



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

February, 2012

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A Visit With "The Godmother of NHRA"

February 1—Our second meeting of 2012 picked up where the last one left off, with yet another great visit from a motorsports legend. This time, we had the pleasure of meeting Eileen Daniels, widely regarded as one of the most influential personalities in the National Hot Rod Association's history. Considered by many to be "The Godmother of NHRA," Eileen lays claim to seven decades of affiliation with drag racing's governing body, beginning with her 1956 initial stint as an NHRA Regional Advisor—a position she held jointly with her late husband, Bob.



Speaking before a packed house at our February meeting, Eileen took us through a spirited tour of her adventures with NHRA, from her first official NHRA-sanctioned event in 1955 to her present day duties as a "Consultant" to NHRA. Along the way, she reported, she and Bob raced a 1955 Blown T-Bird, a 1932 Ford Sedan, a 1957 Ford Retractable, and a 1939 Fiat Coupe at many tracks around the country, always under the NHRA colors. She also discussed her involvement as president of the Piper Puffs, an all-girl group of drag racers, and reported that it was during this time that she earned the distinction of being the first female drag racer to break the

100 mph barrier. "What a thrill it was to receive my 100 mile an hour jacket from the many guys that had never gotten one" she fondly quipped!

In 1959, Eileen and Bob made the transition from drag racers to NHRA administrators, with Bob being named one of NHRA's very first Division Directors. The Daniels's quickly adapted to the NHRA inside environment, first running regional points events for the sanctioning body, then moving on to helping design and build a variety of tracks for NHRA. In 1960, Working with USAC's Roger McCluskey and several other key NHRA figures, she and Bob helped design what would become Indianapolis Raceway Park and where they would later (1979) be named general managers. Bob and Eileen are pictured at right in 2004.



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Gatornationals Tee-Up—Eileen Daniels (cont'd from page 1)

Eileen peppered her remarks with many amusing anecdotes, some of which focused on the 8,000+ mile “road trip” in their 1939 Ford (pictured at right) to Indianapolis, then to Santa Monica on Rt. 66, then to Bakersfield for a NHRA National Hot Rod Reunion, then to San Diego, San Antonio, and home. She reports they were gone for seven weeks, and had a “good time” (sometimes, Eileen tends to understate her accomplishments!).

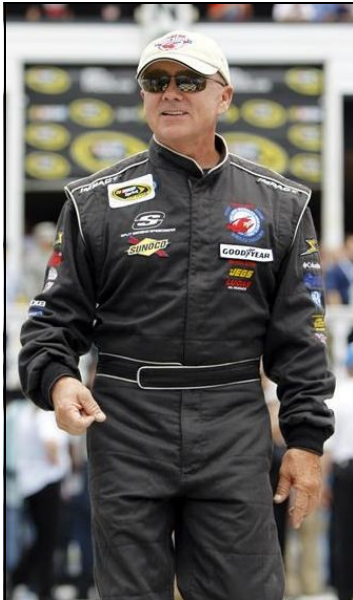
Along the way in their career, Eileen and Bob were frequently recognized for their contributions to the sport, with the following honors:

- International Drag Racing Hall of Fame—2001
- NHRA Lifetime Achievement Award—2007
- East Coast Drag Times Hall of Fame—2007
- Legion of Honor, York, Pa (for contributions to the sport)
- Four separate NHRA Wally Parks Awards



Photo Source—Mike Kelly's Cruise News; see <http://www.cruisenewsonline.com/39FordSedanDaniels/39FordSedanDanielsFeature.html> for the full story of the Daniels's 1939 Ford exploits!

March Meeting Preview—Geoffrey Bodine and Diana Hubbard



February 1—One of the most frequent comments we heard after Marvin Panch's visit with us in December was, “Wow, how's the club going to top that!?” After all, Marvin is not only a Daytona 500 winner, but a 17 time Cup-level winner, and one of “NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers,” as well as a great, witty, and downright entertaining personality. We wrestled with this “dilemma” for a few weeks, and then—as has happened so many times in our six-year club history—fate paid us a visit shortly after our January 4 kick-off meeting, and again after our February meeting. In the first case, fate happened to be long-time club affiliate Matt Vaughn, who dropped in to give us an update on what's going on in his world of motorsports promotion. During his comments at the January meeting, Matt mentioned that he has worked with the Bodine brothers in the past, and that he still maintains contact with Geoff. And the rest is history...or, rather, will be on March 7!

