



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report - January, 2010



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The Baton has been Passed!



If you were with us on December 1 for the club's third annual Holiday Hall of Fame and Awards Night, you had the opportunity to witness the first-ever passing of the baton to a new Crew Chief. In keeping with the club's "motorhead" theme, the "baton" in this case was a magnificent, industrial strength, 10-pound, 18-inch designer edition lug wrench. Describing his three years at the helm of the club, retiring President **Glen Carter** expressed his heartfelt thanks to his entire Pit Crew/Board and to all of the club's great members for their support, calling his term in office "a labor of love," and declaring the people he's met during his three years to be "the real heroes of racing."



In passing the "baton," Glen expressed optimism for the future, noting "I'm turning my tools over to a proven leader, one that I know will lead this club to many more Championships. Your new Crew Chief - **Gerry Hafer**." In accepting the baton, Gerry reflected on Glen's solid leadership since the club's initial formation in 2006, noting that he is clearly aware of the shoes he will need to fill in the



months and years ahead. He observed that, "Although Glen's stepping down as Crew Chief, he only lives two streets away from me, so I expect his role to evolve to that of consultant." Both Glen and Gerry also paid tribute to the quality of the programs that have developed over the club's three-year history, and commended the entire membership for creating what is arguably the best club in The Villages.

Notice:
2010 dues (\$10) are now payable and will be collected at the January 27 meeting. Come early and avoid standing in line!

F.A.S.T Off to a Fast Start!

There's a lot of buzz right now in local racing circles about the formation of a new racing series set to launch in February of 2010. In late October, Florida racing legends **Wayne and Dick Anderson** of Wildwood, along with Florida businessman **Alan Bruns**, announced the formation of a new statewide racing series titled the Florida All-Stars Tour (dubbed FAST). Similar to other major racing programs, FAST will run a 12-race program from February to October, with the tour stopping at six separate member tracks during the eight-month schedule. The kick-off race is scheduled for February 20 at nearby Citrus County Speedway in Inverness, with the tour stopping at Orlando Speedworld, Auburndale Speedway, Charlotte County Motorsports Park, New Smyrna Speedway, and Columbia Motorsports Park.

"One of the truly unique features of this new series," reports Dick Anderson, "is the combination of Super Late Models, Limited Late Models, and Crate Late Models competing together." Anderson noted that FAST organizers have leveled the playing field through carburetion limitations (for example, Super Late Models will only be allowed to run two-barrel carburetors), equalized weight guidelines, and specific car body restrictions, so that all three car classes can compete head-to-head. "It will truly be a series where driving skill comes to the top of what's needed to win," noted Anderson.



FAST founders Wayne Anderson, Dick Anderson, and Alan Bruns

As a result of our club's relationship with Dick Anderson, we're playing a direct role in the development of this new series. **Gerry Hafer** has been designated Information Director for the Tour, and has been working with the founders since mid-November on the coordination of media information, implementation of the Tour's website (www.FloridaAllStarsTour.com), and development of back-office technologies needed to support the series. In describing the formation of the series, Gerry noted, "There is no doubt that the time is right for formation of a local racing series of this type. One of the most notable achievements so far has been the ability to bring the six participating tracks together on a common schedule, common operating guidelines, and standardized rules."



The co-founders have been invited to join us at our January 27 meeting to present a "preview" of the new series. In fact, Dick Anderson notes (kiddingly?) that several of the events have been scheduled to run in the afternoon hours to accommodate the preferences expressed by our members!

Blast From the Past Set for March 7 Dick Anderson Scheduled to Participate

Citrus County Speedway has been selected as the host site for the Second Annual "Blast From the Past" racing Reunion scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2010. According to organizer/promoter Joyce Lankford, the event is designed to bring together many former participants in Florida's racing history—age 60 and older—for a day of fun, story-telling, memorabilia display, and actual on-track competition. Lankford stresses that the event is open to racers and race teams mem-

bers as well as promoters, track officials, car owners—in short, anyone who has had a hand in building the history of Florida racing.

Admission to the event is \$20, with the proceeds allocated to support the Citrus United Basket, an Inverness-based United Way affiliate organization that provides food and assistance year-round to under-privileged in the area. The admission fee includes autograph sessions and a BBQ dinner. (See flyer on page 8).

