



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report January, 2011



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The Villages Cup is Coming...Again!!!

Planning for the 2011 edition of The Villages Cup is now underway! Many of you recall the excitement of last year's inaugural event, and we're beginning to sense a gradual build-up of suspense as we look to this year's second running of what proved to be a landmark day for us. At our January 5 regular

meeting, we took the first step in the planning for this year's "Cup" event by forming a committee to define the framework for the day. A spirited, highly-charged group of eight club members stepped up to join the planning group, and a detailed organizing session is being set for early February to nail down

the logistics, scheduling, and other details. In general discussion at the meeting, we fielded several great comments, ideas, and suggestions, several of which dealt with ways to better equalize the competition. We're off to a great start toward a planned event date of **Sunday March 20**.



The 2010 Villages Cup Field

It's Bingo Time!!!

January 26 has been set as the night for our 2011 Bingo Event. Event Chairman Dave Bockman has been busily canvassing businesses in the area for door prizes, and has

accumulated an impressive array of great items to be given out that night. A copy of the informational flyer for this event is included on [page 8](#)...see you all there!



Welcome, New Members!



Bill Juchartz—Canton, MI



Jim & Mimi Carter—Columbia, SC & Laredo, TX



Shelly & Sandy Young—Monroe, NY



In Memoriam...Honoring Members who have recently left us



Dave Tippet—1933-2010



Butch Blasko—1946-2010

Update on Club Favorites

Dick Anderson—the No. 92 is well on the way to being restored (again) following damage it sustained in the November 20 Florida Governor's Cup event. Last week, Dick reported that he has tentative plans to enter the car in the February 5 Orange Blossom 9th Annual Pete Orr memorial at New Smyrna Speedway, and probably the Desoto Late Model event in Bradenton later in the month. In both cases, he figures to have Jeff Scofield behind the wheel. Stay tuned for further details in the weeks ahead.



The No. 92 at rest at New Dixie Racing in Wildwood

Steve Griffin—Steve also plans to open his 2011 season at New Smyrna on February 5, running in the Mini-Stock event scheduled as part of the Orange Blossom program. Following that, his intent is to run selected events throughout the year at New Smyrna, Orlando Speedworld, Citrus County Speedway, and Auburndale Speedway. Again, stay tuned for details as Steve nails down his schedule for 2011.



Steve Griffin in action at Citrus County Speedway

Nic Fernandez—As we discussed at the January 5 meeting, Speedway Park opens its 2011 racing season February 5. After a few weeks off, Nic is anxious to resume his steady, upward progress (he finished third in his class in 2010), and crew chief George Fernandez is optimistic about another successful season for this up-and-coming star. Nic will, of course, be running in the Feb. 5 season opener, so that would be a good night to head to the Speedway and begin to formulate your strategy for the March 20 running of the 2011 Villages Cup (see page X).



Nic Fernandez leading the pack at Speedway Park

Harold Bedell—this 69 year-old hard charger from Bayonet Point continues to be on the mend from nagging back injury that sidelined him for most of 2010. At this point, his 2011 plans are uncertain as he recovers from a mid-November surgery. For a complete recap of Harold's current situation, see the letter re-printed on **page 9**).

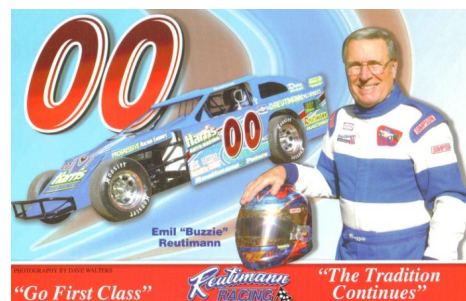


Harold Bedell in his No. 24 Slingshot at SMP

Buzzie Reutimann—There is no rest in Zephyrhills as this racing legend prepares for the 2011 season. As he approaches his 70th birthday, he shows no signs of slowing down, with plans to take on the Dirt Car Winter Nationals at North Florida Speedway in Lake City January 28-29. Following that, he will be running in the 35th Annual Winter Nationals at East Bay (Tampa area), Feb. 3-5, and then at the 40th Annual Dirt Car Nationals at Volusia Feb. 8-19! There's a likelihood that we'll be assembling a car pool group to head to some of these events in support of this living legend, so stay tuned and watch your emails in the weeks ahead.



Left—Buzzie's "00" showing the way at East Bay. Right—A reproduction of a true "hero's card"



A Reunion of Sorts

Buddy Pearce Reunites with Former Car Owner

December 12—the 2010 Christmas season had a special element to it for Buddy Pearce (Hall of Fame member from the 2007 class)...the opportunity to reunite with a former car owner he had not made contact with in over 35 years. "It just came out of the blue," laughs Buddy. "But the memories came back clear and fast." They had a great time catching up on old times, as evidenced by the following article that appeared in the Ocala Star Banner, written by Bob Turner (used with permission):



Al Mincey turned to his wife, Susan, while holding a copy of the Thanksgiving Day Gainesville Sun in his hand. Pointing to a photo of a man polishing his antique 1932 Model "A" Ford at an auto show, he said, "I wonder if this is the Buddy Pearce that drove my race cars."

