



PIT NEWS *February 2021*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: March 3, 2021

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 3 at 7 PM at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. We will continue to **require that masks be worn not only entering and leaving the room, but also being worn the entire time while in the room.** This will allow us to have enough seats to accommodate more members.

I can happily say racing season is upon us once again. Please support our local tracks for some fun Saturday night racing. It makes for a fun night out and is very reasonably priced. Wear your club shirts proudly.

Our guest speaker for the month of March will be Michael Hinde. He has a very promising racing career ahead of him. You can read more about him in the section below.

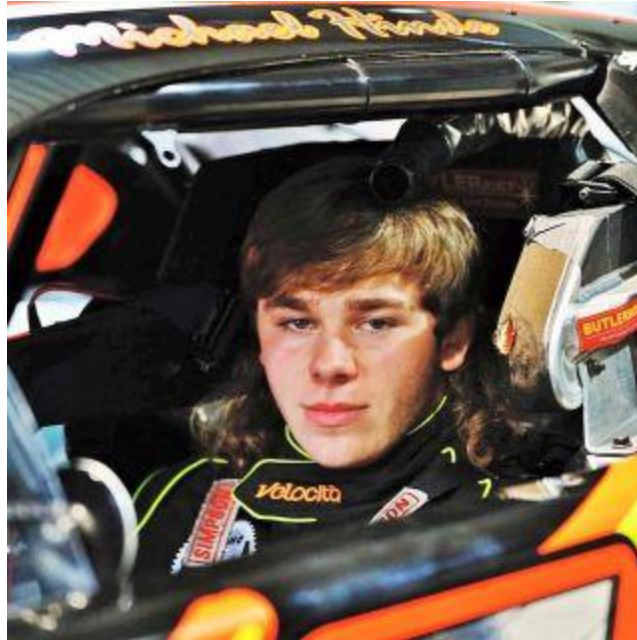
I would like to thank our members who are participating in the Spring Segment of Prediction Row. It sure is a lot of fun to read in the Daily Sun and see who they think will win the race that week. Let's see who prevails at the end of this first segment.

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 hope all of our members are enjoying the monthly newsletter.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

Our Guest Speaker for March 3 Meeting



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

Our guest speaker is a young racer from Hernando, Florida, Michael Hinde.

Michael began racing go-karts at age 4 and raced them for four years. He took a break from racing until 2020, when he got back into racing, this time in stock cars.

Hinde competed in the Modified Mini Stock class and claimed the 2020 Mod Mini Championship at Citrus County Speedway, as well as being named Rookie of the Year. On Jan. 30, 2021 Hinde won the Rick Sirmans Memorial Florida State Championship race for Modified Mini Stocks at Showtime Speedway.

Michael has his sights set at making a name for himself in the Pro Late Model and Super Late Model ranks. Most recently Hinde competed in New Smyrna Speedway's World of Asphalt Series where he posted one top five and three top 10's in the Pro Late Model division. He finished the Orange Blossom 100 Super Late Model race 14th.

Prediction Row 2021



After two weeks of exciting racing at Daytona, our Prediction Row competitors are ranked as follows. The Top 3 will advance to the Playoff Segment.

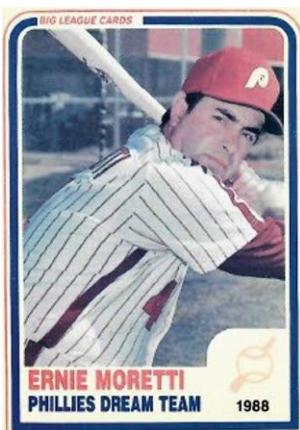
Larry Hanna - 0 wins 73 points
Doug Baker - 0 wins 67 points
Shel Larsen - 0 wins 59 points
Melanie Scott - 0 wins 46 points
Art Staus - 0 wins 42 points
Jim West - 0 wins 38 points

There has been a change to the Summer Segment. Let us welcome Jim Dropp to the lineup.

For the latest weekly predictions, follow Prediction Row in the Daily Sun on NASCAR Cup race day and look for the most recent updates on our website: villagesracingclub.com.

Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator

In Memoriam



We are saddened to report the passing of one of our own. Ernie Moretti passed away peacefully on January 2, 2021 in Newtown, PA.

