

# The Villages Racing Fan Club

February, 2007



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## Message from the Crew Chief/President



Many of you may have seen the VNN “Minute-By-Minute” news clip about our Club and, if you did, I think you’d agree with what they said...we’re the fastest growing club in The Villages. But besides our growth in numbers, I’m even more excited about how our slate of activities is growing.

Our Special Events Committee is developing plans for activities that will simply amaze our members, and that will enable us to meet our charter objective of promoting interest in racing at all levels. You heard a recap from Wendy Touchette at the January 10 meeting, and you’ll hear even more exciting news at the February 7 meeting. You won’t want to miss the action!

I continue to be overwhelmed at the way our Club has taken off, and I am heartened by the support and interest all of you have shown. On behalf of the Pit Crew/Steering Committee, many thanks, and we’ll see you at the February meeting.

*Glen*

## January's meeting speakers...the “local story”



Mike Peters

Lou Tremblay

We were privileged on January 10 to have the two top officials from Ocala Speedway join us to share their insights into the world of local short track racing. **Lou Tremblay**, the Speedway’s General Manager, and **Mike Peters**, Speedway owner, gave us a brief history lesson on the evolution of Florida’s short track racing scene, as well as a complete description of the Ocala facility and its slate of events. Both being experienced, veteran race car drivers, Lou and Mike were able to demonstrate an extensive knowledge of the sport with stories that were informative and enjoyable.

Lou discussed the history of Ocala Speedway, from its founding in 1952, through its conversion to an asphalt tri-oval ten years ago, and up to its current status as one of the most competitive tracks of its type in the state. He reported that Ocala enjoys an almost year-long season, featuring a wide array of venues, from a variety of stock classes, to winged sprints, to trucks. Lou also described some of the more unique events held at the speedway, including school bus races, figure races, and enduro events.

Mike, a former Ocala Speedway Champion, described the amenities available to race fans at the track, and described the care taken to maintain the facility in its first-class condition. He also explained the pricing structure for events, as well as the family pricing packages available. More details are available via their website ([www.ocalaspeedway.com](http://www.ocalaspeedway.com)).

## Special Events Committee Report

Our list of upcoming events continues to grow. As **Wendy Touchette** mentioned at the January meeting, we are planning a “Racing in The Villages” event at the Lake Miona Picnic Pavilion on March 10. Details for this event will be explained further at the February 7 meeting and posted on our website. In the meantime, though, remember that at our February 7 meeting we plan to judge the painting expertise applied to the six cars that will be used at the March 10 event. In keeping with our announced rules, this will be an impound race, with all six cars subjected to rigid technical inspection prior to the event. Again, more details will be presented at the February meeting.

Details have been pretty well finalized for the “Villages Raffle to Race”, with tickets expected to go on sale in February. Our plan is to sell 150 tickets at \$10 each, and when all tickets are sold, hold a drawing for: (1) a Daytona driving experience (Grand Prize); (2) a Richard Petty Ride-Along experience (any track listed); and (3) a Richard Petty Ride-Along experience at the Walt Disneyworld track. These are good odds...1 in 50!

At our February 7 meeting, we’ll be taking orders for club shirts and hats (you’ll finally see the Pit Crew in uniform). Also, don’t forget the “Horsepower at the Polo Grounds” event in April...we’ll have sign-ups for that at our March 10 event. Finally, as mentioned at the January meeting, we are working on a package for the July 6 & 7 Nascar events at Daytona. Progress on this package will be reported to you as soon as we iron out the details.

## February Meeting Guest Speaker



Those of you who were at our January 10 meeting will remember the rousing rendition of the National Anthem sung by Club member Dave Bockman. Well, in case you weren’t aware of Dave’s racing background, you’ll be pleased to know that he has a rich and varied history in a variety of motorsport arenas. Dave has agreed to be our February speaker, and to share his personal history of racing in the Fort Wayne, Indiana area. His exploits include involvement in the modified stock car ranks as a pit crew member (with 24 feature wins in a single season!), as well as drag racing in his 1963 ½ Ford Galaxy. He’ll also touch on his affiliation with names like Jeff Gordon and Don Garlits, and he promises to bring with him a few samples from his extensive collection of racing memorabilia. Don’t miss Dave’s presentation...it’s good to hear from a Club member!

## New Feature – Meet your fellow Club members

At a recent Pit Crew/Steering Committee meeting, we tossed around the idea of adding some personal perspectives to our monthly newsletter. We decided to do a profile of a selected Club member each month, beginning with the members of our Pit Crew/Steering Committee. After a brief discussion on who should be first, all of us agreed that our talented Special Events Coordinator (and Front Tire Carrier) **Wendy Touchette** should have the honor—after all, she’s perhaps the most visible member, and one who has been instrumental in developing the slate of ideas that is building our Club into a dynamic organization! So, here goes—Wendy’s profile is attached as page 5 in this newsletter. Be sure to drop by at the February meeting and get her autograph (signed in *Tony Stewart orange*, no less).

## In Memoriam

Benny Parsons – 1941 - 2007



Bobby Hamilton – 1957 – 2007



## Local Racing Corner

Local short track racing is in the air again, with our two closest local tracks going green in February. Here are just a few of the upcoming events you might be interested in:

- **Ocala Speedway**

- 200 LAP – Winter National Blue-Grey – Open Wheel Modifieds Championship Weekend (Feb. 9 – 11) – Friday night is practice night, with a full slate of events scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. The big event being the “Winter National Blue-Grey 200 Lap Open Wheel Modified Championship Race, paying \$5,000 to win.
- Regular Friday night racing begins March 2 with the regular division events: 4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman, Late Models, and Modifieds. Opening night will include School Bus Figure “8” racing and a Compact Car Demo Derby.



