



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

February, 2013

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, March 6, 2013

In This Issue:

George Wagner, Northeast Standout	1
March Meeting Preview	2
Prediction Row Competition Set	2
Officer Changes	3
Those Yellow Shirts!	3
Remembering Big Dave	3
Contributions Approved	4
Local Racing Corner	4
Welcome, New Members	5
Chase Statistics	5
Special Events Report	6
Update on Ernie Battee	6
Your Pit Crew	7
Conkle's Corner	7
Travel Fact	7
Ice Breaker 100 Flyer	8



George Wagner—Northeast Standout



February 6—Well, we did it again...we reached into our ranks of outstanding and multi-talented members and came up with a winner in the form of George Wagner. If you were with us at the February meeting, you were treated to a thorough recounting of George's illustrious career racing in the Modified and Sportsman Divisions up in the Northeast.

George competed from 1962 to 1982 at many of the great tracks of the Northeast, like Islip, Freeport, West Hampton, and Riverhead, enjoying the opportunity to race against many of the greatest names in area stock car racing. Many of these drivers, like Charlie Jarzombek, Richie Evans, Tom Baldwin, Greg Sacks, and, of course, Buzzie Reutimann. George shared an incredible string of stories about the "old days" of racing in the 60s, 70s, and early 80s, including a slew of tales about the rougher side of the sport as it was "back in the day."

George traced his involvement in racing from around 1950, when he had the opportunity to watch televised events on a 10" TV screen. After starting to attend racing at age 12, he was hooked, and eventually acquired his first car in 1962 at a cost of \$50, racing it in the Novice Division at Freeport Speedway where he learned the tips and techniques of stock car racing. Through the years, George advanced upward through various classes, eventually hitting the Modified ranks in the late 1960s. Along the way, he also spent some time racing Midgets, competing against many of the local greats, including eventual Indianapolis competitor Jerry Carl.

To say George was successful would be an understatement. He was recognized as NASCAR Modified Sportsman Champion at Islip Speedway in 1968 and Co Champion at Freeport Speedway in 1975. These days, George stays involved through his son George III who is an active pit crew member, and his two grandsons, both of whom are involved in NASCAR racing, one with Joe Gibbs Racing, the other with Kyle Busch Racing in the Truck Series.



March Meeting Preview—A Visit from NPD

Our March 6 meeting will feature a visit from Rick Schmidt, National Parts Depot President and General Manager. As many of you know, NPD is a nationally-known auto parts distributor, recognized as the premier supplier of concours-correct parts and accessories for the Thunderbird, Mustang, Camaro, Chevelle, Firebird, Trans Am, El Camino and Ford Truck.

Rick will give us an update on NPD's business activities, and will provide a bit of the history behind their fantastic collection of vintage and high-performance automobiles.

As many of you are aware, we have a close connection to NPD...our Hall of Fame Trophy is on permanent display in the main lobby area at their Ocala facility.



Prediction Row 2013-Wayne Nolan Set to Defend Title

Here we go again! The sixth edition of our "Prediction Row" competition is underway, and our panel of motorsports experts is off and running with the Daytona 500 under their belt. All indications are that 2013 will be yet another year of aggressive encounters as our two sets of predictors jockey for spots in the Chase Round and, ultimately, for the Prediction Row Crown and all its bragging rights!

In case you've forgotten, Wayne Nolan pulled off a come-from-behind victory in 2012, putting all the marbles on Kyle "Wild Thing" Busch to grab a none-point win over runner up Jerry "Flash" Conkle. The incredible tension proved once again that "it ain't over till it's over."

As a quick refresher, 2012 finishing order is shown at right. As an example of the unpredictable nature of this competition, note that Jon Neville went into the final race with a 13-point lead over third place Nolan. How quickly things can change!

Our 2013 panel of predictors (the first 13 races) will be:

Segment 1 (Races 1-13)

- Syd Baker
- Gary Civiletti
- Jerry Conkle
- Gerry Hafer
- Wayne Nolan
- Alan Stone

Segment 2 (Races 14-26)

- Mike Anderson
- Jim Carter
- Jim Dunaway
- Corky Eck
- Jon Neville
- Wendy Touchette

Predictor	Cum. Pts.	Pts. Back	Rank
Nolan, Wayne	354		1
Conkle, Jerry	345	9	2
Giles, Bob	335	19	3
Neville, Jon	334	20	4
Eck, Corky	317	37	5
Coenen, Fred	302	52	6

The top three from each segment will transfer to the Chase Round.

