



PIT NEWS *January 2021*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: February 3, 2021

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 3 at 7 PM at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. At our last meeting we had all seats taken. Therefore, in an effort to get more seats and follow social distancing protocol, **we will be requiring that masks be worn not only entering and leaving the room, but also being worn the entire time while in the room.**

I would like to thank all of the members who donated to the Drive for Diabetes Awareness campaign which last month's guest speakers, Brent and Lacy Kuehl, have such a passion for. Due to your generosity, we raised \$529 for their cause. The Kuehls called me and said to thank all our members for their help.

This month our guest speaker is Ed Rensi. He was McDonald's CEO for 14 years and retired to pursue his dream of becoming a race team owner. He formed Team Rensi in 1992 and raced late models, dirt tracks, ARCA series and NASCAR Xfinity series. His winning drivers included Ken Schrader, Kenny Wallace and Bobby Hamilton Jr. Team Rensi won five Xfinity races and sponsored Jimmy Spencer when he won the Firecracker 400 at Daytona.

Our Board of Directors are working on our Hall of Fame banquet to be held in 2022 and are looking forward to seeing you there. More exciting information will be coming.

If you have not paid your membership dues, please see Lois Taylor at the door or contact her at ltaylr@hotmail.com. Your dues help keep the club solvent and enable us to bring in great guest speakers.

Our sponsorship program is gaining momentum. Mike Scott Plumbing just gave us a check for \$500 and we thank them very much, as we do all our sponsors.

Unfortunately, our motor racing show, scheduled for February 1 at Brownwood, has to be rescheduled to another date. The Villages has given us a directive that due to COVID-19, we cannot proceed with the show. We had many members who put in countless hours to make this a huge success, but we will stay positive and plan for when we can move forward with this event. I would like to give a huge thank you to Art Fehrman, John Angiolo and Jerry Conkle for all their efforts.

Don't forget that everyone is welcome to join us every Thursday morning at 8:30 AM for a fun breakfast get-together at Bob Evans on 466 to discuss racing and whatever else comes to mind. We meet in the back room, so just ask for the racing club.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

Our Guest Speaker for February 3 Meeting



Our next meeting is February 3 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be former race team owner, Ed Rensi.

Rensi was president and CEO of McDonald's USA for 14 years. He served on the board of directors at Chicagoland and Daytona International Speedways.

He retired to pursue one of his greatest passions, auto racing. Rensi formed Team Rensi in 1992 and competed in Late Model Dirt, ARCA and the NASCAR Xfinity series. Rensi's drivers included Ken Schrader, Jeff Finley, Kenny Wallace and Bobby Hamilton Jr.

Ed and his wife Barb are retired and reside in Sarasota, Fla.



The Villages Motor Racing Show, originally scheduled for Feb. 1, 2021, has been postponed.

The Villages Entertainment Office has postponed the February 1, 2021 motor racing show at Brownwood Paddock Square due to rising COVID cases in the area.

We will be working closely with the Entertainment Office to reschedule this show. We will notify everyone as soon as we receive a new date.

Prediction Row 2021



Every NASCAR Cup race day for 36 weeks, six club members compete in The Daily Sun's Prediction Row column by predicting who will win the race that week. Our competitors send their selections to Silky Meegan and she then submits them for publication. After the race is certified

by NASCAR, points are awarded to each predictor and accumulated points are documented.

Our racing season is divided into two segments of 13 races. The Spring Segment begins with the Daytona 500 on February 14 and ends in Dover on May 16. The Summer Segment begins May 23 at The Circuit of Americas and ends August 28 at Daytona. The three competitors with the most points from each segment move on to compete in the ten race Playoff. The NASCAR and the Prediction Row champions are both determined at Phoenix on November 7. Here are the Prediction Row 2021 competitors:

Spring Segment

Doug Baker
Larry Hanna*
Shel Larsen
Melanie Scott
Art Staus*
Jim West*

Summer Segment

Jerry Conkle
Gerry Greim
Donna Gross*
Gerry Hafer*
Steve Poplarski*
Alan Sneider

Follow Prediction Row in The Daily Sun and look for the most recent updates on our website: villagesracingclub.com.