Dick and Mary Anderson are scheduled to be a part of this event, and it's likely that Dick will have his brand new No. 92 Super Late Model on display. Many of you will also recall that Mary did a tour of duty for several years as promoter at Citrus County Speedway, earning the distinction as only one of two female race promoters in the United States! Come out and hear some of her real, behind-the-scenes stories about the antics of the old-time racers!

News Items of Interest to the Club

Buzzie Reutimann to Debut New Chrome Car at East Bay's Winternationals January 26-30

January 6—Like most professional racers, there is no “off season” for the unstoppable **Buzzie Reutimann**. Instead of bundling up and staying in his warm garage, he spent the morning getting ready for a test session down at East Bay Raceway Park in Tampa, where he and his crew will be running a “shakedown” test on his brand new, 650 h.p. dirt modified car later in the day. And it’s not just another race car...in keeping with Buzzie’s motto of “*Go First Class*,” the car (pictured at right) is unique in that it has an all-chrome/aluminum body, along with such incredible detail as a stainless steel exhaust system.

Assuming all goes well with the test, Buzzie and his team will be fired up to storm the track in the five-day UMP/EBRP Open Wheel Modified Winternationals at East Bay. Their racing plans beyond that are undefined for the 2010 season, although Buzzie indicated he does plan to run at least part of the DirtCar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park in February.

By the way, Buzzie finished 11th in the season points standings at East Bay, with two wins and seven top fives in nine feature starts. In fact, his average finishing position of 6th put him in the top five in this category. He just keeps going....



Buzzie’s new Chrome Car
See additional photos on next page

Christmas Shopping Idea (for next year, that is!)

By WHEELBASE COMMUNICATIONS



POINT AND CLICK YOUR CAR

A computer mouse is a rather utilitarian item, or it can be a fun and unique accessory if you’re hooked up with one of the automotive-themed versions from Road Mice. The company sells replicas of some of your favorite vehicles, including the Chevrolet Corvette, Ford Mustang, Dodge Viper, Chrysler PT Cruiser, Chevrolet Camaro and Chrysler 300C, to name just a few. Each model-car mouse features working headlights and is available as a wired or wireless complete with USB receiver. They’re also designed to work with most PC and Mac computers (both laptop and desktop models). Prices begin at \$34.95 for wired versions, or \$44.95 for wireless versions. You can also add a matching mouse pad for \$13.95. roadmice.com is where you’ll find the complete selection along with complete ordering instructions.

Source: Wheelbase Communications

A Website Worth Checking Out



Thanks to the diligent efforts of **Glen Carter** (working from his “man cave”), we’ve been alerted to a website that will warm the hearts of anyone who’s been following stock car racing for many years. The “Jalopy Journal” is a fantastic collection of old-time racing photos submitted by a growing list of contributors, and a quick run through the pages will bring back memories of some of the racers we’ve watched years ago. The founders of the site are dedicated to the preservation of racing memories, as evidenced by the comments on their “About Us” page:

“The Jalopy Journal was formed ... to spread the gospel of traditional Hot Rods and Kustoms to hoodlums worldwide... We wanted to be the voice of the working man, a tool in the toolbox of the guy that does it himself, and a place where citizen journalists could show the “big-time” media a thing or two. We haven’t done it all yet, but we aim to in time...”

It really is a great collection of old photos, and it’s supported by commentary from people sharing their memories of the old and glory days of stock car racing. If you visit the site (www.jalopyjournal.com), make sure you have enough time set aside...you won’t want to leave!

News Items of Interest to the Club (Continued)

More photos of Buzzie's New Ride, Courtesy of his sister Joy



Yeah, it was cold down at "The Clay By The Bay"



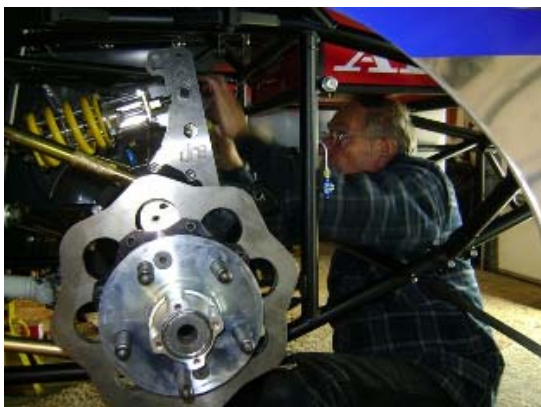
Looks like he even got a chrome helmet!



