



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

March, 2011

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"Burning Money"...A Drag Racer's Story!



March 2—Veteran drag racer and club member Sam Patrick took the podium at our March meeting, delighting the crowd with a history of his motor-sports exploits. Sam launched his career in 1962, with a '49 Chevy powered by a 357 Chrysler Hemi, then moved to a '57 Chevy 327 that he raced until 1970. After taking an eight-year break, he got back into competition in a '51 Anglia with a 454 Chevy power plant...he wrecked that car at Mid Michigan Dragway in 1980, and then built a 1980 Chevy Monza. He raced the Monza until 1985, then "retired" to focus on family and business matters. As Sam puts it, "My net worth increased much faster without the race car!"

In addition to recounting his on-track experiences, Sam provided an in-depth analysis of various forms of drag racing in vogue today. In his remarks, he contrasted the popular forms of drag racing (e.g., Top Fuel, Funny Car, etc.) with a much more affordable level called "dial your own bracket" racing. In addition, he touched on many other drag racing series now in operation, explaining the merits of each.

Sam continued his remarks with his return to racing in 2003, after he acquired a '37 Steel Chevy Coupe with a fuel injected 406 Chevy small block engine (his best time so

far is 9.62 seconds in the 1/4 mile...140 mph). This car, by the way, is named "Burning Money"...hence the title above.

In wrapping up his remarks, Sam described his entry into Nostalgia Drag Racing, where he now competes in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, and Michigan. He's won 13 races in three years, and is looking forward to the 2011 season opening in May.

Sam's presentation included two video segments of Nostalgia racing action, including a recap of one of his major wins. All-in-all, another great presentation!



The 2011 Villages Cup Pre-Season Testing Now Underway

The heat is on...the tension is building. So far, 21 drivers have signed up for the 2011 running of The Villages Cup, and slots are still open (the registration deadline is Monday, March 14). As we reported at the March 2 meeting, the planning committee for this event has made a set of preliminary decisions, including:

- Start time will be Noon
- Warm-ups (4 laps this year) will again be run immediately preceding the heat races
- We'll issue arm bands to aid in identification of the drivers after they get in the carts
- Each participant will again be required to present a signed "Release Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement" as required by The Villages (if you've already signed one for another activity in 2011, just let me know and you can skip this step). You can pick these waiver documents up at any Rec Center, or call me and I'll see that you get one.

- All participants are reminded to wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, and a jacket, and it is suggested that you consider some sort of a heat shield for your right arm (last year we had a few damaged jacket sleeves).
- Speedway Park will have helmets, neck braces, and gloves available, but if you have your own, that would make it more comfortable for you.
- The entry fee this year will be **\$25**. Please send payment to Gerry Hafer at 3789 Auburndale Ave, The Villages, FL 32162 prior to March 20, so that we can avoid as much confusion as possible on that day.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the committee has also elected to include a non-competitive "exhibition" segment for drivers simply wanting to get the feel of a go-kart. This portion of the program will feature ten laps of driving at the driver's chosen pace.

Just so you know who's stepping up to challenge George "Snowmobile" Glotfelty for the Cup, here are the entries as of March 5:

Freed, Rich
Coenen, Fred
Conkle, Jerry
Eck, Corky
Psyk, Dick
Hafer, Michael
Glotfelty, George
Fiddick, Dan
Dunaway, Jim
Touchette, Wendy
Touchette, Mike
Bockman, Dave
Virgilio, Ron
Tharp, Bill
Thieme, Kerry
Ponstein, Bill
Roemer, Mike
Veenendaal, Jan
Meegan, Silky
Birchwale, Arnold
Peacock, Terry

The betting window will open in about a week!

Veteran USAC Racer "Drops In" at March Meeting

Our March 2 meeting had a special, drop-in guest...a veteran of many years of stock car racing in the USAC, IMCA, and ARCA ranks. George Giesen of Neenah, Wisconsin, a winter resident of nearby Recreation Plantation, shared his experiences racing against such historic drivers as A. J. Foyt, Roger McCluskey, Dick Trickle, Rusty Wallace, Ken Schrader, and Alan Kulwicki, to name a few.

