



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 4

February 1, 2008

Inside this issue:

Second Annual Charity Auction—2/6	2
2008 Trip Plans Announced	2
Daytona Packages	3
Local Racing Corner	3
Officer List	4
Website Profile	4
So You Don't Have to Look it up!	4
Jeff Choquette/Dick Anderson Update	5

Special points of interest:

- *Air Racing...yet another form of competition*
- *It Looks Like 2008 is going to be an active year (page 2)*
- *Additional NASCAR trip packages being planned (page 3)*
- *Local Tracks Swing into Action (page 3)*
- *Jeff Choquette piling up stats in 2008! (page 5)*
- *Dick Anderson partners with Ricky Carmichael (page 5)*

Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



Can you believe we're just about at the point where the local tracks are launching their 2008 seasons? Can you believe we're only a couple of weeks away from Daytona's Speedweeks? I don't know about you, but just thinking about the

next few weeks and all the racing ahead of us for the year helps me get through the little cold snaps we've been getting. At our next meeting, you'll hear about the many trips and events we have planned for 2008, and I think you're going to be pleased at what we're lining up for the year. Many of you have been clear that you want to see more trips to racing events, so that's just what we're looking to do. Of course, we'll also be doing a lot right here in The Villages, with local club events and great guest speakers at our monthly meetings.

Speaking of our monthly meetings, how about our great speaker our January 2nd meeting? Like we said at the meeting, racing is racing, whether your on the ground or in the air. We continue to try to bring a wide variety of topics into our meetings, and Donna filled the bill.

I hope to see you all at our February 6 meeting, when we conduct our second annual charity auction. We hope to beat last years \$610 result, and we're looking forward to sending the checks to the charities we support.

Glen

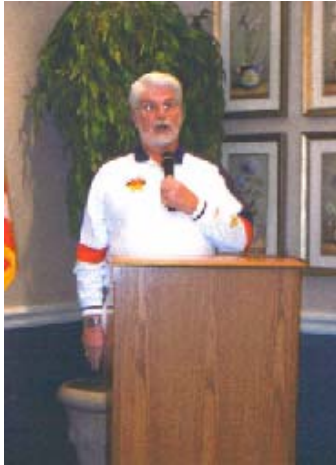
Hey, Racing is Racing, even if the wheels aren't on the ground!

Who says racing needs to be on a track? Our guest speaker on January 2 introduced us to yet another form of racing, this time in the air. Villages resident Donna Davis joined us for the evening to share her thoughts and experiences on the topic of air racing, something she's had a fair amount of experience in. Donna recounted her entry into the sport, and

explained the nuances of the rally-type racing in which she participated. Flying a Cessna 172, she repeatedly placed in the top ten in the famed "Palms to Pines" 816-mile California-to-Oregon event. She credits the quality of her airplane as one of the big factors in her impressive record, although she also gives credit to the collaboration experiences she

shared with racing partners. Like in all forms of motor racing, Donna stressed that first having, then sticking to, a strategy is the key to success in air racing.





Dave Bockman limbering up his vocal cords in preparation for auction duty last year.

SPECIAL NOTE

Don't forget to bring to the meeting any old cell phones you may have...we're still forwarding them to the "Help Them Call Home" program



The Big Event for February, 2008—Our 2nd Annual Auction for Charity

February 2 marks the Second Annual Auction for Charity. Those of you who were at our Auction last year recall the rousing success we experienced under the guiding hand of Auctioneer Extraordinaire Dave Bockman. Through the interest of all those who bid on the incredible array of items, we were able to raise \$610, with the proceeds divided equally between the Victory Junction Gang Camp and the local tornado relief efforts

here in The Villages. The letters of appreciation we received from Lady Lake officials and from Kyle and Patty Petty were extremely gratifying.

This year, we hope to top that amount, and although we've been collecting items for some time, we could use a lot more. Items do not have to be race related, so if you have some other collection, hobby, or talent that you'd like to donate, we'd welcome that, too.

Likewise, if any of you know any local merchants that might be willing to donate something, please contact them and you can assure them they will get credit and publicity for donating to our cause.

In preparation for another successful auction, our Board has already selected the following charities to receive proceeds from the event: "Operation Shoebox", "Help Them Call Home", and the Victory Junction Gang Camp.

Special Events Committee Announces 2008 Trips

Club Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette recently announced the a tentative slate of trips and activities being planned for 2008. In case you missed the announcement memo, here's a quick recap:

- Friday 2/29/08—Ocala's Opening Night. Carpool from The Villages, leaving at 4:00 pm
- Saturday, 3/8/08—Racing in The Villages; Lake Miona Pavilion starting at 3:00
- 3/13/08—3/16/08—NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville; carpool from The Villages; more info to follow
- Friday, 6/6/08—13th Annual Powell Memorial Race, Ocala Speedway, Carpool from The Villages, leaving at 4:00 pm

- Saturday, 8/2/08—FASCAR Super Late Model Series 125 Lap Event at USA International Speedway, Lakeland (Sponsorship for Dick Anderson Racing); Details TBA
- Saturday, 11/22/08—43rd Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200 event at New Smyrna Speedway (Sponsorship for Dick Anderson Racing); Details TBA

Although some of the details for these activities are still being worked out, you might want to mark you calendars to hold the dates. Additional information will be provided by the Special Events Committee at our monthly meetings.

