



PIT NEWS *February, 2022*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: March 2, 2022

A Few Words from the President's Desk



I would like to thank the Hall of Fame Celebration committee for all of their hard work putting together such a successful celebration. We had a total of 120 guests who enjoyed the delicious food and entertainment. The new format was welcomed by all of our guests. The board is looking forward to another fun time next year. The date has been set for Saturday, February 4, 2023. Looking forward to seeing everyone again next year at the Hall of Fame Celebration.

The Gainesville Goldmine tour was a huge success. We had about 25 people who first went to a delicious lunch at a Mexican restaurant and then did a guided tour given by Charles and Richard Poindexter at their

15-acre property.

We have a very busy schedule coming up. We've got the Super Late Models racing at Citrus County Speedway on February 12; Living Legends of Auto Racing Beachside Parade on February 14; Living Legends Banquet on February 16; Daytona 500 Watch Party pot luck on February 20; National Parts Depot private car collection tour on March 10; NHRA Gatornationals bus trip on March 11; Racing Legends Reunion Awards Luncheon on March 20; our club's Motor Racing Show at Brownwood Paddock Square on March 28; and our Golf Scramble on April 14 at Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course. Please read about all of these activities in the newsletter.

I'm pleased to announce that our guest speaker for our March 2 meeting will be Jim Donnelly. Jim is a renowned journalist in the racing community for many decades and has written articles in many racing magazines.

I'm also pleased to announce that one of our recent Hall of Fame inductees and club member, Chris Dirato, will be joining our board of directors. Chris will bring his many talents including his knowledge of marketing to the club.

I would also like to thank everyone for paying their membership dues and for the continuing support you give to the club.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

Next Meeting – March 2



Our next meeting is on March 2 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Jim Donnelly, an award-winning motorsports journalist and a recognized expert on collectible vehicles and automotive history.

Donnelly's career began with 20+ years of experience as a reporter and editor at the Burlington County Times, a daily newspaper in Willingboro, NJ.

Jim's love of everything automotive is evident in his writing and editing contributions over the years to Open Wheel Magazine, Stock Car Racing Magazine, Hemmings Motor News, Mecum Auctions, Performance Racing Industry (PRI) and Speed Sport.

Donnelly is also the author of *Miller's Time*, the life story of Don Miller, Roger Penske's partner and confidant in racing for more than 40 years.

Important Upcoming Dates

February 20, Sunday	Daytona 500 Pot Luck Party, Bridgeport Rec Center
March 2, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7pm
March 10, Thursday	National Parts Depot, Private Car Collection Tour, Ocala
March 11, Friday	NHRA Gatornationals, Gainesville Raceway
March 20, Sunday	Racing Legends Reunion Awards Luncheon, Hard Rock Hotel
March 28, Monday	TVMRFC Motor Racing Show at Brownwood Paddock Square
April 6, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7pm
April 14, Thursday	Golf Scramble, Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course

Hall of Fame Induction Celebration Oh, What a Night!



All 120 people who attended the celebration appeared to have had a great time. I, along with other board members, went around the room asking if people enjoyed the new format and it was a resounding Yes! It was a lively night lead by MC Art Fehrman and Hostess Gerry Greim. It was a night filled with great conversation, food, entertainment by In-Motion and above all, the time we were finally able to honor our inductees to our Hall of Fame.



(Pictured L-R) Dave Salot, Lacy Kuehl, Ed Rensi, Becca Monopoli, Paul O'Connor, Chris Dirato, Annemarie Priorello, Carl Eckert, Dr. Harlen Hunter
(Not in attendance were Keith Simmons and Michael Hinde who will be awarded at a later date)



Carl Eckert



Chris Dirato



Paul O'Connor

Hall of Fame Celebration Pictures Continued



Ed Rensi



Annemarie Priorello



Dave Salot



Becca Monopoli



Lacy Kuehl



Dr. Harlen Hunter



50/50 Winner Karen Pinella,
Chris Bleistein, Bobby Brack



Art, Buzzie Reutimann



Richard & Charles Poindexter
and Art



Art Fehrman, Gerry Greim
and Bill Watson



Yummy Cake



Centerpiece



In-Motion Entertainment



Art, Chris, Sponsor Board

The HOF Celebration committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended this event and hope to see all of you, plus more, at our next Hall of Fame Celebration on February 4, 2023.

