



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report - March, 2010

### *IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT*

Greetings, Fellow Club Members:

Earlier this month, we were presented an opportunity to move our monthly meeting date to the first Wednesday of the month, rather than the fourth Wednesday. Based on comments from several of you, we know that this has caused some occasional confusion, especially in those months where there are five Wednesdays!

At its March 9 board meeting, our Pit Crew voted to take advantage of this opportunity. It was critical that we act fast on the opening, since the number of clubs and organizations competing for large meeting rooms makes these opportunities scarce. This change means that **our March meeting (originally scheduled for March 24) will be deferred to the first Wednesday of April (April 7)**, and our regular meeting date will be the first Wednesday of each month from that point forward. Please note that all meetings will continue to be held at Colony Cottage Rec Center, in "The Parlor," starting at 7:00 pm.

Thank you!

Gerry Hafer, for Your Pit Crew



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### A Young Man on the Move!



Our February 24 meeting produced another first for our club—the first appearance of a race car driver under the age of 10! While it's certainly no secret that drivers are starting earlier and earlier in life, we were amazed at the records already established by eight year old Nic Fernandez of Fruitland Park (pictured above), as well as his poise and the confidence he displayed addressing our members. With two years of racing experience already under his belt, and with an impressive seven feature wins in competition at Speedway Park to his credit, it's clear that this young racer has a bright future in the sport. In fact, his capture of Speedway Park's Rookie of the Year trophy (also pictured above), is a testament to what lies ahead for Nic and his race team.

Nic opened the guest speaker segment of our February meeting with a brief recap of his personal life, noting that he is an honor student at The Villages Charter School and that he drives the No. 03 Kart in

honor of his grandfather, Charging Charlie Worth, a competitor in the Florida Fastruck Series. After he turned the podium over to his Crew Chief and father, George, he listened intently to an overview of the family's racing program, interjecting clarification at several points in George's narrative.

George Fernandez recapped the family's history as a race team, noting that Nic's mother Stephanie and sister Ali, along with support from grandfather Charlie, make up the rest of the crew and support system. "It's truly a family, grassroots operation," George reports, "and it's great being part of a family-oriented sport like racing." He noted that they've come a long way since buying their first car at the end of the 2007 racing season, and that they're optimistic about the season ahead. George also took us through the race preparation routines they follow to prepare, including the paying of careful attention to the conditioning of tires for each event. As in any racing series, though, George stressed that the team's top priority is safety, and part of their presentation focused on the helmet, safety vest, and head/neck restraints Nic wears during competition. "His mom's still on pins and needles, though, every time he races," George reports.

When asked to reveal his long-term goal, Nic's simple answer was NASCAR. With the foundation they've already built, and with the talent that the team has already demonstrated, there's little doubt that this a possibility for Nic and his team. We're all looking forward to cheering them on over at Speedway Park as the season unfolds.



George Fernandez - Proud Dad and Energetic Crew Chief

## FAST is off to a fast start!

Citrus County Speedway, Feb. 20, 2010—It was a day made for racing...clear blue sky, temperature in the 70 degree range, light breeze. It was also a day made for Florida racing history, with the kickoff of the newly-formed Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour at this venerable Citrus County racing venue. This inaugural event—the Racecar Engineering 100—featured a field of combined Super Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Crate Late Model drivers embarking on what will be a twelve-race, nine-month tour of six Florida asphalt speedways, crowning a state Late Model Champion in October. On hand for the big event were about 30 club members, most of them decked out in their yellow club shirts!



Wayne Anderson Taking the checkers!