Officer Changes—New Leadership Set to Take the Green

If you were present at the February meeting, you're aware that we're getting set for a major change in club leadership. Letters of resignation from Crew Chief Gerry Hafer and Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette were read into the record and, subsequent to the meeting, Vice President Mike Touchette submitted his resignation. As Hafer noted at the meeting, the motivation behind these resignations is the need for some fresh thinking and some new faces at the helm, and stressed that he and Wendy and Mike plan to maintain their involvement and contributions to the success of the club.

"We've had a good run," Hafer commented, "and we've accomplished quite a bit, but it's time to get some new thinking into the club's leadership. We know there are many talented people in our membership, so there won't be any loss of momentum with these changes."

Indeed, a Selection Committee consisting of Fred Coenen and Jim Boyd sprang into action almost immediately, and has developed a slate of candidates to be proposed for election at the March Meeting. Jerry Conkle has accepted the nomination for President/Crew Chief, with Gary Civiletti to be

nominated for the Special Events Coordinator position and Dave Allen for the Vice President position.

"These are nominations only," reports Coenen. "We will certainly welcome any additional nominations from the floor at the March 6 meeting." In the meantime, anyone interested in being considered for any of these three key positions is encouraged to get in touch with Fred or Jim.

All three of the resignations are effective March 31, with the replacements set to take office with the April meeting.

Wow, Do Those Yellow Shirts Stand Out, or What?!

Thanks to the eagle eye of Silky Meegan, we were alerted to another example of how our "yellow shirts" can make a visual splash. This time it was in the Citrus County Visitor's Guide distributed at the recent Travel Expo in The Villages, in the form of a publicity photo of the racing action at Citrus County Speedway in Inverness.



Remembering "Big Dave"

Our project to create a memorial for our departed friend "Big Dave" Bockman is nearing completion, thanks to the perseverance of Pit Crew member Silky Meegan. Working with officers of New Covenant Methodist Church, the contributions received in memory of Dave have been used to purchase a music stand for his church choir (pictured

at right) and licensing for anthems. to be used by the choir in church services. In addition, the remaining funds will be used to purchase a commemorative brick to be placed at the Veterans Memorial Park adjacent to Spanish Springs in The Villages. These items will help keep "Big Dave" alive in our thoughts for years to come.



Pit Crew Approves Two Contributions

At our February 6 meeting, members were asked to vote on two contributions for 2013, and unanimous approval was given to \$250 awards to Camp Boggy Creek and Villages Honor Flight. Both of these organizations are considered to be great, extremely worthy causes, with strong connections to The Villages and to our members.

Many of you are aware that our own Wayne Nolan is planning to participate in a 2013 Honor Flight, so be sure to wish him well. With respect to Camp Boggy Creek, many of us have visited this fantastic facility for seriously ill children down in Eustis, and have been moved by its mission. Our Pit Crew has discussed the possibility of a return visit later this year, so stay tuned.

As you all know, community support has been, and continues to be, one of our main objectives as a club. We've taken this seriously since our late-2006 start-up, and we've been able to produce a pretty substantial track record.

Our community support has taken several approaches, ranging from outright charitable contributions like the two approved at our February meeting, to sponsorships for race teams and drivers, to general support to the area racing community, to scholarships for area college-bound high school graduates.

In developing recommendations for support, our Pit Crew seeks to make certain that whatever we're doing conforms to our established mission/vision state-

statement. (If you haven't looked at that lately, you can find it on our website's "About Us" page.)

So, back to our track record. Here's what we've done so far:

- Contributions to charities (Camp Boggy Creek, Victory Junction Gang, Honor Flight, Operation Shoe Box, etc.) - over \$6,000.
- Direct support to drivers and race teams - \$8,400.
- General support to the racing community (ads, Speedway Park donations, etc.) - \$2,200.
- Scholarships - \$2,000.

Not bad, for little over six years of activity! And here's another quick fact...23 different drivers have piloted cars with our club logo!