The couple's daughter lives near The Villages, where that car show took place, so they asked her to check local phone listings. Finding a Marion County listing in Spruce Creek South for a Buddy Pearce, she left a message on his answering machine.

Pearce was elated to learn of the whereabouts of his friend and contacted Mincey, whom he had not seen in 35 years. The men made arrangements to meet Sunday, when The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club hosted its annual Christmas dinner and party.

When Pearce saw his friend of more than three decades ago pull up to the curb at his Spruce Creek South home, he walked out to greet Mincey with a big hug. Mincey brought along an album of photos of his and Buddy's racing days and his wife and Beth Pearce joined their husbands in the trophy room, where dozens of framed 8-by-10 black and white photos hung on one wall and racing mementos filled the space.

Pearce retrieved albums of his own and the friends began recognizing cars, calling out the names of the drivers, some of whom are in the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Both men are personal friends of racing legend Bobby Allison.

Mincey, also a former racer, joked about Pearce's natural stock car driving abilities. "You would drive

anything we brought to you," he said, to which Pearce replied, "We didn't do it for the money. We did it for the fun."

An hour of non-stop reminiscing passed and it was time to leave for the club event, during which you can bet a bunch of "bench racing" took place.



From left, Susan and Al Mincey, Buddy and Beth Pearce examine the archives in Buddy's Spruce Creek South "Man Cave"

2011 Speakers and Membership Information

Your Pit Crew has been beating the bushes for speakers for the coming year, with an objective of continuing to bring as many new faces and subjects into our monthly meetings as possible. So far, we have tentative plans to host a CSRA Sprint car champion, a Bushnell-based "rat rod" builder, a local race track promoter, a radio control car specialist, the Daytona Area Antique Racing Association, representatives from The Villages Vintage Car Club, and, of, course, we will be trying to re-schedule the cancelled visit from Shawn Reutimann. We'll let you know as we confirm these (and other) speakers.

In the meantime, please remember that your 2010 dues are now payable, and will be accepted through April of 2011. At this point we'll be re-establishing our official membership list, so you won't want to wind up excluded! If you're unable to make it to a meeting, you can mail payment to Bob & Camille Sherman at 17647 SE 82 Woodlawn Ave, The Villages, FL 32162.



Also, since it's still early in the planning year, we'd like to invite you to give us your thoughts on future speakers, trips, and activities for the club. While Wendy's Special Events Committee continually has an ambitious list of events on tap, we'd like to be certain that we're hitting the areas of interest to our club members. So, give thought to what you'd like to see us do, and feel free to send your thoughts to Wendy (mrswmt@comcast.net) or Gerry (ghafer@comcast.net) at your convenience. We'll review any suggestions and report back to the club at future meetings.

Special Events Roundup



I know the Nascar fans among us our focused on the February 12 start of Daytona Speedweeks (in fact, we have groups of 30+ heading to the Shootout, the Gatorade Duel, and the 500), but wait! (as the infomercials say)...there's more! There's a "Winter Spectacular" at Citrus County Speedway January 22, Speedway Park in Fruitland Park opens Feb. 5, Buzzie's running at East Bay Feb. 3-5, and the Dirt Nationals hit Volusia starting Feb. 8, just for openers. Since the racing season really just ended (the December 11 Eddie Brann Memorial at CCS was a mere five weeks ago), it's amazing just how short the "off season" really is. The January 8 Red Eye at New Smyrna actually marked the 2011 jumpstart, and we're off and running at this point.