The 2020 racing season was COVID-challenged, but the predictors hung in there. We are hoping 2021 will be a better season. Many from last year are trying again (*). Defending Champion Gerry Hafer is hoping to be the first with two championships in a row.

Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator

2020 Crew Chief Award - Gerry Greim



Recording Secretary Gerry Grime has been a valuable, long-standing member of our pit crew and is an example of a "behind the scenes" person we rely on constantly to make us look good. She is always there and willing to pitch in and do whatever needs to be done, and done cheerfully.

President Chris Bleistein described her contribution to the club this way, "Without her explicit notes at board meetings & regular meetings, I would be lost. She has coordinated club events, such as pizza night, Daytona 500 watch party, season-end NASCAR party, bus trips, plus many more activities. She has made our banquet a success by doing seating assignments, selling tickets and set-up."

Bob Lupini Featured in Daily Sun



Bob Lupini, and Sally Lippman, of the Village of Osceola Hills, pose by their Shelby Cobra on Wednesday at his shop.

Club member and Hall of Famer Bob Lupini began racing as a child and still enjoys going fast. He satisfies his need for speed on the curves of road courses and on straight-line drag strips.

Lupini's racing enjoyment, and his success on the track, benefits from years of support from his life partner, Sally Lippman. Bob's current livery consists of a Shelby Cobra and a dragster. Full story available at Daily Sun.

*Some pictures from our January 6, 2021 meeting
(First meeting since COVID-19 put out the **RED FLAG** on our
meetings)*



Top left/right: Silky Meegan awarding Gerry Hafer, Prediction Row Champ Award
Top middle: Chris Bleistein awarding Gerry Greim, 2020 Crew Chief Award



Brent and Lacy Kuehl with Club President Chris Bleistein



\$529 was raised for their cause, Drive for Diabetes Awareness, through the generosity of the members at the January 6 meeting.



**** IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR FEBRUARY MEETING ****
Masks MUST BE WORN at ALL TIMES during the meeting and
entering and leaving the recreation center

NHRA UPDATE

The Club was contacted on Friday regarding the 2021 Gatornationals at Gainesville on March 12, 2021. Our block of tickets has been rolled over to the 2022 event when there is a better chance of a bus and the full activities we have enjoyed in the past. If you purchased a ticket for the 2020 event that was cancelled and rolled over to this year, I will be contacting you by e-mail or phone shortly. We have been unable to secure a bus because of the COVID issues. Only seven members indicated any desire to go this year, so the Board of Directors decided at its January meeting to not have the event this year in the interest of keeping all our members healthy.

If you have any questions or comments about the event, please let me know by e-mail or phone. My contact information is below. Thank you all for the patience and understanding as we have tried to work through this.

Lois Taylor Phone 352-633-5624 or e-mail Ltaylr@hotmail.com.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

It's that time of year! 2021 dues are due and, in an effort to eliminate congestion at the membership tables, I would like to request that if you are paying your dues this month you can download the renewal or new membership form from the website. Fill it out and place payment with it in an envelope and just turn it in at the sign-in table. If you are paying by cash, it helps speed up the process if you have the form completed and just give it to the club members at the table.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE ONLY ALLOWED A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE DUE TO THE COVID VIRUS, SO GET THERE EARLY SO YOU WON'T GET TURNED AWAY. PLEASE FILL OUT THE CARD AT THE DOOR WITH YOUR CONTACT INFO OR MARK "SAME AS JANUARY" AND TURN IT IN AT THE TABLE. BY DOING THIS YOU ARE HELPING KEEP ALL OF US SAFE.

By paying your dues, you help us get quality speakers that you will enjoy and our club officers are doing a good job at that.

