



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report

### MARCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 5

March 1, 2008

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#### Special points of interest:

- *The Club Does Daytona!*
- *It Looks Like 2008 is going to be an active year (page 3)*
- *Local Tracks Swing into Action (page 3)*
- *Jeff Choquette continues on a rampage (page 5)*
- *Dick Anderson/Ricky Carmichael show respectfully at New Smyrna (page 5)*
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- *Special notice re 2008 Dues (page 7)*

#### Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



OK..we can all breathe a sigh of relief. The motors are revving and the wheels are turning...racing season 2008 is now in full swing. I know that those of you who made it on our club pilgrimages to Daytona International Speedway were treated to yet

another round of great NASCAR racing. On the local front, Gerry and I made it to New Smyrna for the final night of the World Series of Asphalt. Those of you who weren't able to venture out to either of these venues no doubt watched the Speedweeks coverage on television. No matter what you did, my guess is you're "racing batteries" are now fully charged and ready for the remaining events in 2008!

And how about that charity auction? Once again, our own Dave Bockman dazzled us all on February 6 en route to another

highly successful auction for charity. Using his natural charm, good looks, and audacious personality, Dave led us to a final tally of almost \$1500! As we've said, this money will be divided among three charities that are important to us as both Villagers and race fans: Operation Shoebox, the "Help Them Call Home" program, and the Petty's Victory Junction Gang Camp. Thanks to all of you, we've once again been able to distinguish our club as a great, community-minded organization.

*Glen*

#### Hearty Contingent of Club Members and Guests Descend on Daytona International Speedway

The weather was nearly perfect for the 2008 edition of "The Great American Race", and a crowd of about 50 club members and guests were on hand to witness the 50th running of the Daytona 500 and the Nationwide 300. According to Special Events Coordinator Wendy, everyone had "a blast" (she indicates it took her a full day to wind down, but since the

No. 20 almost pulled off a Saturday/Sunday sweep, I suppose it could have been a lot worse!

Here's an interesting summary stats from the event: 6 Dodges and 2 Toyotas in the Top 10, with Ford and Chevy dividing the two remaining spots (9th and 10th, by the way). What do you think that means for

the rest of the year? It looks like Toyota may have gotten a handle on some of the things that may have been eluding them so far. We'll see.



## The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

### Photos from Daytona Trip



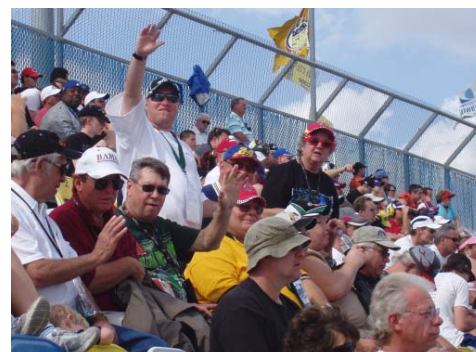
Wendy



Man, what a bus ride!



Let's get this show on the road!



Hi, Lance! And what's Silky looking for?

#### 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*



Speak up...I can't hear you!



Well how about that!



So, you folks are from The Villages, eh? Is that a cult?



I'm Rusty's brother!



I'm coming back!

## Upcoming Events Roundup—2008 Style

Our Special Events Committee has been busy assembling another great series of activities for the club. Here are the highlights of what's in store, at least for now:

- **March 8-2nd Annual** Racing in The villages, Lake Minoa Rec Center , 3:00 pm
- **March 13-16- NHRA**

Gatornationals at Gainesville

- **April/May—Horsepower** at the Polo Grounds (date not set yet)
- **May 23-Golf Scramble/** Dinner
- **June 6-Powell Memorial** Race at Ocala Speedway

- **July 4-5-Coke 400 and** Nationwide Race, Daytona Speedway

- **August 2-Sunoco Sun-** belt Series Race at USA International Speedway, Lakeland, FL

- **October-Poker Run**

- **October 5-Bus trip to** Talladega for AMP En-

- **November 22-43rd FL** Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway

Contact Wendy Touchette for details on any of these events. As always, we'd like to hear any suggestions you have for trips, activities, etc. Just send Wendy or any other Pit Crew member your suggestions. Thanks!