Here's the current list of some of club activities (some we're directly involved with, and others we're just calling to your attention) through February...watch our website for changes and updates!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Friday-Saturday, January 21-22 Fan Fest at Daytona	Pre Season Fan Fest Speed Week @ Daytona. Along with watching NASCAR Preseason Thunder track activity from Daytona's Sprint FANZONE, fans can enjoy three Fan Fest sessions - from 5-7 p.m., and 7-9 p.m., on Friday, Jan. 21 and from 5-7 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 22. Driver question-and-answer and autograph sessions are planned. Tickets are \$20. Contact Box Office at 800-748-7467
Sunday, January 23 Speedway Park Practice Day and Swap Meet	The Speedway is planning a fun-filled day of open practice, along with a swap meet featuring a variety of karting parts and accessories. Gates open at 11:00 am, with on-track practice set for 1:00 to 6:00 pm.
Wednesday, January 26 Bingo Night at Colony Cottage	This is our annual fund-raising event, with proceeds to benefit the charities and organizations we support. Last year was our first attempt at a bingo event, and we learned quite a bit. Come on out and see what Chairman "Big Dave" Bockman has arranged for us. The fun starts at 7:00...see the flyer on page 8 for details, and bring your friends and neighbors (Villages residents, of course!)
Wednesday-Sunday, January 26-30 Mecum Auto Auction	Mecum Kissimmee Auction: 1750 Amazing Collector Cars, Rare Boats, Memorabilia and More! Osceola Heritage Park 1875 Silver Spur Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744 (just off the turnpike) For more information call: Jim Hedlund "Ring Master" 245-0275
Saturday, January 29 Dirt Car Winternationals	Buzzie Reutimann plans to enter his famous "00" in the Winternationals at North Florida Speedway. Check their website (http://www.northfloridaspeedway.com) for details.
Thursday, Feb. 3 East Bay Winternationals	This three-day event will also feature Buzzie's return to "the clay by the bay" to compete in the open-wheel modified events.
Tuesday, Feb. 8 Dirt Car Nationals	Rumor has it that this 12-day series will be the only 2011 event at Volusia Speedway Park, and Buzzie is gearing up to make a run for the roses (actually, he's planning to run his new 750 hp motor in an attempt to capture the \$5,000 first place purse in the Feb. 14 open wheel modified feature!) Check this site for details: (http://www.dirtcarnationals.com)
February, 2011	<p>Daytona trips—Check website for details (www.villagesracingclub.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 12—Bud Shootout • February 17—Gatorade Duel • February 20—Daytona 500 <p>For those of you not going to the track, we'll be hosting an indoor picnic at Colony Cottage to watch the race on the big screen...see page 7 for details.</p>

Looking Beyond February

Because we're holding our Bingo fund-raiser on January 26, we will not be having a regular monthly meeting in February. Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 2 at Colony Cottage. Our featured speaker for this meeting will be Drag Racer Sam Patrick, a resident of The Villages and a former NHRA competitor.



Sam Patrick in competition at Thompson Raceway Park

Beyond that, we have the 2011 edition of The Villages Cup scheduled for March 20, and a Golf Cart Poker Run set for April 16 (details to follow.). Wayne Nolan has volunteered to head-up the Poker Run, which will include a picnic event at Pimlico. Wayne is actively seeking helpers on this event, so give him a call at 750-9082 and sign up to volunteer! These types of events require a lot of hands on deck to make them run smoothly.

Looking even further down the road, our partnership with Lake Limo has also produced great pricing on a trip to the July 2 Coke Zero 400 at Daytona in July. We'll be releasing more information on this event later, but mark your calendars if you're interested in this mid-summer classic.

Full Throttle, Here We Come!

Our Friday, March 11, 2011 bus trip to the Tire Kingdom NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville is filling up fast. The deadline for reservations is March 3, and requires a \$20 deposit to hold your spot. Mail your deposit to Wendy at 1577 Blythwood Loop, The Villages, FL 32162. The bus will leave from Laurel Manor Rec Center Parking lot at 7:30 am, and seats will be pit-side, the same as last year. As is the case in most of our trips, this one is open to non-Villagers, so pass the word along to friends, and neighbors and invite them to join us on what is typically one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year for us. See our website (www.villagesracingclub.com) for more information.

Local Racing Corner

Race Track	Website & Telephone	Current Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway, Zuber	www.ocalaspeedway.com 352-622-9400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 4 & 5—2011 Winternationals, with O'Reilly All Star Circuit Champions 410 Winged Sprint Cars Special events on Feb. 13, 17, 18, & 19
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	www.citruscountyspeedway.com 352-726-9339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan. 22—Super Late Model 100 Feb. 5—Regular show, with Central FL Wingless Sprints Feb. 19—Super Late Models
New Smyrna Speedway, Samsula	www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org 386-427-4129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 5—Pete Orr Memorial SLMs Feb. 11-19—45th Annual World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing Regular season opens March 19
Orlando Speedworld, Bithlo	www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org 407-568-1367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 10-13—DAARA U.S. Vintage Oval Track Nationals Regular season opens March 18
Volusia Speedway Park, Barberville	www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net 386-985-4402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 8-19—40th Annual Dirtcar Nationals presented by UNOH
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	www.originalspeedwaypark.com 352-308-7664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan. 23—Practice day and swap meet Feb. 5—Regular season opens Feb. 19—Marty Ruser Tribute Event

Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 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)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consulting (751-4643)
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (408-3712)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)

Crazy Car of the Month



We have a considerable number of women among our "motorhead" ranks (indeed, women populate nearly half of most racing event audiences these days), so your editorial staff thought this nifty little three-wheeler might be of interest to our readers. We're not sure what colors it may come in, and it's difficult to imagine the size and configuration of any matching items.