In his 40+ starts on the USAC circuit, George competed at Texas Motor Speedway, Michigan International Speedway, Pocono International Raceway, the Milwaukee Mile, Illinois State Fairgrounds, and many other major racing facilities around the U.S. He remains active to this day, driving in the Allison Legends racing series.



George Giesen ® poses for the camera, while "Hot Doc" Duncan Paterson looks on.

Club Shows Up Big at Speedway Park Event

February 19-It was a wild (and full) night over at Fruitland Park's Speedway Park, with over 170 race teams registering to compete in the "Marty Ruser Tribute" event. This national-level karting event attracted teams from as far away as Ontario, Canada, from the Carolinas, and from a variety of other

neighboring states. With a posted purse of over \$10,000, the teams came ready to rumble, providing a great night of racing entertainment for spectators. In addition to regular classes, the day's racing card featured a "King of the Outlaws" finale, paying \$1300 to win.

In addition to enjoying a great day

of racing, 15 members of our club were on hand to assist track officials in running the event. Our members handled inspections, transponder re-lays, flagging, and many other tasks, including assisting in the communication of scoring information. It was a long day, but the opportunity to be close to the action was worth it.



Our "work crew consisted of Jack & Donna Cease, Mike & Wendy Touchette, Fred Coenen, Buster Burt, Jerry Conkle, Lance Sylvia, Glen Carter, Shelly Young, Dave Bockman, Gerry Hafer, Wayne Nolan, Tom Horrmann, along with Dick Psyk who served as coordinator for the crew.

Here are some action shots from the event, beginning with Wendy Touchette (below) conducting pre-qualifying inspections. Continuing clockwise, Jerry Conkle strikes a pose, Dave Bockman spends time in line at the refreshment trailer (he does stand out in a crowd!), and several of the crew take a much-earned break during a lull in the action.



Special Events Roundup



How quickly time shoots by! We're fresh off three great trips to Daytona's Speedweeks events, with groups taking in the Shootout, the Gatorade Duel, and the 500. At the same time, we had a great group on hand Feb. 20 at Colony Cottage to watch the 500 on the big screen. So, I guess it's safe to say, we're off and running into 2011.

Next up, the Gatornationals on March 11, followed by the one we've all been waiting for...the 2011 Villages Cup. If you haven't signed up yet, get on the stick and join us as we have our once-a-year on-track experience!