In addition to the dates outlined above, our hard-working Special Events crew is also working on plans for

other events for 2008. Here are a few of that have been identified, along with the months we are targeting for them:

- Racing Club Raffle, with, with Richard Petty Driving Experience prizes identical to the 2007 raffle; tickets to go on sale in April
- Horsepower at the Polo Grounds; Tailgate party with parade around the Polo Grounds; To be scheduled for April or May
- Racing Club Golf Scramble, being planned for May
- Club Poker Run, being planned for September or October

Stay tuned for more details on these events (and possible others).

NASCAR Packages for 2008

The deadline for the Daytona 500 has passed, and we hope that all of you who were able to take advantage of these tremendous packages have a great and memorable time at the 50th running of “The Great American Race!”

In addition to the fantastic work she’s done in assem-

bling these packages for us, “Hall of Famer” Sabrina Gardiner is also working on two more potential trip packages for us in 2008. The first of these is the July 4th & 5th events at Daytona, with details expected to be available within the next two months. Looking further out in the year, she’s

also working on a possible trip to Talladega Super Speedway for the October 5, 2008 AMP Energy 500 Sprint Cup Event.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks, or contact Wendy Touchette with any questions.



Local Racing Corner

What “Off Season”?

We’re all avid race fans, no doubt about it! For me, the winters up in my former home state of Pennsylvania always seemed like a prolonged period of torture as I counted down the days to the start of (1), the NASCAR schedule, and (2) the local Pennsylvania stock car circuits. It was a bleak period for me—as bleak as the weather.

Now, I have a different attitude about the end of the racing season. It’s not so bad, because there’s only about a month of “off season”, before things heat up

again. Here we are at the end of January, with the December running of the “Snowball Derby” at 5 Flags Speedway in Pensacola is still fresh in our minds, and we’ve already had NASCAR test sessions at Daytona, the January 19 Winter Spectacular at Citrus County Speedway, and the January 24 kickoff of Speedfest at USA International Speedway in Lakeland! The holidays may have taken our minds off of racing, but only briefly.

Like most years, the racing comes at us fast and furious in the early part of the year.

For example, the 42nd Annual World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing kicks off February 8 over at New Smyrna Speedway, and brings with it a whopping nine days of racing, from Super Late Models to winged sprints, and even trucks.

Then there’s opening night at Ocala Speedway (Friday, February 29), where race fans will be treated to an entirely new venue on Ocala’s new dirt!

So, you see, for us local-track racing fans, there’s no place like home!

February Schedules for Local Tracks

Ocala Speedway

(www.ocalaspeedway.com)

Friday, 2/29—Grand Opening (United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series, Hobby Stocks, Mini Stocks, & Gladiators)

Citrus County Speedway

(www.citruscountyspeedway.com)

Saturday, 2/10 (Open wheel modifieds; Sportsman; Mini,

Pure, & V8 Thunder Stock; 4 Cylinders Bombers; Fig. 8

Saturday, 2/9 (TBARA sprints; Mini, Street, and Pure Stock; V8 Thunder Stock

Saturday, 2/16 (Open wheel modifieds; Sportsman; Street, Pure, & V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinders Bombers, Fig. 8

Saturday, 2/23 (Super Late

Model; Sportsman; Mini & Street Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers

New Smyrna Speedway

www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org

Friday, 2/8 thru Saturday 2/16—World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing (Super Late Models, Crate Late Models, Limited Late Models, Tour-Types, SK Modifieds, & Florida Modifieds)



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)

Websites of Interest

JAYSKI'S Officially called “Jayski’s Silly Season Site”, this location is billed as a collection of “NASCAR news, rumors, info and stats,” as well as a “Portal to the world of internet NASCAR info.” It’s sort of a gossip clearinghouse and a round-up of place for stories and ideas about NASCAR, its events, and its key players. There’s a vast array of statistics, updates on manufacturer’s issues, and links to many related sites. Of course, there are opportunities to spend money available, also. The URL is <http://www.jayski.com/>



This is an excellent portal site that offers links to a wide variety of sites around Florida. For example, there are direct links to “RealRacin Internet Radio,” where you can search the archives for interviews with the big names in local racing (an interview with Wayne Anderson, discussing his views on racing on dirt at Ocala, is currently available). Also, the site links to most of the tracks that we’re familiar with, as well as the major racing series of interest to us. There’s a link to the “Florida Mini Stock Challenge Series,” which gives us an opportunity to follow Steve Griffin’s progress as he races in 2008. Special features available via the site include a series of items on “Women in Racing,” on “Drag Racing,” on NASCAR, and on many racing events and activities in neighboring states. The URL is <http://www.karnac.com/>

So you don’t need to look it up...