Thoughts to Ponder

- She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack. One said to the other, "You wait here...I'll go on a head."
- Headline in a local newspaper: "A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. Police are looking into it."
- In two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

In case you're not going to Daytona...

We've made arrangements to show the Daytona 500 on the big screen at Colony Cottage Rec Center. Come on out and join us in a repeat of last year's great indoor picnic, when a hearty group of club members, non-members, and Villages visitors watched Jamie McMurray pull off a surprise (the first of what would be a series of major surprises for his team in 2010).

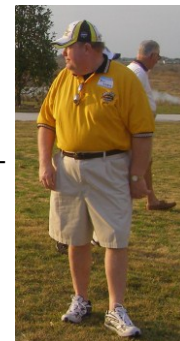


Bring a snack to share with eight or more, a comfortable chair if you wish, and a personal supply of liquid refreshment to enjoy. The club will provide the paper goods. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the race as if you were there, complete with the camaraderie of fellow race fans (also known as trash-talking.) Send an email to Wendy if you plan to come (mrswwmt@comcast.net) so we know how many places to set up.

2011 Officer Changes



Your Pit Crew is pleased to announce the addition of Gerry Greim. Gerry (left) will serve as Recording Secretary, while Silky Meegan shifts her focus to that of Corresponding Secretary.




Also, the board regrets to announce that long-time member Bill Wilkie (right) has decided to relinquish his position due to professional commitments and time constraints. All of us on the Pit Crew thank Bill for his years of dedicated service to the club, (Bill was one of our charter members from back in 2006) and look forward to his continued involvement in club activities.

And, while we're on the subject, please know that we are always on the lookout for fresh faces on our Pit Crew. New ideas, new thoughts, and new personalities are what keep organizations like ours moving ahead. So, if you have an interest in helping to set the direction for us in the years ahead, please give any member of the Crew a call. We'd love to have you!

Let's Play Bingo!!!

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Invites
You to a Night of Fun, Excitement, and Great Prizes.




Door Prizes!

When: Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Where: Colony Cottage Rec Center

Time: 7:00 pm



Door Prizes!

Cost: \$5 per player (one card)

Extra Cards: \$2 each card, 3 for \$5

This event is designed to raise funds for the organizations the club supports. Examples of prior recipients of funding from our group include Operation Shoe Box, Help Them Call Home, and Victory Junction Gang for special kids with health care needs. We have also provided scholarships for local students, as well as special-needs situations, like the 2007 tornado relief effort.

All residents of The Villages and visitors with valid guest ids are welcome to attend...bring your friends and neighbors and make it a great party night!!!

Refreshments will be provided!!!



We support the "Help Them Call Home" project, so bring any old or unused cell phones with you and we'll see that they get delivered to the program!

*Greetings from Harold Bedell**December 2010**Gerry*

What a year it has been for me! I did so well in 2009 and looked forward to 2010. Being a race fan for many years, I am well familiar with the sophomore jinx and it was my turn to experience it.

After the first time I ran, while doing preventive maintenance, I discovered a belt had sheered off well into the crank shaft. I knew that I would not be able to remove it and decided to take the time to remove the engine and let a machine shop deal with it. Of course, not being a mechanic did not help the matter for me, but I decided that this would be my year to learn what I could and not have to rely on someone else to do the work for me. What did not help was the fact that my garage was pretty much tied up with storage from my step-son and I would have to work directly from atop of the trailer. Well, I took my time and removed the engine, after which I ended up taking it to several machine shops in the area. After looking at it, each shop refused any work. I didn't want to spend several thousand dollars for a new engine, so I knew that it would have to be shipped back to the Tobias shop, but first I would have to obtain an engine cradle. I spoke with Mark Claus who advised that I could obtain a short block for under \$2000 and do the work myself. My wife encouraged me to do so, so I ordered the new block and upon arrival, dug into the work myself. My back had been bothering me for years and this year it really acted up, which caused me to slow the work down. I took my time and installed the new engine and went to Sumter. The car ran great with a lot of power. With about 2 laps into the feature, a car spun in front of me. I attempted to avoid him, but hit him (full throttle) with my right rear wheel. It bent my rear axle and jammed the hubs, gear mount and brake mount onto the shaft. The axle does not drop down. To remove it, at least one hub needs to be removed and the gear and brake mounts need to be moved.

With that finally done, my back kept getting worse. Work that should have taken me a couple of hours turned into a couple of weeks. I could only work for about 10 minutes at a time. I ended up with 4 MRIs and was to have further evaluation in January 2011. Things progressively worsened and I ended up on the operating table in mid-November. At this time I am hoping to return to racing in 2011, but my doctor forbids me from bending, twisting, or lifting, so right now 2011 is up in the air pending further.

My best to everyone there. Eventually I hope to return and see everyone again at the track.

(Letter received December from Harold Bedell)