*Hall of Fame Celebration Committee: Chris Bleistein, Tony Kennea,
Art Fehrman, Gerry Greim, Lois Taylor and Donna Gross*

2021 Glen Carter Crew Chief Award Recipient Art Fehrman



Art Fehrman brings his personal racing experience and his life-long contacts with racing luminaries to the benefit of our club. He continuously demonstrates his creativity and dedication by suggesting club events and successfully organizing them.

Art's ability to tap into his long list of racing-related friends has enabled our club to meet many interesting and talented guest speakers at our meetings.

Art continuously promotes the growth of our club among Villagers and members of the racing community. From flyers to brochures to the upcoming motor racing show, Art extols the existence and the value of our club to everyone. The future of our club looks bright thanks to Art's dedication.



Past Crew Chief Award recipient Gerry Greim awarded Art Fehrman with the prestigious Glen Carter Crew Chief Award. Art was chosen by secret ballot by fellow board members.

This award is a special commemorative item that serves two purposes. First, by virtue of its name, the award serves as perpetual recognition for Glen Carter, our club's founder and its first President/Crew Chief. Second, it allows for the recognition of club members who have exhibited outstanding efforts on behalf of the club.

2021 Prediction Row Champion - Doug Baker



After a 2020 season filled with “COVID chaos,” the racing returned to normal, but it was a “new normal.” New tracks were added - several road courses were added and Bristol was converted to dirt for one event.

Six club members competed in the Spring Segment - races 1-13. They were Doug Baker, Larry Hanna, Shel Larsen, Melanie Scott, Art Staus and Jim West. Six more members competed in the Summer Segment - races 14-26. They were Jim Dropp, Gerry Greim, Donna Gross, Gerry Hafer, Steve Poplarski and Alan Sneider.

The Top 3 in each segment transferred into the Playoff Segment - races 27-36. The competitors in the Playoff Segment were Doug Baker, Jim Dropp, Steve Poplarski, Melanie Scott, Alan Sneider and Art Staus.

Doug Baker garnered bragging rights for the season by coming from behind and predicting the winner in three of the last four races during the playoffs. The traveling trophy is his to admire while he defends his title for a year.

PLEASE KEEP US POSTED!

Did you move, change your phone number or e-mail address? We need to know.

Please let membership coordinator Lois Taylor know by either checking in with her at a meeting or emailing her at ltaylr@hotmail.com or calling her at (352) 633-5624. It is important that we have updated information in the event we need to reach out to you.

Pictures from our January 5 Meeting

Bill Watson



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Thank you to all who have renewed your 2022 membership. There are still a handful of people who have not yet renewed. For those people, please send a check made payable to TVMRFC and mail it to me, Lois Taylor, at 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163.

Lois Taylor, Membership Coordinator

GATORNATIONALS BUS TRIP

Our club will be able to resume our bus trip to the Gatornationals, Gainesville Raceway again on March 11, 2022. Our last two attempts were affected by COVID. Tickets and the bus are all now confirmed. If you would like to go, the cost for bus, pit pass and reserved seat is \$70. We have a limited number of tickets if you wish to drive yourself. This ticket will only cover your reserved seat and pit pass. Contact me for cost of these tickets.

You do not need to be a member of the club, so you can ask your neighbors, friends, relatives. The tickets we receive are on the pit side of the track so you can go into the pits, take pictures, talk to drivers and crew members, and just see the behind-the-scenes activity of this NHRA race.