Crashes are certainly a part of motor racing, and NASCAR has its share of ‘em. Sometimes, it seems like the pace car driver gets to lead the most laps, and often we have the bad experience of watching our favorite driver bounce off the wall and ruin the chance for a good showing. Anyway, USAToday does a fairly detailed job of analyzing the crashes occurring in NASCAR events, and their website recently posted some absolutely fascinating statistics about crashes in the Cup series last year. It’s interesting to see that Bristol, with an average rate of nine crashes per event, ranked behind Charlotte...it always seems that Bristol is a crash-o-rama.

Tracks with the most accidents

CLICK THE COLUMN HEADS TO SORT

TRACK	RACES	ACCIDENTS	RATE
Martinsville Speedway	2	28	14
Lowe’s Motor Speedway	2	24	12
Richmond International Raceway	2	19	9.5
Las Vegas Motor Speedway	1	9	9
Bristol Motor Speedway	2	18	9
Texas Motor Speedway	2	14	7
Chicagoland Speedway	1	7	7
Homestead-Miami Speedway	1	7	7
Daytona International Speedway	2	13	6.5
Dover International Speedway	2	13	6.5
Indianapolis Motor Speedway	1	6	6
Kansas Speedway	1	6	6
Talladega Superspeedway	2	11	5.5
Atlanta Motor Speedway	2	10	5
Watkins Glen International	1	5	5
Darlington Raceway	1	5	5
California Speedway	2	10	5
Phoenix International Raceway	2	9	4.5
New Hampshire Int’l Speedway	2	8	4
Infineon Raceway	1	4	4
Michigan International Speedway	2	7	3.5
Pocono Raceway	2	7	3.5

So, you ask, which drivers wreck the most? Here’s a look at the top ten from 2007:

DRIVER	ROOKIE	2007	
		CRASHES	RACES RATE
David Ragan	2007	22	36 61.1%
Robby Gordon	-	16	35 45.7%
Dave Blaney	-	14	33 42.4%
Ricky Rudd	-	13	31 41.9%
David Gilliland	-	13	36 36.1%
Jamie McMurray	-	13	36 36.1%
Reed Sorenson	2006	13	36 36.1%
Martin Truex Jr.	2006	13	36 36.1%
Tony Raines	2003	12	34 35.3%
David Stremme	2006	12	36 33.3%

Choquette Opens 2008 With Impressive Run

Dick Anderson protégé Jeff Choquette picked up right where he left off at the end of 2007—in the winner's circle. Driving his own No. 70 Super Late Model entry, he set the qualifying pace at Speedfest 2008 at USA Speedway in Lakeland with a fast time of 20.393 seconds (132.398 mph) on the 3/4 mile oval track, then went on to dominate the January 25 Southern Super Late Model 100-lap event for his first major win of the season. Wayne Anderson (Dick's son) started second in the event and led many of the early laps, only to crash on lap 75 while running third.



Choquette takes the lead from Ryan Lawler. (51/Jamie Williams photo)

The following day, Jeff repeated his command of Lakeland's high-speed oval with an impressive win in the NOS Energy Drink 200. But it wasn't easy. In fourth place following a restart on lap 117, he barely escaped involvement in a 17 car pile-up that erased a major part of the starting field. He took the lead for the last time on lap 142, and steadily pulled away from the field to finish two seconds ahead of second place Ryan Lawler.

So with a win in the 30 lap Dirt Late Model Event at New Hendrie County Speedway in Clewiston, FL on January 12, Jeff is off to a perfect season—three events entered, three events won. It's fair to say he's primed for another exciting run in the upcoming **42nd Annual World of Asphalt Stock Car Racing** series beginning February 8 at New Smyrna. You won't want to miss this series!!!

Dick Anderson Partners with Ricky Carmichael



We were surprised to learn last week that Dick Anderson plans to partner with AMA Motocross National Champion Rick Carmichael to drive his No. 92 Super Late Model in the **42nd Annual World of Asphalt Stock Car Racing** series at New Smyrna. Many of you may remember that Carmichael has been working toward a conversion from motorcycle racing to stock car racing, competing in the last two Governor's Cup events. Carmichael, a 28 year old resident of Tallahassee, Florida, has been a dominant force in Motocross and Supercross racing, with 150 wins and over 20 major titles. Dick is cautiously optimistic about their chances in the upcoming series, expressing confidence in Carmichael's ability to make a quick conversion from two-wheel racing to the full-bodied four-wheel cars in the late model events.

With Carmichael's abilities teamed with Anderson's genius, this is a combination that will be noticed at New Smyrna! With Jeff Choquette on a roll, and the Dicky/Ricky show getting ready to debut, there's no telling how wild it's gonna be over there.