One of the biggest stories at this historic, inaugural race was the performance of Sumter County's "first family of racing"—the Andersons of Wildwood. After a stimulating round of qualifying that saw veteran Florida driver Wayne Anderson set fast time at a lap speed of 99.624 mph, the race was set for a 5:20 pm start. In a move calculated to raise the level of excitement for the feature event, Citrus County Speedway officials offered a \$500 winners bonus to any of the top six drivers willing to move to the rear of the field; Anderson, in the black number 84 Airframe International Chevrolet, accepted the challenge, along with Lakeland's Steve Dorer in the number 10 RaceCar Engineering/Checkered Flag Graphics Chevrolet, and the race was on! Moving Anderson and Dorer to the back put rookie Austin Kirkpatrick's Sonny's Bar-B-Q Chevrolet—a Wayne Anderson-prepared car—on the pole for the start of the 100 lap event. When the green flag flew, Anderson began his march through the field, moving to 17<sup>th</sup> in the 27 car field by lap 2, 11<sup>th</sup> by lap 15, and breaking the top 10 by lap 31. Lap 54 saw him move into the top 5 and on lap 78, using a power move on an outside pass to move by Raymond Lovelady in the number 7 Lovelady Motorsports Chevrolet and take the lead. Anderson never looked back, finishing with a four car length lead over second place finisher Lovelady. Jeremy Gerstner finishing third in the United Speedworld Chevrolet number 70, with Dorer finishing a close fourth.

Taking "Highest Finishing Rookie" honors for the night was third-generation Late Model racer Randy Anderson, finishing fifth after starting seventh and running in the top 10 throughout the 100 laps. Randy, son of race winner Wayne Anderson and the grandson of Florida racing legend Dick Anderson, all of Wildwood, is competing in the Sunoco FAST series' Rookie of the Year race and, at age 15, has already compiled an impressive record in lower level racing in Florida. He's been racing for three years in the Florida Pro Trucks Series, with a 2007 Series Championship run that saw him compile 4 wins in 12 events. With only a few starts in the Super Late Model ranks, he's had some impressive runs, including a sixth place finish last year at Auburndale Speedway.

## Looking Ahead to our April 7 Meeting

Another young up-and-coming local stock car racer will join us at our April 7 meeting to discuss his racing program and his plans for the future. Austin Kirkpatrick, driver of the Wayne Anderson-prepared No. 85 Super Late Model entry on the Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour (FAST), will discuss his accomplishments in the 2009 season, as well as his progress so far in 2010. Those of you who were at the February 20 FAST inaugural event had the opportunity to watch this 16 year-old hard charger achieve a 9th place finish after qualifying with the second-fastest time (99.37 mph) on

Citrus County Speedway's 3/8 mile asphalt track.

At the second 2010 FAST race, Austin continued his impressive run in the series, qualifying 6th and finishing a competitive third in the 100-lap feature at Orlando Speedworld. With this finish, he earned "Rookie of the Race" designation for the event. As a result, he stands in third place in the series overall, and second in the competition for "Rookie of the Year" honors.

Come on out and hear from yet another bright star on Florida's racing horizon.





## Welcome, New Members

We added eight new members at our February 24 meeting! We welcome the new members pictured below, but unfortunately, we missed a few at photo time...those of you who we missed are asked to see Tom Horrman at the next meeting so we can grab your photo!



Paul Lewis - Columbus, Ohio



Ron Tierney - Danvers, Massachusetts



Randy Koehler - Castleton, New York



Paul Webb - Medford, Wisconsin

## Club Continues to Support Help Them Call Home

***Reminder...if any members have unused cell phones, please bring them to the meetings or to any club function for recycling via the "Help them Call Home" program. Call Secretary Silky Meegan if you have any questions about this extraordinary program or the club's role in it. By the way, Silky reported at the February 24 meeting that she, Ted and Diana Cahalane, and Dave Bockman so far have coordinated the collection and forwarding of over 16,000 old cell phones—many of them contributed by our club members—resulting in the generation of more than four million minutes of cell phone time for United States soldiers!***



HelpThemCallHome.org

## Update—The Villages Cup Set for March 21

The date has been set, the details have been are nearly ironed out, and a total of 36 club members have signed up for the first run for “The Villages Cup” on Sunday, March 21. Using a standard 36-team playoff grid system, the 36 competitors will run a series 16 separate heat races to whittle the field down to four finalists for the trophy run. In addition, the drivers finishing in 2nd and 3rd place in the last heat race will form the field for a consolation feature at the end of the day, immediately after the championship round.

Club members are encouraged to come out and cheer the competitors on. “It’s going to be a long day,” commented Gerry Hafer, “So bring a comfortable chair and a picnic lunch.” The first of the 16 heat races is scheduled to “go green” at 1:00 pm.