## Local Racing Corner

**We're off and running in 2008!**

Here are the March operating schedules and contact info for our neighboring tracks:

Ocala Speedway—Friday nights, gates open at 6:00 pm.

9050 NW Gainesville Rd  
Ocala, FL 34482  
(352) 622-9400  
(www.ocalaspeedway.com)



Citrus County Speedway— Regular season opens Saturday, March 29; Saturday nights beginning April. Gates open at 4:00 pm, first event runs at 5:30 pm.

U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of  
Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds.  
(352) 726-9339  
(www.citruscountyspeedway.com)



New Smyrna Speedway— Regular season opens Saturday, March 15; Saturday nights from 3/15 on. Gates open at 5:00 pm.

Corner of State Route 44 and 415.  
P.O. Box 1500  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170  
(386) 427-4129



USA International Speedway—Special events only...no regular series schedule.

USAR Hooters Pro Cup Series  
Sears Auto Center 200

Saturday March 15; Gates open at 10:30 am; Qualifying at 4:30 pm; On-track autograph session at 6:15 pm; Race at 7:30 pm.





Visit our website: [www.villagesracingclub.com](http://www.villagesracingclub.com)

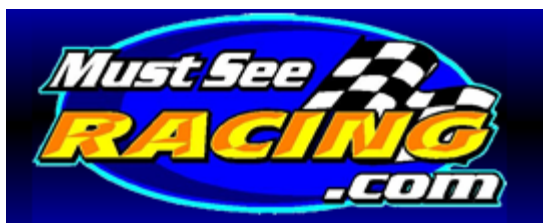
## The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

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



“Real Racin’ USA is a leader in the motorsports broadcast world with ‘Live’ and ‘On-demand’ broadcasting.” This statement is found on the “About Us” page of the website, and they’re not kidding! The site features live and archived broadcasts from racing events, as well as interviews with racing veterans and rising stars from many areas of the sport. Their archives include interviews with both Dick and Wayne Anderson, as well as live broadcasts and trackside reports from major events. This is a good site to put on your favorites list. The URL is <http://www.realracinusa.com>.



This website is designed for those of you who might want to watch video from a specific event without the hassle of actually being there. Glen and I met with the owners of the site over at New Smyrna Speedway, and we expect that at some point down the road they’ll give us some recognition. Although it’s free to sign-up for the website and its services, there is a fee to watch specific events. Right now, they have a day-by-day recap of the World of Asphalt Stock Car Racing series from New Smyrna, including an interview from Dick Anderson’s hauler with Ricky Carmichael. The URL for the site is

<http://www.mustseeracing.com>.

## So you don’t need to look it up...

Have you ever wondered how many NASCAR drivers have made it to the winner’s circle in all three of the major series (Cup, Busch/Nationwide, and Craftsman Trucks)? Well, wonder no more...18 drivers have done it, and here they are:

- 1) Mark Martin, 35, 47, 7 [89 total]
- 2) Greg Biffle, 12, 18, 16 [46](only driver with 10 wins in each)
- 3) Kevin Harvick, 11, 32, 2 [45](won in each series in 2003)
- 4) Tony Stewart, 32, 3, 2 [37]
- 5) Carl Edwards, 7, 13, 6 [26]
- 6) Kurt Busch, 17, 2, 4 [23]
- 7) Kyle Busch, 4, 11, 5 [20] (won in each series in 2005/2006)
- 8) Kasey Kahne, 7, 7, 2 [16]
- 9) Terry Labonte, 22, 11, 1 [34](won a race in each series in 1995)
- 10) Bobby Labonte, 21, 10, 1 [32]
- 11) Bobby Hamilton, 4, 1, 10 [15]
- 12) Jimmy Spencer, 2, 12, 1 [15]
- 13) Johnny Benson, 1, 3, 9 [13]
- 14) Jamie McMurray, 2, 7, 1 [10]
- 15) Clint Bowyer, 1, 5, 1 [7]
- 16) Ken Schrader, 4, 2, 1 [7]
- 17) Ricky Craven, 2, 4, 1 [7]
- 18) Steve Park, 2, 3, 1 [6]