And if that wasn't great enough, fate made a second appearance for us in the person of Villages resident David Leedke. David was aware of our club, and mentioned it to his daughter, Diana Hubbard (pictured below with “a friend”), who just happens to be a Pit Road

Spotter for ESPN! Besides that, Diana and her husband Ross are also former Indy Car owners, with Arie Luyendyk (Jr. and Sr.), Felipe Giaffone and Ricky Treadway as their drivers. Diana has been affiliated with ESPN since 2004, and works closely with ESPN on-air personality Jamie Little, covering both NASAR and Indy Car events.

Diana will be bringing with her a wealth of motorsports knowledge, as well as firsthand experience in the complexities of media coverage of major sporting events. Her background and lively personality, coupled with Geoff Bodine's credentials as one of NASCAR's premier drivers, will undoubtedly make our March 7 meeting one for the ages!



Open Wheel Modifieds—Randy's on a Roll!

February 4—Third-generation Wildwood stock car driver and 2011 Hall of Fame inductee Randy Anderson continues to cut a swath through the competition in Central Florida's Modified ranks. After winning the season opener at Bronson Speedway, Randy set his sights on Citrus County Speedway in Inverness for a 40 lap shootout.

It was a great night for racing, with temperatures in the mid-70s and a good crowd on hand. Randy's heat race was just so-so, with a fifth place finish in a car that just "didn't feel quite right" to the young rising star. After he and his Crew Chief (his dad, Wayne) made a few adjustments, Randy reported that he felt pretty good about his chances in the feature. Pretty good turned out to be a bit of an understatement!

Starting fifth in the feature, Randy drove a steady, clean line for the first half of the race, keeping the leaders in his sights as he moved to the runner-up position. A caution on lap 34 set up what was clearly going to be a great finish, with Randy dogging Scott Millar, the pole sitter who had led the entire race up to that point. On the restart, Randy searched high and low for passing room, finally moving to the outside with two to go. After bouncing off the fourth turn wall with the white flag flying, he powered to a lead of about two feet, and maintained it down the backstretch. On the final turn, Millar drifted up into him and pushed him into the wall. Randy, proving once again that he's an Anderson

through and through, kept his foot in it as he, Millar, and Herb Neumann battled to the checkers, all three careening sideways across the finish line and into the infield, with Randy's No. 86 in front. It was nothing short of spectacular!

When asked if he knew he'd won, Randy said simply, "I thought so, but I just wasn't sure."



Randy, pulling into his pit. The smile says it all!

Three Old Guys Take a Ride at New Smyrna

January 15—Some folks celebrate their 75th birthday with a quiet dinner, while some whoop it up with friends and neighbors over a beer (or two). Jerry Conkle and Glen Carter—two of our charter members—had a different idea: They chose to head over to New Smyrna Speedway and take a few 100+ mph laps around the high-banked half mile asphalt raceway. As participants in the "Rusty Wallace Experience," Conkle and Carter, accompanied by Crew Chief Gerry Hafer, suited up and strapped into authentic NASCAR Cup

cars for a four-lap tour of the track, riding with seasoned Late Model stock car drivers who weren't afraid to "hang it out" on the superfast NSS oval. "It was a great experience," Conkle said after hauling himself out of the car. Carter echoed those remarks, saying "Now I have a better feel for what those guys do!"



Left-to-right: Hafer, Carter, and Conkle "suited up."

Also with us February 1...Speedway Park's Marty Ruser

January 4—Many of you are aware that Fruitland Park's Original Speedway Park, adjacent to The Villages, has launched its 2012 racing season. OSP official Marty Ruser dropped in at our February 1 meeting to share some of the happenings at the track, and to discuss the new events added to the schedule. For example, Marty reported that the Southern Dirt Track Association will be running flat track motorcycling events at the track, starting Saturday, February 11, with more than 80 bikes expected to be taking the track.

Marty also previewed a major event scheduled for April 28 in conjunction with the annual Leesburg Bike Festival. The event, which will include a "camp and race" feature for visiting bikers, is expected to draw upwards of a hundred entries to the Fruitland Park track.

Marty reminded everyone that regular kart racing takes place on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and that they all tend to look for "the yellow shirt" crowd in the stands!



Southern Dirt Track Association
of Florida

"Keep'n it Sideways"



Prediction Row 2012 Lineup Set

February 3—The field is now set for the 2012 edition of "Prediction Row." The starting grid—that is the six predictors set to take the first 13 races in the 2012 Sprint Cup series, will feature four veterans and two "rookies," while the mid-season crew—forecasting races 14 through 26—pits three "rookies" against three returning veterans, one of which is last year's champion Al Stone.