The bus will arrive at the Lake Sumter Transportation Station at 8:30AM. Please be there around that time so we can load quickly and be on our way. We will have a bus captain and an assistant. The bus will leave the race track around 6:45PM. You will need to back at the bus at that time, because we will not be able to wait for those arriving late. There is a shuttle service back to the bus from the main gate to make it easier to return to the bus. The bus should arrive back at Lake Sumter at 8:30PM. There is plenty of parking at the Lake Sumter Transportation.

Small coolers can be taken. Please review other track rules that are on the NHRA website.

Lois Taylor
Membership Coordinator
352-633-5624

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



Donna has been too busy figuring out how to get all the pictures in this newsletter so her useless and funny tidbits will return next month.



Let's Welcome our New Members!

Richard Almeida from Rhode Island
Alexa Anderson from Florida
Mike Bailey from Ohio
Ralph W. Brautigan from Pennsylvania
Robert Contorno from Florida
Richard Giroux from Indiana
Hal Johnson from Illinois
Doreen Jones from Connecticut
Rick Kegel from Wisconsin
Nelson Lampert from Illinois and Hawaii
Valentin Menendez from Florida
George Tazzini from Florida

Daytona 500 Watch Party – FEBRUARY 20

The Daytona 500 Watch Party will take place on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 2:30PM at Bridgeport Recreation Center. This is a Pot Luck event, so bring something to share. It's a BYOB event as well. Invite your friends to join us (Villages ID required to attend). If you haven't signed up already but want to attend, please call Donna Gross at 401-323-1334 so that we can make sure we set up enough tables and chairs.

National Parts Depot, Private Car Collection Tour – MARCH 10

This event will take place on Thursday, March 10. We will be leaving from Eisenhower Rec Center at 9AM to drive to National Parts Depot, 900 SW 38th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34474. It is not required for you meet up to carpool. You can plan on driving there on your own. Tour begins at 10AM.

Racing Legends Reunion Awards Luncheon – MARCH 20

This event will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel, 918 N. Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Tickets are \$50 per person for a sit-down lunch. Doors open 9:00AM Ceremony is 10:00AM to 2:00PM, Banquet starts at 10:30AM. We will leave Eisenhower Rec Center at 8:00AM. **LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS MARCH 10.**

Call Chris Bleistein for tickets, 954-729-3050

TVMRFC Motor Racing Show – MARCH 28

Mark your calendar for our very first Motor Racing Show in the Villages! 4-9PM, Brownwood Paddock Square. See Coupes of yesteryear, Super Late Models, Motorcycles, Sprint Cars, Dragsters, Legends, Open Wheel Modifieds, Midgets. Awards, Driver Interviews, more and door prizes.

Golf Scramble – APRIL 14

The Golf Scramble will take place on Thursday April 14, 2022 at Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course. Putting contest starts at 10:00AM. Tee Times 11:05AM-12:08PM.

\$2 per person for prizes. \$1 per person for putting contest.

Meet at the Pavilion when all done - BYOB snacks and drinks.

Villages ID # and phone number required. If you haven't signed up yet, please contact Mike Gross at 401-323-1313 to sign up.

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 Is Back

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 but we now need to order a minimum of 6 items at a time. 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.



We are searching for helpers to assist media coordinator Mike Anderson with activities that he handles. They are quite varied: email blasts, print member badges, PowerPoint at meetings, Word, club website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. This is about sustainability and continuity. About half of these things are done online, each requiring a user name and password at a specific website. If Mike were to become unavailable, the club could experience immense difficulty.

If you would like to talk about this opportunity, please call or email Mike, 217-714-2245 or mike.mag70@gmail.com. If you have experience in any of these areas, great – he wants to talk to you! If you are interested in learning how to handle any of these areas, he is a willing and patient teacher.

Get Well and Thinking of You

We would like to send well wishes and positive healing thoughts to our members and their families who may be recovering from or are in the midst of dealing with a medical illness.



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	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
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



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Lefthander Chassis
Roscoe, IL
815-389-9999



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN



Bob Woodsford, Realtor
The Villages, FL
352-430-5249



ARCA Midwest Tour



Ultrix Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9111

Benefactors

John Angiolo
Pat Fehrman
The Villages, FL

Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money to help support us.