And here’s another fascinating statistic for you...the top ten drivers in NASCAR Cup-level (and Grand National before the Busch series) competition who have **never** won a points-paying event:

- 1) JD McDuffie, 653 races
- 2) Buddy Arrington, 563 races
- 3) Neil Castles, 501 races
- 4) Jimmy Means, 455 races
- 5) Cecil Gordon, 449 races
- 6) G.C. Spencer, 416 races
- 7) Frank Warren, 398 races
- 8) Henley Gray, 374 races
- 9) Rick Mast, 364 races
- 10) Kenny Wallace, 343 races

And, just one more set of statistics to complete this edition’s trip into trivia...the ten closest Cup-level finishes in NASCAR history (margin in seconds, winner, runner up, event):

- .002 Ricky Craven, Kurt Busch, Darlington, March 16, 2003
- .005 Jamie McMurray, Kyle Busch, Daytona, July 7, 2007
- .005 Dale Earnhardt, Ernie Irvan, Talladega, July 25, 1993
- .006 Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon, Atlanta, March 11, 2001
- .008 Jimmy Spencer, Ernie Irvan, Daytona, July 2, 1994
- .010 Dale Earnhardt, Bobby Labonte, Atlanta, March 12, 2000
- .010 Matt Kenseth, Kasey Kahne, Rockingham, February 22, 2004
- .017 Greg Biffle, Mark Martin, Homestead, November 20, 2005
- .020 Kevin Harvick, Mark Martin, Daytona, February 18, 2007
- .025 Jimmy Spencer, Bill Elliott, Talladega, July 24, 1994

## Now, don’t you feel enriched?

(Statistics compliments of Jayski’s Silly Season site)

## Choquette Continues With Domination at New Smyrna

One racing official over at New Smyrna's "*42nd Annual World of Asphalt Stock Car Racing*" series put it this way, "That kid is running in his own ZIP code this week!" While the analogy might be a little strange, one thing is certain, Choquette was performing at a level much different from the rest of the field at this nine-day racing series.

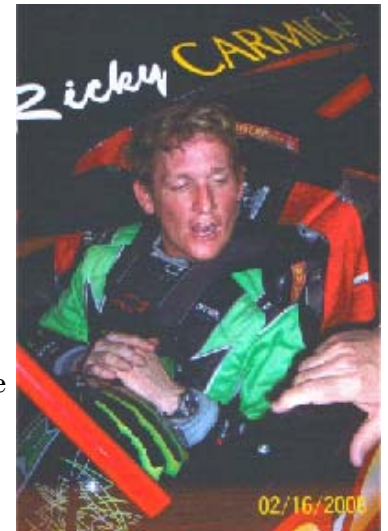


So different, in fact, that he won five of the seven Super Late Model feature events during the series, and finished 4th and 6th in the two that he didn't win. Even more impressive was his come-from-the-rear win in the 2/14 event, when a tire problem and pit stop sent him to the back on lap 14 of the 50-lap feature. By lap 36, he was back in front and, in the words of Speed51 reporters, "Made it look like a video game!"

In Saturday night's final event, a 100-lap feature, Choquette started fifth but only needed five laps to take the lead that he never gave up. This event, however, wasn't a runaway win, and he was tested late in the race by hard-charging Tim Russell. Several late-race cautions kept the pressure on him, and made for some exciting racing in the last few laps.

So far this year, Choquette has made 11 starts and won eight of those. Taking five poles and finishing ten times in the top 10. It looks like it's going to be a pretty good year for "our driver."

Dick Anderson and Ricky Carmichael had a fairly solid run at New Smyrna, with a 10th place average finish in the 6 features they entered. Their best finish was a fifth in the February 10 feature event, coupled with a strong sixth place finish in the 100 lap finale. Dick remains optimistic that Carmichael can make the shift from motorcross cycles to stock cars, and his competitive runs against a field of talented Super Late Model drivers seems to underscore this optimism. Watch for Carmichael to surface in some NASCAR or NASCAR-related events in the future.