For those of you new to the club, "Prediction Row" is the weekly event that has representatives of our group assuming the role of NASCAR experts as they predict the winner of each Cup event. Points are awarded to the predictors according to where their "pick" finishes, with the points system mirroring the official NASCAR points structure (for example, if a predictor selects a driver who wins the race and leads the most laps, that predictor would be awarded 48 points. Similarly, if a predictor selects a driver who finishes last and leads no laps, that predictor would be awarded 1 point.

After race 26, the top three from each segment will take the 10 Chase races, with a seeding bonus of 10 points awarded for each time a predictor's pick wins the event. The Champion will be crowned at our traditional big-screen viewing of the final event of the 2012 NASCAR season. Here are is the panel for 2012:

Segment 1 (Races 1—13): Jim Carter, Gary Civiletti, Fred Coenen (R), Jerry Conkle, Bob Giles (R), Wendy Touchette.

Segment 2 (Races 14-26): Corky Eck, Jon Neville (R), Wayne Nolan (R), Matt Paterson (R), Connie Scalzitti, Al Stone

Just as we did last year, we'll post the results and standings on our website as soon as possible after the official NASCAR points are awarded (usually a day or two after the race), and we'll do periodic updates in our newsletters and at regular meetings..

Our Trophy Makes the Trip Up I-75

January 31—Led by “Big Dave” Bockman, a contingent of about 25 club members made the trip up I-75 to Ocala to place our club Hall of Fame trophy on public display at National Parts Depot. Thanks to the efforts of Derek Putnam and owner Rick Schmidt, NPD has agreed to host our trophy in 2012, giving us yet another chance to “spread the word” about our group and its incredible list of Hall of Fame members.

The January 31 caravan marked the third time our group has conducted field trips to this extraordinary facility

classic and special interest vehicles. “Because we know that the folks who tour NPD’s facility are true motorsports fans,” remarked Club President Gerry Hafer, “we sincerely appreciate the chance to further our group’s recognition and reputation. Hats off to NPD for giving us this opportunity!”



Upper photo: The Group upon arrival, with Buster Burt driving the “pace car.”

Far left: “Big Dave” handing over the trophy to NPD’s Rick Schmidt.

Left: The “Yellow Shirts” begin to fan out for a better look at NPD’s fantastic collection. (Kids in a candy store comes to mind!)

(Photos courtesy of Jon Cona.)

Club Hall of Famer “Retires” from Competition

February 5—While over at Citrus County Speedway for their 2012 season opener, we met club favorite and 2007 Hall of Famer Steve Griffin to get an update on his recovery from a work-related accident last year. The good news is that he is in fact recovering from neck surgery...the bad news is that the residual affects of his injuries have likely ended his “behind-the-wheel” racing

career. “I can’t take the risk of any further injury to my neck,” Steve reported, “so that rules out getting behind the wheel.” He did indicate, however, that the possibility of assuming a car owner position might be in his future...who knows!? Steve is pictured in this file photo from May 22, 2010 photo conferring with his “advisory board” just prior to turning in a dominant win in a 100-lap mini-stock feature.



Local Racing Corner

Here are the web addresses for these local (and relatively local) tracks. Within each website, you can browse to a "Schedule" page to see what shows they have planned for the month.

THE "ORIGINAL" SPEEDWAY PARK

<http://originalspeedwaypark.com>



<http://www.ocalaspeedway.com>



<http://www.ocalamicrospeedway.com>



<http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com>



<http://newsmyrnaspeedway.org>



<http://orlandospeedworld.org>



<http://thevolusiaspeedway.com>



<http://auburndaleracing.com>



<http://www.eastbayracewaypark.com>

Welcome, New Members



Our February meeting included four new members. Pictured above, left-to-right, are Darwin Banes from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin; Janine and Bob Woodsford from Las Vegas, Nevada; and Linda Bueter, from Elgin, Illinois. Be sure to greet them next time you see them and strike up a conversation about their interest in the wide world of motorsports!



Special Events Roundup



In case you haven't noticed, there's a lot of racing action happening already in 2012, and the NASCAR guys haven't even taken their first green flag! Bubba Raceway Park's in full swing with their Winternationals, Citrus County Speedway's opener was February 4, Volusia Raceway Park is gearing up for the DIRTcarNationals, just to name a few of the action spots around us. The unstoppable Buzzie Reutimann is back in action, and Randy Anderson has picked up where he left off last year. On top of all that, rumor has it that our Club Godfather—Dick Anderson—is contemplating a return to competition.