## Veteran Anderson Returns to Competition

Dick Anderson’s three-plus year retirement from competitive racing came to an end Sunday, March 7 at the 2nd Annual Blast from the Past at Citrus County Speedway. Participating in a 15-lap race for “senior” racers (defined by Blast organizers as an event restricted to racers age 60 and over), Anderson brought his brand new No. 92 Super Late Model to the track to take part in this annual reunion program.

Anderson started on the pole in the Late Model race, leading the first 11 of the scheduled 15 laps. A minor miscue on lap 12 caused him to momentarily lose momentum, but that was all it took for Perry Lovelady to grab the lead. The final four laps turned in to a furious sprint as Anderson

fought to regain the top spot, tangling repeatedly with Lovelady on the track where passing is known to be difficult. With one lap to go, Anderson and Lovelady made contact on the backstretch, allowing Pat Bresnahan to slip by both and take the win.

Although finishing third, it was an impressive showing for the veteran Anderson, and showed that the time away from competition has not eroded his skills. Look for more excitement as he enters future events...he’s still got it!





## Special Events Roundup



Well, with less than three months down in 2010, we've had several major events and compiled a few additional great memories for the club. We did Daytona, we had our indoor picnic to watch the Daytona 500, we traveled to Daytona to take a look at the "Women in the Winner's Circle" show, we were there for the FAST opener, we participated in the 2nd annual "Blast from the Past" at Citrus County Speedway, and we made the pilgrimage to Gainesville for the NHRA Gatornationals. We also heard from some great speakers already this year, and we've made plans to have even more great ones later in the year. Like we've said before, this is an active club, and we're doing our best to keep it that way! All of us on the Pit Crew appreciate the support that our members provide, and we know those yellow shirts are continuing to build a solid reputation for us as a major player in the Florida racing community. Now, on with the program...here's the detail on some of the upcoming events...

*Wendy*

Date/Event	Event Details	Special Information
Wednesday, May 5, 2010 Bingo Night	<p align="center"><u>Club Bingo Night at Colon Cottage</u></p> <p>Many of you will recall our charity auctions from the past three years, and you'll also recall that our inventory of items for sale last year had dropped off considerably. For this reason, the Pit Crew has decided to not hold an auction this year, and to host a bingo night as our annual fund-raiser. The bingo event will take the place of our May meeting, with the proceeds earmarked to the charities we support. More information will be presented at the April 7 meeting...stay tuned!</p>	
Monday, June 7, 2010 Golf Scramble	Golf Scramble Coordinator Wayne Nolan has set this date as our spring, 2010 event. 36 tee time reservations (1:02 to 2:14 pm) have been set aside for us at Bogart Executive Course...contact Wayne to reserve your slot.	Wayne has reserved the pavilion for a post-play get-together, scheduled to run from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday, July 3, 2010 NASCAR Coke Zero 400	Planning is underway for a potential trip to Daytona International Speedway for this race. Based on the pricing offered by the Speedway, we may be running this as a bus trip outing.	Stay tuned for details!
Future Events...at least some of them...more to come!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April Sponsorship deal at Speedway Park for Nic Fernandez (details TBD)</li> <li>• FAST event bus trip—date TBD (probably late summer)</li> <li>• November 11-14-Zephyrhills 26th Annual Fall Autofest</li> <li>• November, 2010-Annual Reutimann Gold Tournament and Charity Auction</li> <li>• December 12, 2010 Holiday Hall of Fame and Awards Night</li> </ul>	



A member recently asked for a "refresher" on what the various flags used in racing mean. Here, courtesy of FactExpert.com, are the "official" definitions:

- Green - Race begins or resumes from another conditional flag.
- Yellow - Racing under caution. Conditions adverse or hazardous.
- Red - Racing has come to a halt. All pit crew and repair work must cease.
- Black - The "consultation flag". Driver must pit. Usually due to rule violation.
- Black with White "X" - Driver no longer scored for failing to pit under black.
- Blue With Yellow Stripe - Basically, let faster cars by. This one is optional to a degree.
- White Flag - Last lap of the race.