David Reutimann giving dad a pre-track once-over, probably complete with driving instructions!



The man himself, taking to the track! The car is still clean at this point.



Left—Buzzie doing some pre-test tweaking back at the home base.

Right—David doing some pre-test tweaking at the track (That's Buzzie in the lower right corner in the knit hat, probably nearly frozen!)



Special Events Roundup



Can you believe it??? We're now into 2010 and the clocks just keep marching on. Speedweeks (New Smyrna and Daytona style) will be here before you know it, and after that the Florida short track and NASCAR big track seasons will once again light up the sports world. We had a busy 2009, and it looks like 2010 is shaping up to be yet another year of action-packed activities for our club. During the "off season", your Special Events Committee put a full-court press on to lay out plans for NASCAR's kick-off events, and we were successful in developing what we feel is an attractive package for the February 6 Bud Shootout and ARCA race at Daytona Speedway (see details below). Unfortunately, economics being what they are, we were not able to agree on pricing for the Daytona 500 that we felt would be attractive enough to achieve the minimum enrollments needed to roll a bus, so we had to shelve those plans for now. We plan to continue trying to get more favorable pricing for the Pepsi 400 in July, so stay tuned for more announcements. In the meantime, here's what we have planned for now:

Date/Event	Event Details	Special Information
<p align="center">February 6, 2010 NASCAR ARCA/Budweiser Shootout, Daytona International Speedway</p>	<p align="center">Bud Shootout Package Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Admission for the Bud Shootout - Motorcoach transportation to and from The Villages-Laurel Manor Recreation Center parking lot to Daytona International Speedway Saturday, February 6, 2010, leaving at 1:00 pm <p align="center">Cost: \$99.00 per person Additional add-on options: Pre-Race / Fan Zone Cost: \$25.00 per person Front stretch Party Cost: \$20.00 per person</p> <p align="center">Reservations must be made by 1/22/2010 Must have 24 people to run this tour</p>	<p align="center">To Book This Package Contact: Jonathan Bazemore Direct: 919-926-3448 EM: jonathan@sportstravel.com Non-members and non-Villagers Welcome</p> <p align="center">For Questions About This Package Contact: Wendy Touchette Special Events Coordinator The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Home: 352-430-0239 Cell: 352-303-9734 EM: mrswwt@comcast.net</p>
<p align="center">February 14, 2010 NASCAR Daytona 500 Daytona International Speedway</p>	<p align="center">Due to the high price of tickets for a package no club trip will be offered this year to the Daytona 500. But here's an alternative: We're considering reserving a room at Colont Cottage and showing the race live on the big screen. We'll make it an indoor picnic-type event...bring pot luck snacks to share and BYOB, and we'll watch it as a group. If you're interested in joining us, let us know via email to Wendy (mrswwt@comcast.net) or Gerry (ghafer@comcast.net) so we know how many we need to set the room for.</p>	
<p align="center">February 20, 2010 Florida All Stars Tour Kick-off Event at Citrus County Speedway</p>	<p align="center">Details to follow (Dick Anderson's newest protégé, Todd Allen, is scheduled to compete and, as of this writing, there is a possibility that Matt Bowers may also compete in this event.)</p>	<p align="center">This will be the first in the series of 12 races that will define the true Florida Late Model Champion for 2010.</p>
<p align="center">March 12, 2010 NHRA 41st Gaternationals Deposits accepted in January 2010, \$59 per person, 2 Busses reserved</p>	<p align="center">Adult Reserved Seat Tickets with Pit access @ bus transportation \$59 per person Nonrefundable Deposit of \$20 Will reserve your bus seat. First come first serve.</p>	<p align="center">Accepting reservations now by mail: Wendy Touchette 1577 Blythewood Loop The Villages, FL 32162</p> <p align="center">Non-members and non-Villagers Welcome http://www.nhra.com/</p>

Visit our website (www.villagesracingclub.com)

Attention Dirt Racing Fans!

