	5220	-16	10.5	7	15
3	Kyle Busch	4984	-252	12.5	8	17
4	Greg Biffle	4782	-454	12.9	2	12
5	Jeff Burton	4709	-527	12.5	2	7
6	Kevin Harvick	4691	-545	12.4	0	7
7	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	4605	-631	14.1	1	10
8	Jeff Gordon	4537	-699	14.5	0	13
9	Tony Stewart	4487	-749	14.9	1	10
10	Clint Bowyer	4487	-749	14.1	1	7
11	Denny Hamlin	4439	-797	15.4	1	12
12	Matt Kenseth	4316	-920	16.4	0	9

Fans' feelings

Is your interest in NASCAR declining?



TOTAL VOTES:
2725

[Latest results](#)

And, here's another interesting bit of information from USAToday.com's web-site. How do you feel about it?

(Data Source = USAToday.com)

The No. 92 Gets Refurbished



We've all gotten accustomed to seeing the No. 92, affectionately known as "our car," in its race-ready state. There is no doubt in our minds that this is not only the premier Super Late Model entry in Florida, but it's also the prettiest. But it's the "off season" now, and this is when the true professionals in the racing business take the time to refurbish their equipment, rebuild it where necessary, and simply get it ready for next season. In the case of Dick Anderson and the New Dixie Racing team, though, it's more than that...it's a matter of making a good thing great. On a visit to Dick's race shop last week, I had an opportunity to take a look at the progress being made on a complete re-build of the No. 92 and, as the photos below will attest, it really is a *complete* re-build!



The Man at work!



Other Odds & Ends

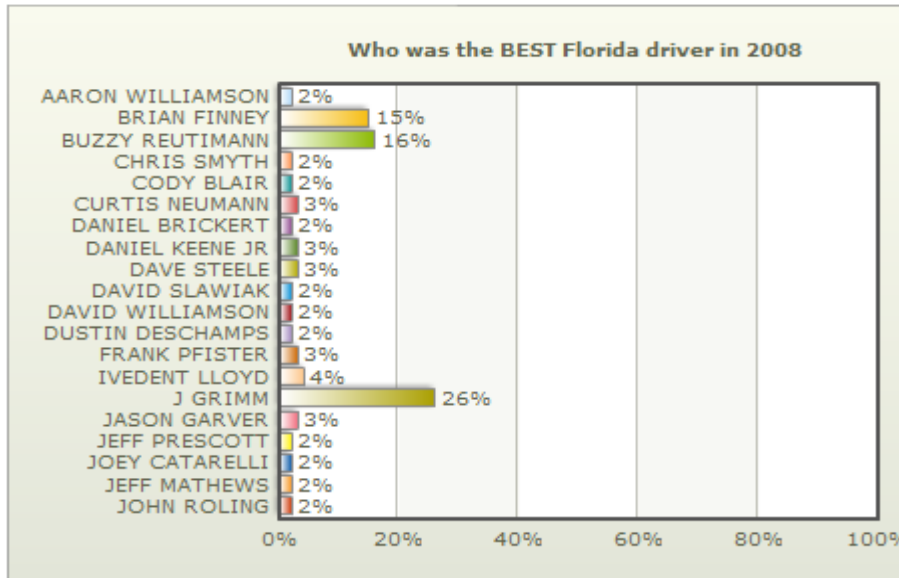
The Best Driver in Florida is....

KARNAC Media, producers of KARNAC.com, recently conducted a series of polls to determine the “Best of the Best” in Florida racing circles. The individual polls included categories like “Best Rookie”, “Most Improved Driver”, “Best Flagman”, “Best Promoter” (Mike Peters finished a close second in this poll), and even “Best Concessions”, but the one that got my attention was “Best Driver.” It was with great interest that I noticed our Hall of Famer Buzzie Reutimann grabbing second place in this category.

The poll results are shown below, but I think most of us would have put Buzzie higher. By the way, the website says voting is open until the first week of January. I’m not sure of an exact date yet, but what do you say we try to push Buzzie over the top? Go to <http://www.karnac.com/poll1.htm>, go to “Best Driver 2008 List 1, and cast your vote.

If you haven’t already, take a look at the KARNAC.com site when you have a chance. It’s packed full of local and regional racing information, along with a number of interesting articles on a wide variety of racing venues. For example, last time I checked, the site had posted an update on Ray Evernham and his plans to retire from NASCAR team ownership and return to “grassroots racing” and short track promotions. Further down the, you’ll find a thought-provoking article about the old days and the support leagues that built NASCAR (see “What Fans Are Missing.”)

Anyway, it’s a good site to visit, and a good place to stay tuned to the local racing scene.



Source: KARNAC.com; permission requested

REMINDER...2009 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE.

SEE CAMILLE OR BOB SHERMAN AT THE NEXT MEETING



*Happy Holidays
from Glen and your Pit Crew!!*