You can also pick up your membership card if you are new and your 2021 renewal sticker for your membership card, so please don't throw away your previous membership card. Your renewal sticker just goes on it.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED EARLY AND THE NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED!

Editor's Corner of useful (and sometimes) useless funny tidbits....



--Darrell Waltrip was known as "Jaws" because of his penchant for his gabiness. A native of Kentucky, he won 84 Cup races during his career.

--Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Sr. were on the track together for 258 races.

--According to the NHRA and IHRA rule books, a child can start racing as a jr. dragster at 5 yrs old.

--A.J. Foyt and Richard Petty dominated the 1964 Firecracker400 at Daytona, but Foyt passed Bobby Isaac for the win.

STEWART EMBARKS ON NEW VENTURE

Tony Stewart is embarking on a new venture this year with Hall of Fame crew chief Ray Evernham on the Superstar Racing Experience aimed at attracting all-stars no longer competing full time. The six-race, short -track series will air on Saturday nights on CBS. Stewart will compete in this series.

Jerry's Joke

My wife said she had she had a dream last night. I said what was it? She said I dreamed I was at Walmart. I said I had a dream, too. I dreamed I was with three women last night. She said I was one of them. I said no, you were at Walmart.

Jerry Conkle's Trivia Continues.....

1. Has any driver ever won the Indy 500 three times in a row? If so, who?
2. What was Danica Patrick's number while racing in NASCAR?
3. What year was the Indy 500 scheduled for 300 miles?
A) 1916 B) 1926 C) 1936 D) 1946
4. What year was the Indy 500 run on a Sunday?
A) 1911 B) 1923 C) 1933 D) 1973

GOOD LUCK. ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 10. NO PEEKING.



Let's Welcome our New Members!!

**John Foster from New York
Richard Benitz from New Jersey
Jerry Fry from Iowa**

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Announces a New Sponsorship Opportunity



The Club's Sponsorship Program is "revving" up. Here is the information that is given to a sponsor to show them what the club will provide in return for their sponsorship.

We are pleased to announce your sponsorship will be showcased on our website Sponsor Page. It will also be promoted at our monthly meetings and at every Racing Booth throughout the year. We will provide handouts and advertise your business at our racing events.

Sponsorships will go a long way toward making our goals a reality. We are striving to bring informative and diverse racing related events to The Villages. For more information to become a sponsor, please contact club president, Chris Bleistein, 954-729-3050 or cbfla13@bellsouth.net.

Club Apparel

Show off your club pride with "crew uniform" apparel items featuring the club logo. To view the complete line of apparel, please go to the club's website VillagesRacingClub.com

These high-quality items may be seen at every club meeting. Some items without your embroidered name are "cash and carry." Orders for embroidered items are taken at each meeting and are available for pick up at the next meeting. Cash or check is required at the time of order.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please see Crew Uniform Manager Mike Gross at a club meeting or contact him at mikesg201@gmail.com.

Here Are the Trivia Answers

1. No
2. Number 10
3. A) 1916
4. D) 1973



PIT CREW

**Need to get in touch with a member of the Pit Crew?
Please see the information below!**

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Chris Bleistein	President	Crew Chief	954-729-3050
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Gerry Greim	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	215-630-1402
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
Mike Gross	Special Events Coordinator	Jack Man	401-323-1313
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Mechanic	352-633-5624
John Angiolo	Hospitality Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Mike Anderson	Social Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Manager	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Tom Horrmann	Member At large	Mechanic	352-430-0195
Janine Woodsford	Member At Large	Mechanic	352-430-5804
Jerry Conkle	Past President	Team Owner	352-750-1185

Don't forget to visit our website for more club information.

Thank You

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support. We ask that you please support these businesses so that they can continue to be a vital part of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.



Mammoth Machines
Leesburg, FL
407-235-5282



ARCA Midwest Tour



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Ultrix Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Lefthander Chassis
Roscoe, IL
815-389-9999



Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN



Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9511

Benefactor

Pat Fehrman
The Villages, FL

Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money time to help support us.