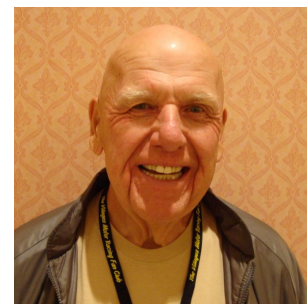
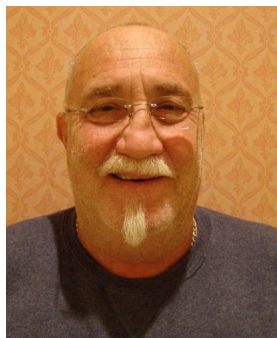
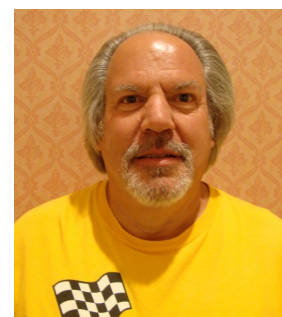
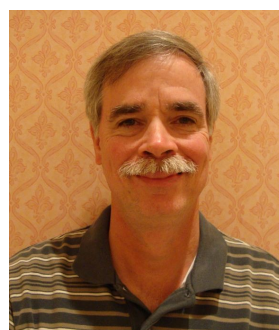
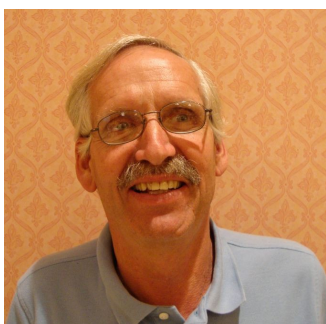
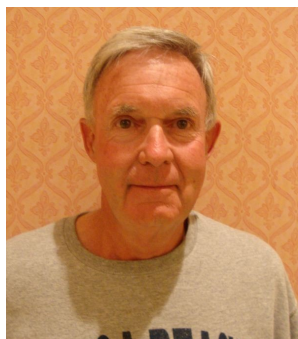
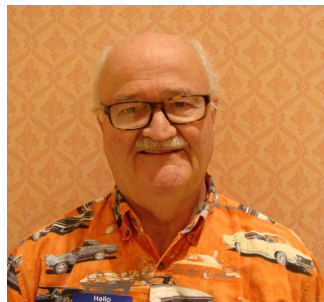
Local Racing Corner

As we've mentioned quite a few times in the past, these tracks represent the local roots of racing and they need our support! If you've been to an event at any of these tracks recently, you'll no doubt agree that attendance is down. Car counts are down as well, and it's easy to see that either of these facts represents a cause-and-effect situation. If the cars don't come, neither will the fans, and it's becoming a downward spiral that can only lead to the closing of tracks here in Central Florida. We've already lost one this year (Columbia), and most of the others are struggling. So, let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth.

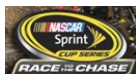
Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
Volusia Raceway Park	Barberville	386-985-4402	volusiaspeedwaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	orlandospeedworld.org
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	ocalamicrospeedway.com
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	auburndaleracing.com
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	puntagordaspeedway.com
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	desotosuperspeedway.com

Welcome, New Members

We're off and running into 2013, and our membership ranks continue to grow! At our February meeting, for example, we logged in 16 new members, many of whom were caught by Club Photographer Tom Horrmann for their photo. Greet these new additions to our Villages Racing Family at the next meeting and share their fascination with the world of speed!



Left-to-right: **(Row 1)** Richard Barrett-Baltimore, Md; Tim Gammons-New Albady, In; Larry Hanna, West Allis, WI; Tom Hutchins, NY. **(Row 2)** Shel Larsen-Green Bay, WI; Tom Meyer-Green Bay, WI; Paul Nittel-St. Louis, MO; Richard Ruben, Baltimore, MD. **(Row 3)** , Steve Sorrentino-McHenry, IL; Peter Sweet-Gt. Barrington, MA; Roger & Lois Taylor-St. Louis, MO; Jim Zampaglione-Goshen, CT.



The 2013 "Race for the Chase is on!"

OK...Daytona's behind us, and the 2013 "Race for the Chase" is in full swing. Looking back on the nine previous editions of the chase gives one an interesting perspective on how the field will fill out come mid-September. Did you know that Jimmie Johnson has been a contender in all 9 Chases?

Here's a quick list of the drivers with the most appearances in NASCAR's "post-season" competition:

Nine Appearances: Johnson
 Eight Appearances: Gordon, Kenseth, Stewart
 Seven Appearances: Hamlin
 Six Appearances: Kurt Busch, Edwards, Harvick
 Five Appearances: Biffle, Kyle Busch, Earnhardt Jr.
 Four appearances: Bowyer, Burton, Martin, Newman

Special Events Roundup



This will be my last “roundup” report...Come on out to the March 6 meeting to see who will be taking the wheel on Special Events! As I said in my letter to the Pit Crew back in January, it's been an awesome ride, and I've enjoyed the trips, activities, and many friendships I've made along the way. This is a great group, and it can only get better!