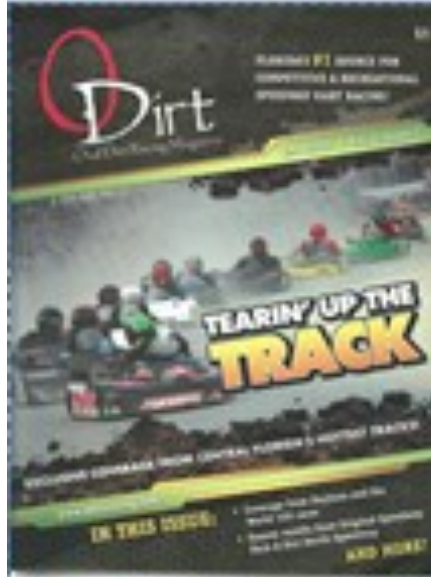
Here's the current list of some of club activities for the next few weeks...watch our website for changes and updates!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Friday, March 11 NHRA Gatornationals	The bus for this trip will depart from the Laurel Manor parking lot at 7:30 am sharp. Seating at the track will be pit-side, same as last year. There are still seats available on the bus. Call Wendy (352-303-9734).
Friday, March 18 Ocala Speedway	Miller Light Night of Thousands—\$1000 to win Sportsman, \$1000 to win Hobby Stock, \$1000 to win V-8Thunderstock, Gladiators. It's our understanding that Buzzie Reutimann is planning to run...we'll let you know as soon as he confirms.
Sunday, March 20 The Villages Cup	This event is now in its accelerated planning stages! The trash talking has begun! See article at top of page 2 for more information). We're looking forward to a rollicking good time, just like we had last year!
Saturday, March 19 Saturday, April 2 Saturday, April 16 Speedway Park	Speedway Park's normal schedule for racing is the first and third Saturday of each month. Head over and watch the karts go at it, and cheer for club favorite Nic Fernandez as he races his blue number 3 go-kart.
Wednesday, April 6 Colony Cottage	Our regular monthly meeting, featuring Pete Rosendahl. Pete's topics will be racing from a sponsor's point of view and R/C racing (with information on an opportunity for the club).
Friday, April 16 Golf Cart Poker Run	Wayne Nolan and his committee have begun to develop detail plans for this event. A route has been mapped out, and Wayne and his committee are working out the details. The Run will start at Colony Cottage and end at Pimlico, and we'll have hot dogs and hamburgers as we celebrate the winners. Cost is \$8 per person.
Wednesday, May 4 Colony Cottage	Our regular monthly meeting, featuring Bill Garcia. Bill will be sharing his history and experiences as a sprint car driver.
Saturday, July 2 Daytona International Speedway	Coke Zero 400. We're again working through Lake Limo for this trip, with an announced package price ranging from \$91 to \$139. Call Aimee @ 742-2808 for details...this trip is open to the general public.

New Karting Magazine Hits the Scene

Want to stay up-to-date on Florida's Go-Kart racing scene? There's a new sheriff in town when it comes to reporting on kart racing, billing itself as "Florida's #1 source for competitive & recreational speedway kart racing!" We've had an opportunity to sample a recent issue (there are two issues now in print), and have formed a positive opinion of the publication and its coverage of karting, especially the coverage of events at Speedway Park. In fact, in the current edition (Jan. 2011), we found our own club favorite Nic Fernandez showing up on page 9 (commemorating his 3rd place points finish in the Jr. Purple Flathead class). Aidan Turman, 2010 Beginner



Rookie Champion (Terry's son) was also pictured. Instructions to subscribe to this publication can be found at the magazine's website (www.oditracing.com). Cost is \$25 for a full year subscription (six issues).

Local Racing Corner

Race Track	Website & Telephone	Current Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway, Zuber	www.ocalaspeedway.com 352-622-9400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar. 11—Open Wheel Mods Mar. 18—Miller Light Night Mar. 25—World of Outlaws—\$10,000 to win
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	www.citruscountyspeedway.com 352-726-9339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar. 12—Reg. show, with Open Wheel Mods Mar. 19—Closed for the fair Mar. 26—Closed for the fair
New Smyrna Speedway, Samsula	www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org 386-427-4129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar. 19—USARacing Pro Cup Series & TBA-RA Winged Sprints Mar. 26—9th Annual Pete Orr Memorial, Orange Blossom 100 SLM
Orlando Speedworld, Bithlo	www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org 407-568-1367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar. 18—Season Opener, SLM and Spectator Races Mar. 25—Regular show—SLM et al.
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	www.originalspeedwaypark.com 352-308-7664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar. 19—Regular show Mar. 20—The 2011 Villages Cup

Applications Now Open for 2011 Scholarship

March 2—Applications are now being accepted for our club's 2011 Book/Tuition Scholarship award. Applications are open to high school seniors who will be attending any accredited 4-year or 2-year college or accredited vocational/technical school and pursuing higher education in an academic field related to the world of motorsports. To be eligible, applicants must either reside in the tri-county area (Lake, Sumter, or Marion County), or be related to a current member of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.

For the third consecutive year, the amount of the scholarship award has been set at \$500.

"We feel this amount provides a meaningful level of support for a student," commented Scholarship committee member Wendy Touchette. "We've been pleased with the awards we've made so far, and look forward to continuing the program in the future."