## Update from Alabama—Rattler 250

Technical problems up in Alabama caused Speed51 to be unable to cover the Rattler 250 event for Super Late Models at Opp, Alabama. We were able to obtain the final results and the race recap, however, and we're sorry to report that Jeff Choquette struggled throughout the event and eventually finished 9th. Perhaps if "our hood" would have been on the car, things would have been different...who knows? Of course, there's really nothing wrong with a ninth place finish in a field of 24 top caliber SLM drivers...it's just that we're so accustomed to seeing Jeff looking back on the field. Don't worry, he'll be back on top Saturday night in the United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series at New Hendry County Speedway in Clewiston Florida. Check his website early next week for the results ([www.jeffchoquette.com](http://www.jeffchoquette.com)). By the way, Wayne Anderson almost pulled off a win in this prestigious event, finishing second. He held the lead until lap 206 before giving it up to winner Alabama resident Grant Enfinger.

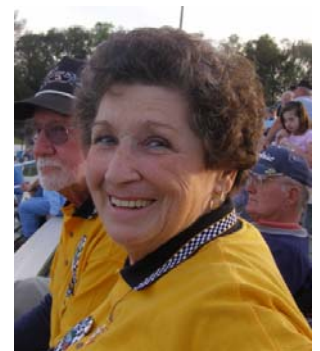


Visit our website: [www.villagesracingclub.com](http://www.villagesracingclub.com)

## A Great Opening Night at Ocala Speedway!

A hearty group of about 35 club members were on hand Friday night February 29, 2008 to witness a bit of history—Ocala Speedway's return to dirt. After 10 years as an asphalt track, co-owners Mike Peters and Angie Clifton took the big step of converting back to a dirt racing surface, a move that paid big dividends Friday night with a standing-room only turnout of stock car racing fans. We were treated to a fantastic night of racing, with competition from Gladiator, Hobby Stock, and Mini-Stock classes to go along with the main event—The United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series. Although Jeff Choquette and Wayne Anderson were re-routed to Opp, Alabama to compete in the 32nd Annual Rattler 250 at South Alabama Speedway (see recap on previous page), we were nevertheless treated to a highly competitive series of heat races and a wild 40-lap feature. Choquette's cousin Justin flew the family colors in his #97, rebounding from a scuffle in his qualifying heat and an early accident in the feature to finish eleventh. The winner was Shane Williams in the No. 1 entry.

Here are some highlight photos of the event...and, yes, it was cold up there after the sun went down.



## SPECIAL NOTICE

### 2008 Dues are now due

If you haven't already done so, please contact Camille or Bob Sherman to pay your club dues (\$10.00) for 2008. Also, after considerable discussion at our most recent Pit Crew/Board meeting, we have adopted the following policy for the scheduling of dues payment in the future:

For Renewing Members—Dues will be collected beginning with the December meeting; non-renewing members will be purged from the rolls in April

For New Members— Those joining January through August will be assessed full dues (\$10); Members joining in the months of September through December will be assessed a \$5 current year dues payment, with full dues due in January of the following year.

As of this writing, our club membership stands at a healthy 171, and we continue to grow.

### Other News of Note

- We've recently been made aware of a Villages resident seeking to sell all or parts of a collection of NASCAR die cast cars (1/24th and 1/64th scale). With over 200 cars in this collection, there should be some fascinating "buys" here. All are in original boxes. Anyone interested should contact Charlie at 751-2432
- The Official NASCAR Members Club, in conjunction with the United States Bowling Congress, is initiating a Bowling League in The Villages, starting Tuesday, May 6 at 7:00 pm at Spanish Springs Lanes (Telephone number 750-9440). The League will consist of 14 sessions, rolling in a two game format with four players per team (any combination of men & women). As an added bonus, participants will receive a NASCAR jacket (driver of your choice), plus a one-year membership in the Official NASCAR Members Club for yourself and a friend. This is **not** an event organized by **The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club**; we're just being good neighbors and letting you know of this opportunity! If you have any questions, or to sign up, simply call Spanish Springs Lanes.