## Coffee as an auxiliary fuel...what a concept!

Earlier this month, GreenDiary reported that a BBC1 project team has designed and tested a car converted to run on coffee. The car—a converted 1988 Volkswagen Scirocco—is being tested on a 210 mile trip expected to burn the equivalent of 10,000 cups of espresso. From an engineering standpoint, the car operates on flammable gas converted from used coffee grounds, with a major drawback being the limited fuel run...reports are that the vehicle must stop about every 40 to 60 miles to add more coffee grounds and remove the soot and tar generated by the burning process.

It's not likely that this will catch on, but it's interesting to see that just about any

type of organic source can be used to power a car. From a racing standpoint, it's difficult to see how pit crews would handle it, but Chad Knaus and Jimmie Johnson will probably figure out a way to win in a car-puccinno race car!



### Local Racing Corner

Here's a quick rundown of what's going on at the tracks close to The Villages...let's get out there and support them!

Race Track	Website & Telephone	Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway	<a href="http://www.ocalaspeedway.com">www.ocalaspeedway.com</a> 352-622-9400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Season Opened—March 5</li> <li>Regular Friday night racing</li> <li>World of Outlaws Late Models scheduled for March 19</li> </ul>
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	<a href="http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com">www.citruscountyspeedway.com</a> 352-726-9339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Saturday Night programs began 2/6/10</li> <li>Track closed 3/20—4/3</li> <li>Steve Griffin back in action, scheduled to enter 100 lap mini stock feature May 22</li> </ul>
New Smyrna Speedway	<a href="http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org">www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a> 386-427-4129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Season Opened—March 13</li> <li>ASA Late Models scheduled for March 27</li> <li>USARacing Pro Cup event sched. For April 17</li> </ul>
Orlando Speedworld	<a href="http://www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org">www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org</a> 407-568-1367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Super Late Models scheduled for 3/19, 4/2, &amp; 4/16</li> <li>Open Wheel Modifieds scheduled for April 23</li> </ul>
Volusia Speedway Park, Barberville	<a href="http://www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net">www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net</a> 386-985-4402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Season Opened—March 13</li> <li>Top Gun Sprint cars scheduled for 4/24</li> </ul>
Auburndale Speedway	<a href="http://www.auburndalespeedway.com">www.auburndalespeedway.com</a> 863-551-1131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Season Opened—March 13</li> <li>FAST Race No. 3 scheduled for 3/20</li> </ul>
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	<a href="http://www.originalspeedwaypark.com">www.originalspeedwaypark.com</a> 352-308-7664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check website for schedule; Oval track racing every first and third Saturday</li> </ul>
Sumter Motorsports Park, Bushnell	<a href="http://www.sumterracing.com">www.sumterracing.com</a> 863-286-9456	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 19-21— Central Florida Winternationals</li> <li>Oval track racing every second and fourth Sat.</li> </ul>

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

## 2010 Club Officers and Contact Data

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)  
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)  
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)  
 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)  
 Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)  
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)  
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)  
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)

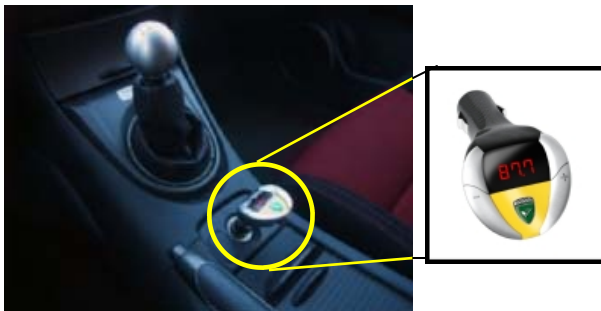
## Now, here's something cool!