By the time you read this, the 2013 racing season will be in full swing, on the NAS-CAR/NHRA/IndyCar level as well as on the local level that so many of us enjoy. Some of the events and activities on tap for the next few months are shown below. As always, though, we'd love to hear your suggestions for trips and events... just give us a call!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
February 28—March 2 Marion County Speedway	Special show, featuring a visit from the Daytona Antique Auto Racing Association crew. Car pool is being set up for Friday, 3/1—Call Gerry 751-3643
Saturday, Mar. 2, 2013 Citrus County Speedway	Season Opener for the Florida United Promoters Series, featuring club favorites Wayne and Randy Anderson. Check the track's website for details (http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com) SEE FLYER ON PAGE 8
March at Colony, Hacienda, and Villages Hospital Campus East	R/C racing on the second Wednesday, fourth Saturday, and every Sunday (Call Dave Allen (205-7985) or Mike Roemer (633-0134) for details)
March 13-16 Sebring International Speedway	61st Annual Mobil 1 12 Hours @ Sebring. Info on our web site: www.villagesracingclub.com
Friday, Mar. 15, 2013 Gainesville	NHRA Gatornationals. See our website homepage for information regarding a bus trip to the event.
Thursday, May 2 Saddlebrook	Night Golf scramble event at Saddlebrook. Pot Luck social scheduled at Saddlebrook before the event. Call Wendy (303-9734 for details)

Update on Ernie Battee

As reported on our website's homepage, Ernie has been moved to Lake Harris Health Center, 701 Lake Port Blvd., Leesburg, FL. For those of you who are not aware, Ernie was injured in a Dec. 2 auto accident at the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd. and CR 466. Ernie had very severe injuries, including a severed spinal cord and 120 lacerations, including part of his scalp. As a result, he remains paralyzed from his neck down. Ernie's daughter Lisa, wife of NASCAR Champion Randy Lajoie and mother of K&N East driver Corey Lajoie, is with him virtually everyday, having relocated from North Carolina for the time being to oversee his care. Club members are encouraged to visit Ernie and, as Lisa noted, “The visits from friends really help him.”



Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Hormann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (303-9734)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Gary Civiletti, Villages Liaison (751-4030)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 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)
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

Little-Known Travel Facts



Many of you have heard of the village named Intercourse, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. And you've probably speculated on the origin of the name. Well, as your intrepid news-letter editor, I took it upon

myself to research the subject, and came up with this explanation, courtesy of "Intercourse News, April-May 2011 edition (Vol. 43, No. 2): (This is quoted material...I didn't make it up! Here goes:

Much speculation exists concerning the origin of the name of this little country village. There are several explanations, but none can really be substantiated. The first centers around an old race track which existed just east of the town. As one leaves town, traveling eastward on the Old Philadelphia Pike, there is a long straight stretch of road where the track was located. This was the entrance to the race course, and was known as "ENTERCOURSE." It is believed that "entercourse" gradually evolved to "intercourse" which became the name of the village in 1814. Another theory concerns two famous roads that crossed here. The Old Kings Highway from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh (now the Old Philadelphia Pike) ran east and west through the center of town. The road from Washington to Erie intersected in the middle. The joining or inter-course of these two roads is claimed by some to be the basis for naming the town Intercourse.

Conkle's Corner...

Over at Daytona during tire testing it looked like Jr. rubbed some driver's the wrong way. The new cars looked like they are a little more of a handful then the last year cars were. Maybe it will make for better racing. Let's hope so.

OK...that's enough of the serious stuff. Here are some more thoughts to ponder...



- A blonde bought a new car, she loved it, drove it all day, liked it so much that she decided she would go for a ride that night, so she started the car, but it wouldn't go any place. She was mad. The next morning she called the car dealer and said, "I put my car in "D" for day and it was fine," then I put it in "N" for night and it wouldn't go?"
- A couple lived in Maine in the winter time. The woman told her husband she was going to walk across the lake to get some groceries. He asked if she would bring back some beer and some smoke's. She said give me some money. He said tell him to put it on my tab. She walked across the lake to the grocery and bought her stuff and told the grocer to put it on her husbands tab. He asked, why didn't he give you any money? She said I'll ask him when I get back. When she got back she asked him, "Why didn't you give me any money?" He said, "He wasn't sure how thick the ice was!!!!"
- To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- An old man was asked, "At your ripe age, what do you prefer to get – Parkinson's or Alzheimer's?" The wise one answered, "Definitely Parkinson's. Better to spill half an ounce of scotch, than to forget where you keep the bottle!!!!"

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MARCH 2ND 2013

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Pure Stocks, Mini Stock - 50 Laps & Street Stocks

Practice on Friday for all classes 5:00pm-9:00pm

PITS OPEN AT 12PM - GATES OPEN AT 4PM - RACING AT 5:30 PM