In 2009, the inaugural award was presented to Matt Bowers of Mt. Dora. Matt will be graduating this summer from Lake-Sumter Community College, and plans to continue his education either at Florida State University or North Carolina State, depending on where his racing career might lead.

Last year's scholarship award went to Scott Hensley of Fruitland Park. Scott is currently completing his freshman year at Jacksonville University.

Details on the program are available on the club's website (villagesracingclub.com), and an application package can be downloaded from the site. Individuals considering submission of an application are reminded that 5:00 pm March 31, 2011 is the deadline. All applications received by that date will be reviewed by the club's Pit Crew, and a decision will be made and communicated to applicants no later than April 30, 2011.

Club's Website Homepage Reformatted

March 2—In a continuing effort to make the club's website "fan friendly," webmaster Gerry Hafer recently implemented a reformatted homepage designed to provide "one-click" access to timely information about significant club activities. "The homepage was beginning to get a bit cluttered as we posted schedule updates and breaking news," noted Hafer, "so we thought a one-click approach might work better." The new format presents an "Important Information" block through which members and visitors can travel to documents and subpages containing up-to-date information and announcements on specific club activities. For example, Hafer noted, changes to departure times on club trips will be posted on these documents and pages, as will recurring progress infor-

mation pertaining to activities like the 2011 "prediction Row" campaign.

The homepage will also routinely include an announcement about the next club meeting, noting date, time, and location

along with a brief summary of the program for the night. As in the past, the club's current newsletter can be downloaded from the homepage, and visitors can access the "Archives" and other sections via the one-click feature.

Welcome to The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club website!
You are cordially invited to view the pages in our site, all of which have been designed to keep our members and interested parties up-to-speed (*pun intended!*) on who we are and what we do.

Important Information
Click for details

- [March 11 Gatornationals trip](#)
- [The 2011 Villages Cup](#)
- [April 16 Poker Run](#)
- [2011 Prediction Row](#)
- [Club Archives](#)
- [Latest Newsletter](#)
- [Scholarship Program](#)

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at Colony Cottage Rec Center, going green at 7:00 pm. Featured speaker will be Pete Rosendahl, with a message about an exciting opportunity for the club!

Use the links below to navigate to other pages on our website

[ABOUT](#) • [NEWS](#) • [BOARD](#) • [SCHEDULE](#) • [LINKS](#) • [Hall of Fame](#) • [CONTACT](#) • [SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM](#) • [FLORIDA RACE TRACKS](#)

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Your Pit Crew

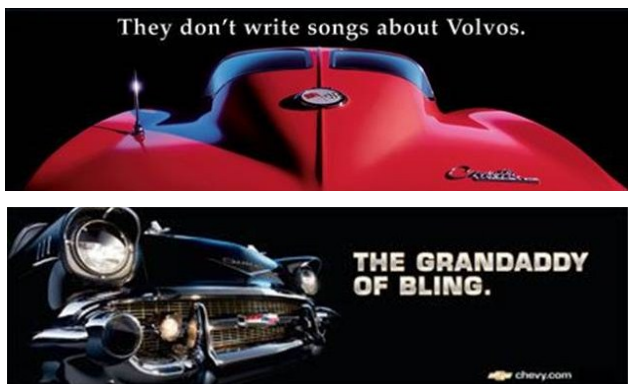
Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381) Wayne Nolan,
 Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consulting (751-4643)
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (408-3712)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)

Odd Car of the Month

No...this isn't "photoshopped"...it's an actual ultra-narrow car developed by an American company (Computer Cars from Spokane, Washington). At 39 inches wide and 101 inches long, this may just be the ideal vehicle to fit alongside your golf cart! It's called the Tango T600, and it costs slightly over \$100,000 (although there's an "economy" T200 version coming out soon with a price tag around \$40,000, and a T100 is now on the drawing boards to be priced around \$19,000). It weighs about 3000 lbs., and is powered by dual electric motors. It does seat two, although it's tandem style! By the way, it's top speed is 150 mph.