### The Sound Racer Experience

Imagine starting up your modern, boringly silent car and the interior is filled with the thrilling sound of a powerful Super Sports Car engine...Shift in the first gear, hit the gas pedal and the driving experience will really excite you! In every phase of driving - accelerating, decelerating, shifting, cruising and idling — the sound is so convincing that it actually fools your senses to believe that you are driving the real thing, a Super Sports Car! And when you prefer to listen to your favorite music, just plug in your MP3 player and the music will sound loud and clear in your car stereo system. No installation, no tuning, just plug into the cigarette lighter socket, select a frequency for the car stereo receiver and turn up the volume. Easy as 1-2-3! If you want to see one in action, enter this URL in your browser window and take a test drive:

<http://www.soundracer.se/?p=98&p2=128>

And, if you feel compelled to buy one, go to this site (<http://www.soundracer.se/?p=98>) and click on the "Retailers" tab.



## So you don't need to look it up...

As a result of our club's relationship with the legendary Buzzie Reutimann, many of us have become David Reutimann fans and were happy to hear first-hand Buzzie's experiences with David at the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte last May. Those of you who were there to hear Buzzie's comments will probably remember his observation that David was the first racer to put the "double zero" in victory lane in a Nascar Cup-level event. So the obvious question that comes to mind is: How many Cup drivers have raced a car with the number 00, and how have they done. Well, as proof of the saying that "if you can't find it on the internet, it doesn't exist," we were able to locate a history of the 00 in Cup events, complete with the statistics they've compiled. Here it is:

### Drivers who have piloted the 00 in Cup Competition

Driver	Races	Wins	Top 5's	Top 10's	Laps Led
1 David Reutimann	72	1	6	11	104
2 Michael McDowell	20	0	0	0	3
3 Buckshot Jones	16	0	0	0	19
4 Carl Long	10	0	0	0	0
5 Kenny Wallace	7	0	0	0	3
6 Morgan Shepherd	7	0	0	0	1
7 Hermie Sadler	7	0	0	0	2
8 John A. Utsman	6	0	0	0	0
9 Bill Elliott	5	0	0	0	0
10 Mike Skinner	4	0	0	0	0
11 Freddy Smith	2	0	0	0	0
12 P.J. Jones	2	0	0	0	0
13 Phil Barkdoll	2	0	0	0	0
14 Johnny Benson	2	0	0	0	0
15 Phil Good	1	0	0	0	0
16 Ed Sanger	1	0	0	0	0
17 Sterling Marlin	1	0	0	0	0
18 Jerry Nadeau	1	0	0	0	0
19 Scott Gaylord	1	0	0	0	0
20 Mike Bliss	1	0	0	0	0
21 James Hurlbert	1	0	0	0	0
22 A.J. Allmendinger	1	0	0	0	1

### More questions to ponder during the cautions:

- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?



# Some scenes from the March 12 bus trip to the NHRA Gatornationals...



Eric Jones and his new pit crew!



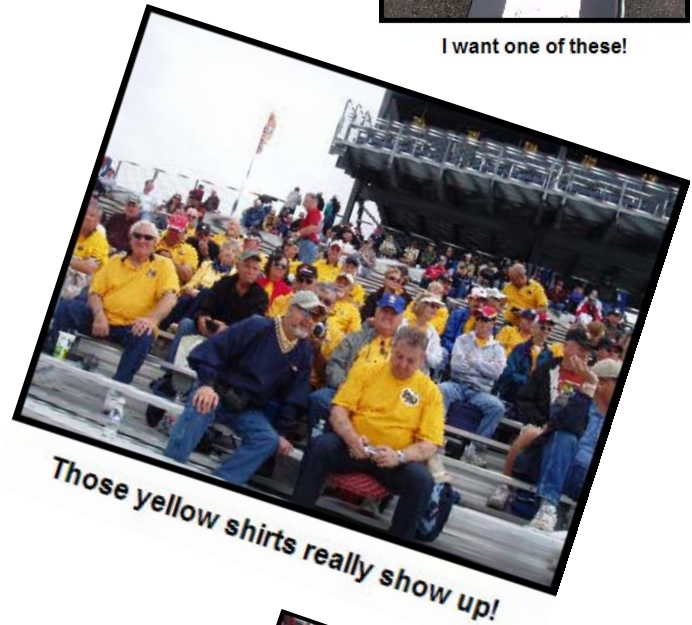
Wait till my Biker Buddies see me in this!



I want one of these!



Eric Jones with staff members



Those yellow shirts really show up!



A great day for racing!



See, never throw those old spark plugs away!