Ernie was a long-time member of our club and a huge fan of NASCAR. Club members may remember him at meetings where he was often found at the back table. He helped his good friend and crew uniform manager Wayne Nolan, and assisted members with their purchases.

Ernie was known as being quite a “character” – a fact recognized by his family. The photo shown here was selected by the family to be displayed with his obituary.

Some pictures from our February 3, 2021 meeting

Top Left: Ed Rensi Top Right: Ed Rensi and Club President Chris Bleistein



Bottom left: Art Fehrman, Ed Rensi and Chris Bleistein



Bottom Right: Jerry Conkle, Art Fehrman, Ed Rensi and Chris Bleistein

Important Upcoming Dates

March 3, 2021-Wednesday Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm
April 7, 2021-Wednesday Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm
January 30, 2022-Sunday Awards Celebration (Details will be forthcoming)

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

FROM MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR LOIS TAYLOR

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.

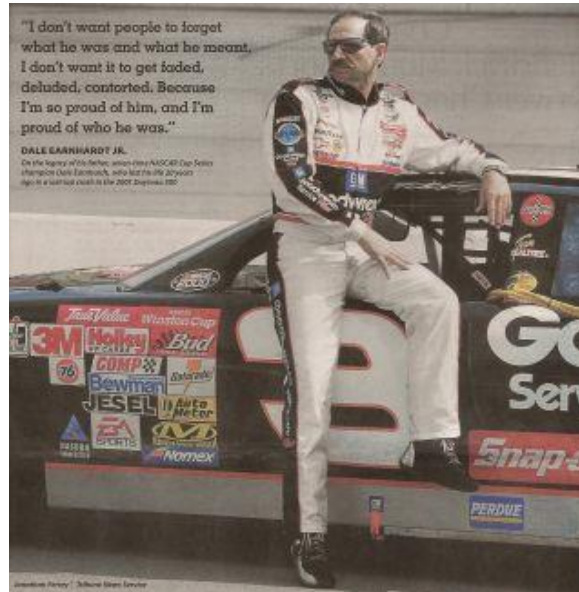
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE ONLY ALLOWED A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE DUE TO THE COVID VIRUS, SO GET THERE EARLY SO YOU WON'T GET TURNED AWAY. PLEASE FILL OUT THE CARD AT THE DOOR WITH YOUR CONTACT INFO OR MARK "SAME AS JANUARY" AND TURN IT IN AT THE TABLE. BY DOING THIS YOU ARE HELPING KEEP ALL OF US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

Club Members Recall Earnhardt's 2001 Crash



Club members recall the day Dale Earnhardt died in a last-lap crash in the 2001 Daytona 500. They were interviewed by The Villages Daily Sun staff writer Cody Hills.

In this article Hills describes Earnhardt's endearing popularity, the tragic accident that ended Earnhardt's life, and the everlasting safety benefits that resulted from Earnhardt's death.

Visit our club's website to read a copy of the full article.

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



--The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

--There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewable Vitamins.

--Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

--Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance. AND NOW YOU KNOW!!

Jerry's Joke

Two sisters were talking. One sister said, "Why do we have big noses and mom doesn't?" The other sister said, "Mom had a nose job silly." The first sister said, "Why didn't she have it before she had us?"

Jerry Conkle's Trivia Continues.....

- 1) What winning driver in the Indy 500 led the most laps?
A) Al Unser B) Bill Vukovich C) Billy Arnold D) Wilbur Shaw
- 2) What were the most laps led by a winner of the Indy 500?
A) 190 B) 185 C) 198 D) 195
- 3) Has anyone won the Daytona 500 three times in a row? If so, who?
- 4) Has anyone ever won the Indy 500 three times in a row? If so, who?

GOOD LUCK. ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 8. NO PEEKING.



Let's Welcome our New Members!

Martin Wool from New Hampshire
Kyle Studley from Florida
Donna Dillon from Massachusetts
Brian Dillon from Massachusetts
Harold Sundin from New York
Harold "Butch" Crites from West Virginia
Terry Kloeffer from Wisconsin

Let's welcome back members who are returning after a bit of a hiatus!

Kay Baker from Minnesota
Doug Baker from Minnesota
Gino Wagner from Wisconsin

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. C) Billy Arnold, led all but the first 2 laps
2. C) 198
3. NO
4. NO



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



Ultrax 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.