Thoughts to Ponder



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

Jeff Gordon broke out of his long slump February 27 at Phoenix, bringing his career win total to 83—tied with Cale Yarborough for fifth on the all-time list. Since the season's still new, we thought it would be good to refresh you on who's where on the list, from the King on down. This list, extracted from Wikipedia, illustrates in which series each driver's wins were recorded.

Here you go:

Driver	Strictly Stock (1949) Grand National (1950-1970)	Winston Cup (1971-2003)	NEXTEL/Sprint Cup Chase Era (2004-present)	Combined Total
Richard Petty	119	81	0	200
David Pearson	58	47	0	105
Bobby Allison	18	66	0	84
Darrell Waltrip	0	84	0	84
Jeff Gordon	0	64	19	83
Cale Yarborough	14	69	0	83
Dale Earnhardt	0	76	0	76
Rusty Wallace	0	54	1	55
Lee Petty	54	0	0	54
Jimmie Johnson	0	6	47	53
Ned Jarrett	50	0	0	50
Junior Johnson	50	0	0	50
Herb Thomas	48	0	0	48
Buck Baker	46	0	0	46
Bill Elliott	0	44	0	44
Mark Martin	0	33	7	40
Tim Flock	40	0	0	40
Tony Stewart	0	17	22	39
Bobby Isaac	32	5	0	37
Dale Jarrett	0	32	1	33
Fireball Roberts	33	0	0	33
Rex White	28	0	0	28
Fred Lorenzen	26	0	0	26
Jim Paschal	25	0	0	25
Joe Weatherly	25	0	0	25
Ricky Rudd	0	23	0	23
Kurt Busch	0	8	14	22
Terry Labonte	0	22	0	22
Jeff Burton	0	17	4	21
Bobby Labonte	0	21	0	21
Benny Parsons	0	21	0	21
Jack Smith	21	0	0	21
Speedy Thompson	20	0	0	20



*Don't forget to patronize these
great area merchants!*

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club expresses its sincere appreciation to the following businesses and merchants who supported our January 26, 2011 Fund-Raising Bingo Event:

AAA-AUTO CLUB (THE VILLAGES)
AVON PRODUCTS (JOSIE CRANE THE VILLAGES)
BILL BRYAN CHRYSLER-DODGE JEEP-FRUITLAND PARK
CAL'S BARBER SHOP(SPANISH SPRINGS)
CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL (27-441 THE VILLAGES)
CHICK-fil-A (27-441 THE VILLAGES)
CHILI'S (27-441 THE VILLAGES)
CITIZEN's FIRST BANK(MAIN STREET THE VILLAGES)
CODY'S ROADHOUSE (LAKE SUMTER LANDING)
CRACKER BARREL (27-441)
DENNY'S RESTAURANT (THE VILLAGES)
GATOR DOCKSIDE SPORTS BAR /RESTAURANT (SPANISH SPRINGS)
IHOP RESTAURANT (466)
LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE (27-441 THE VILLAGES)
OAKWOOD SMOKEHOUSE RIBS/GRILL-BAR 27-441
PERKINS RESTAURANT(27-441 THE VILLAGES)
OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE (27-441 THE VILLAGES)
PERKINS RESTAURANT (466 THE VILLAGES)
QUALITY TIRE & REPAIR (CORNER 27-441/466)
R.J.GATORS SEA FOOD GRILL -BAR (LAKE SUMTER LANDING)
RUBY TUESDAY'S (MAIN STREET SPANISH SPRINGS)
ROYAL BLUE TILE /GROUT-CARPET CLEANING(DISCOUNT
CARDS AVAILABLE DURING BREAK)
THE VILLAGE CAR WASH(SPANISH SPRINGS)
WINN DIXIE (SPANISH SPRINGS)