- **Citrus County Speedway (Inverness)**



The regular season in Inverness kicks off Saturday, February 3, with Open Wheel Modified, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bomb, Figure 8 racing scheduled to start at 5:30 pm

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, TBARA Sprints, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers will take the track.

The February 17<sup>th</sup> event will feature FAST TRUCKS, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers, Figure 8 racing

Florida's Sunbelt Series, FL Pro Challenge, Sportsman, Street Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers will make up the show for February 24.

- **New Smyrna Speedway**

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual “World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing” begins February 9 and runs through February 17 at New Smyrna Speedway. The series of events will include NASCAR Tour Type Modifieds, IMCA & Florida Type Modifieds, “SK” Modifieds, Late Models, TBARA Winged Sprints, and FASCAR Pro Trucks. This is a racing series you won’t want to miss! By the way, in the early part of January New Smyrna Speedway’s track surface was re-paved...the speeds for these events should be incredible!



## So You Don't Need to Look it up!

Our statistics page so far has focused on the Nextel Cup series. So, for this month, we thought we'd do a little bit of recapping of the Busch Grand National and Craftsman Truck series' 2006 finishers. Here are the top 15 finishers in these two series:

### NASCAR Busch Series

Rank	Driver	Points	Behind	Starts	Wins	Top 5	Top 10
1	Kevin Harvick	5648	Leader	35	9	23	32
2	Carl Edwards	4824	-824	35	4	15	25
3	Clint Bowyer	4683	-965	35	1	12	17
4	Denny Hamlin	4667	-981	35	2	12	23
5	J.J. Yeley	4487	-1161	35	0	9	22
6	Paul Menard	4075	-1573	35	1	7	16
7	Kyle Busch	3921	-1727	34	1	4	12
9	Greg Biffle	3789	-1859	30	1	9	18
10	Reed Sorenson	3670	-1978	34	0	5	14
11	Kenny Wallace	3626	-2022	35	0	0	4
12	John Andretti*	3562	-2086	35	0	1	4
13	Jason Leffler	3554	-2094	35	0	3	7
14	Jon Wood	3381	-2267	35	0	1	4
15	Ashton Lewis	3376	-2272	35	0	2	3

### NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series

Rank	Driver	Points	Behind	Starts	Wins	Top 5	Top 10
1	Todd Bodine	3666	Leader	25	3	12	16
2	Johnny Benson	3539	-127	25	5	13	17
3	David Reutimann	3530	-136	25	0	7	19
4	David Starr	3355	-311	25	1	6	12
5	Jack Sprague	3328	-338	25	2	10	14
6	Ted Musgrave	3314	-352	25	0	10	13
7	Ron Hornaday	3313	-353	25	2	8	12
8	Terry Cook	3265	-401	25	1	3	12
9	Rick Crawford	3252	-414	25	1	5	13
10	Mike Skinner	3219	-447	25	1	8	13
11	Mike Bliss	3151	-515	25	1	7	13
12	Erik Darnell*	3136	-530	25	0	4	12
13	Dennis Setzer	3129	-537	25	0	1	11
14	Matt Crafton	3102	-564	25	0	4	10
15	Brendan Gaughan	2894	-772	25	0	4	5

Special Note: Tampa's **Aric Almirola** finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the Truck series' final point standings (2471 points), competing in all 25 events and scoring 3 top ten finishes.

#### Club Contact Information:

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## New Feature – Meet your fellow Club members This Month – Wendy Touchette



Wendy and her husband Mike (I suppose you could call him our Assistant Front Tire Carrier?) are residents of The Village of Sunset Pointe, having moved here from Rhode Island in October of 2005. Like many of us, Wendy and Mike heard about The Villages from friends and, after doing a preview package, fell in love with the place. Wendy is a native of Rhode Island, and grew up in the West Warwick area of the state. Her professional career included work in the banking industry and a ten-year stint as Property Manager for elderly housing projects in Rhode Island. She is the proud mother of two boys (Tim, employed at Bryant University and pursuing a Masters Degree; Jeff, currently affiliated with Brinkers Armor Car Services), and her involvement with the boys during their school years gave her a wealth of opportunities to manage fund raisers and group activities. In fact, her first fund-raising effort resulted in \$70,000 in candy sales—and that was a few years ago! Now you can see why she fits in so well with the objectives of our Club!

Wendy is a golf enthusiast, and enjoys working with computers, shopping, and traveling. And, of course, motorsports. Her interest in racing developed at an early age in rural Rhode Island, where she had access to an old Harley-Davidson bike that she used to hone her driving skills. Although she favored the likes of Mario Andretti and A. J. Foyt, a trip to Dover International Speedway about eight years ago tuned her in to stock car racing and she's been a fan ever since. She does have a soft spot for drag racing, though, especially since her husband was a former ¼ miler in Connecticut.

But wait---that's not all! Rumor has it that Wendy is a dedicated "antiquer", with a soft spot for antique tables and jewelry. And to top it all off, she is a die-hard believer in the New England Patriots and the Boston Red Sox (of course) and, curiously, has had a life-long interest in Terry Bradshaw's career.

To-date, Wendy has attended NASCAR Cup-level events at Dover, New Hampshire, Charlotte, and Daytona, with Talladega on the horizon. You undoubtedly know from watching her at a Club meeting that she's a devoted Tony Stewart fan, but if you look closely at the golf cart she drives, you'll see some mention of Carl Edwards, also. Just in case.

Take a moment at the next meeting to chat with Wendy and hear more about her "special event" plans for your Club!