The United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series, fastest growing late model series in the south, is proud to announce Sunoco Race Fuels will be the title sponsor for the series in 2010. "Sunoco is a name synonymous with auto racing and we are extremely proud to have Sunoco as a marketing partner in the coming season", stated series promoter Ken Kinney, Jr. With the strength of Sunoco behind it the UDLMCS is making its first major announcement of 2010. The series will now feature two divisions with a 10 race Northern Region and a 10 race Southern Region. The Northern Region will have nine races in Georgia and one in Alabama with the Points Championship paying a \$10,000 prize. ***The Southern Region will feature 10 races in Florida also featuring a \$10,000 Championship prize.*** Drivers will be able to race in their local region or compete for both the Northern and Southern Region crowns. "I am so proud of the new opportunity being given Late Model drivers." Ken Kinney said on New Years Eve. He also is very positive about the racing climate for 2010, " I believe that with the economic challenges of 2009 behind us, 2010 will be a breakout season and with the support of Sunoco and our other sponsors , track owners, drivers and fans this year will be a complete success." The complete 2010 Schedule is now on the series web site: www.uniteddirtlatemodels.com. Kinney said minor updated rule changes, tire rules and race procedures will be announced and published on the series web site in the next week. (Reprinted from uniteddirtlatemodels.com)

Local Racing Corner

As we've said many times before, one of the great things about living here in central Florida is the access that we have to so many great racing venues within a reasonable driving distance. As we've also said many times before, we need to support these local tracks as much as we can so that they can continue to operate. It's been said that the most expensive seats any race track has are the ones that are empty. So, let's fill them up, and let's wear our yellow shirts and make a statement!

Race Track	Telephone	Website	Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway	352-622-9400	www.ocalaspeedway.com	January 28-20—Winternationals Special Event (O'Reilly All Star Circuit of Champions 410 Winged Sprint Cars)
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	352-726-9339	www.citruscountyspeedway.com	Regular Saturday Night programs begin 2/6/10; FAST opener 2/20/10
New Smyrna Speedway	386-427-4129	www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org	January 30—PASS Florida Winterfest; February 4-13—44th World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing
Orlando Speedworld	407-568-1367	www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org	February 8-13—Sixth Annual INEX/600 Fun & Sun Winternationals
Volusia Speedway Park , Barberville	386-985-4402	www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net	January 23-24—Winter Warmup; February 2-13—DirtCar Nationals
Auburndale Speedway	863-551-1131	www.auburndalespeedway.com	Saturday Nights, Regular season begins March 3
Bronson Motor Speedway	352-486-2763	www.bronsonmotorspeedway.com	Saturday Nights; 2010 schedule not available yet
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	352-308-7664	www.originalspeedwaypark.com	Check website for schedule; Season begins February 6 (bi-monthly events)
Sumter Motorsports Park, Bushnell	863-286-9456	www.sumterracing.com	February 19-21— Central Florida Winternationals

Visit our website: www.villagesracingclub.com

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

- Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
- Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
- Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)
- Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
- Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
- Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
- 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)
- Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
- Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)

The Hobby Corner

It's been pretty cold so far this winter, and I suspect that many of you have postponed your outdoor activities in favor of staying indoors. It's a shame we can't get the cold weather better aligned with the racing season, so at least we'd have better stuff to watch on television. In the meantime, however, **Dean Vetter** forwarded an interesting idea for a hobby, and it involves race cars and beer, so what could be more interesting? Anyway, here's the thought...instead of doing a simple beer can recycle, consider turning them into keepsakes for friends and family. Here are a few examples of what can be done:



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

Well, we're off to another year of fascinating statistical trivia, and this year we'll begin with an arcane assessment of who ran up front most consistently in NASCAR Sprint Cup events in 2009. The following list shows that Kurt Busch has the honor of having raced on the lead lap on over 93% of the 10,492 laps run in 2009. One of the big surprises here is the appearance of **David Reutimann** in the 5th position. This tells me he's poised well to win more races in 2010 and beyond, and that he's taken King Richard Petty's age-old advice to heart, "In order to win, you need to be in position to win."