It's gonna be a wild year (again). And our speaker/guest appearance list just keeps getting better! We'll see you all on March 7.

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
February 17-25 New Smyrna Speedway	46th Annual World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing (see http://newsmyrnaspeedway.org/?page_id=10 for information)
February 8-18 Bubba Raceway Park	Bubba Army Winternationals (USAC AMSOIL NATIONAL SPRINT CARS, WORLD OF OUTLAWS, 410 WING SPRINTS, etc. Check website for specific schedule (http://www.bubbaracewaypark.com/2012-schedule))
February 14-25 Volusia Raceway Park	UNOH DIRTcar Nationals (UMP Mods, Sprint Cars, World of Outlaws Sprint Cars, UMP Late Models) Check website for specific schedule (http://www.dirtcarnationals.com/). Jerry Conkle has agreed to coordinate a car pool for November 17 (WoO Sprints and UMP Modifieds) to leave Laurel Manor at 4:00 pm. Call him at 750-1185 and let him know if you're joining the group.
February, 2012 Daytona International Speedway	Lake Limo will be running busses to the Bud Shootout (Feb.18), the Gatorade Duel (Feb. 23), the Camping World Truck Series event (Feb . 24), and the Daytona 500 (Feb. 26). Call Lake Limo at 352-742-2808 for details. Flyers for all these events can be downloaded from our website's homepage.
Sunday, February 26 Colony Cottage	We'll be showing the Daytona 500 on the big screen at Colony. Come on out and join us...BYOB and a snack to share!
Monday, February 27 Colony Cottage	We'll be hosting a bingo fund raiser, with "Big Dave" Bockman again calling the numbers for us. Stay tuned for details!
March 1-4, 2012	U.S. Vintage Oval Track Nationals, Orlando Speedworld (See website Schedule page for details)
Friday, March 9, 2012	Bus trip to NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville (Call Wendy for details)
May 3, 2012	Nighttime Golf Scramble at Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course (Details TBA)

Visit our website (www.villagesracingclub.com)

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)
 Jerry Conkle, Technical Consultant (750-1185)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)

R/C Group Update

The first 2012 session for our radio-controlled racing group took place Saturday, January 28, and it was a great one! With a car count of 11, from seasoned racers to yellow-bumpered rookies, the action was fast and furious!

Here's a look at the field:



The action in the pits was equally impressive, with a fair amount of race strategy being passed around during the three-hour session. Here's a look at "pit road" in action:



Come on out Wednesday, February 8 and Saturday, February 25 and watch the action! If you'd like to try your hand at running one of these amazing cars, just let Mike Roemer or Dave Allen know and they'll set you up with a "test drive."

Conkle's Corner...

Our resident philosopher/comedian Jerry Conkle continues to pick up steam in his quest to bring you a continuous stream of meaningful quips, quotes, and factoids concerning all phases of life. With the racing season now in full swing, we find him once again dazzling all of us with his anecdotes, stories, and snippets of sometimes useful information.



Here's Jerry's contribution for this month:

• Notable Quotes for 2016:

- Kurt Busch: "I never liked Sprint Cup racing, so I'm looking forward to next year with my new teammate, Morgan Sheppard."
- Tony Stewart: "I would still like to win races, but I'm too old to climb the fence."
- Mark Martin: "We had a pretty good year, and I'm looking forward to next year, and the next year, and the next year,...."
- A blonde was riding on an airplane in first class. The flight attendant told her that her ticket was for coach. She said, "I'm blonde, I'm beautiful, and I'm going to Chicago. She didn't move. Another flight attendant asked her to move back to coach. She said, "I'm blonde, I'm beautiful, and I'm going to Chicago. She didn't move. Finally the pilot was asked to speak to her. He whispered something in her ear, and she got up and moved back to coach. The flight attendants asked the pilot what he said; he responded, "I told her first class wasn't going to Chicago."
- A man was lost in the forest for over a week, and when a ranger found him he was eating a Bald Eagle. The ranger said "We'll get you checked out, but I will have to arrest you for killing a Bald Eagle." The man went to court and pleaded not guilty. The judge asked why he pleaded "not guilty;" he said he did it to survive. "In that case," the judge said, "case dismissed." The judge then asked, "By the way, what does a Bald Eagle taste like?" The man said, "A mix between a Whooping Crane and a Spotted Owl."
- Quotes from kids:
 - Teacher: "Why are you late?" Student: "Class started before I got here."
 - Teacher: "Johnny, do you say prayers before eating?" Johnny: "No, I don't have to, my mom's a good cook."