Anyway, for what it's worth, here are the top 25 drivers in this competitive category, complements of NASCAR.com:

RANK	CAR	DRIVER	PERCENTAGE	ON LEAD LAP	TOTAL LAPS
1	2	Kurt Busch	93.46	9806	10492
2	5	Mark Martin	92.97	9754	10492
3	48	Jimmie Johnson	92.28	9682	10492
4	24	Jeff Gordon	91.04	9552	10492
5	00	David Reutimann	89.04	9342	10492
6	11	Denny Hamlin	88.26	9260	10492
7	39	Ryan Newman	87.98	9231	10492
8	16	Greg Biffle	87.86	9218	10492
9	14	Tony Stewart	87.55	9186	10492
10	99	Carl Edwards	85.92	9015	10492
11	33	Clint Bowyer	84.28	8843	10492
12	18	Kyle Busch	84.18	8832	10492
13	42	Juan Pablo Montoya	84.02	8815	10492
14	31	Jeff Burton	83.76	8788	10492
15	88	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	81.52	8553	10492
16	9	Kasey Kahne	81.43	8544	10492
17	17	Matt Kenseth	80.86	8484	10492
18	83	Brian Vickers	79.63	8355	10492
19	29	Kevin Harvick	77.78	8161	10492
20	47	Marcos Ambrose	76.23	7998	10492
21	1	Martin Truex Jr.	74.92	7861	10492
22	12	David Stremme	69.36	5644	9579
23	26	Jamie McMurray	66.97	7027	10492
24	20	Joey Logano	66.64	5992	10492
25	07	Casey Mears	66.18	6944	10492

And, since there's some additional space in this column, how about taking a look at how the four car makers fared in 2009 competition. It looks like Toyota is coming on strong!

Car Make	% Car Make	Avg Base Pts/Race	Win%	Races Won
Chev	34.88	109.65	50.00	18
Dodge	18.41	92.44	11.11	4
Ford	18.15	99.70	8.33	3
Toyota	28.55	88.31	30.56	11

Complements of USAToday

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH
 If you're feeling down, remember these words of wisdom:
 I am nobody,
 Nobody is perfect,
 Therefore, I'm perfect!
 (It kind of makes sense, doesn't it?)

Special Event Announcement

2nd. Annual Blast From The Past

Hosted By

Citrus County Speedway

Sunday ,March 7,2010

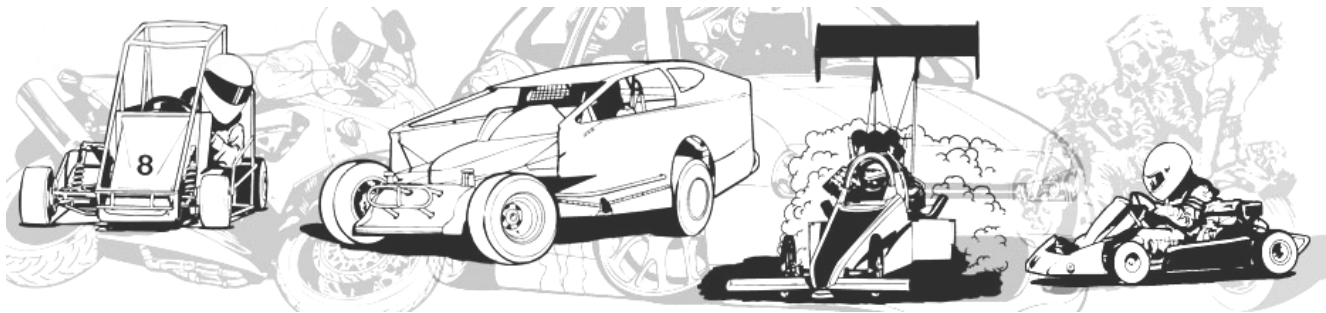
Real Racing - BBQ- Autographs - Bench Racing - Interviews

*Come See Yesterdays stars come alive
and race each other .All drivers
must be 60 years old or older to com-
pete in the racing .All others welcome
to come and Bench Race.*

Gates Open 8:00 A.M.

Pit admission :\$20.00 Includes BBQ

General Admission \$10.00



CHILDREN Under 12 are FREE

slankfordl@aol.com

Joyce Lankford

352-942-2369