



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

March, 2013

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, April 3, 2013

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The NPD Story

March 6—OK, we're all car people, so what could be better than being in a room full of motorsports fanatics for a night of idea-sharing? You guessed it...having the added ingredient of a professional car guy with us for the night. That was the story at our March meeting, when National Parts Depot's Chief Operating Officer Rick Schmidt joined us to share the company's amazing history.

From a home business to a nationally-known auto parts distributor and premier supplier of concours-correct parts and accessories for such All-American brands as Thunderbird, Mustang, Camaro, Chevelle, Firebird, Trans Am, El Camino, and Ford Truck, the NPD story is a genuine classic. Rick took us through his father Jim's early days of building the business, and recounted his involvement in growing the enterprise to what it is today, with facilities in Michigan, California, and North Carolina to complement their main operation in Ocala.

Rick spent much of his time with us describing the acquisition of their incredible classic car collection housed in their Ocala warehouse, explaining that the cars are all street-ready, and in fact are routinely driven short distances in the area to keep them operative. Our group has made several field trips up I-75 to tour this fantastic collection, and will undoubtedly make repeat visits in the future. As many of you are aware, our Hall of Fame trophy is on display in NPD's main lobby area, where it's one of the first things you see as you enter. NPD management extended the offer to us to display the trophy for us two years ago, and we gratefully accepted their hospitality. After all, what better place could a motorhead group find to display its signature item?



April Meeting Preview—Here Come the Boat Racers!

Well, we've finally done it! As many of you know we've been searching high and low for a speaker on the subject of boat racing for a long, long time, and until just recently we've been coming up dry. At long last, we've been able to make a connection with an organization right here in Tavares, Lake County that was formed to "organize, promote and run both fun runs and vintage regattas..."

The *Classic Race Boat Association* runs several major events throughout the year. According to their website, "These are vintage and classic race boats from the early 1900's to the 1980's. It is also interesting to note that many CRA members do not actually own vintage race boats but join for the social activities, especially all the fun at our regattas and

our Monthly CRA Fun Run & Gathering - all boat types are welcomed."

CRA's president, Bill John, will be on-hand on April 3 to give us a history of their organization and discuss the events they run in the Wooten Park area in Tavares. We'll be looking forward to perhaps joining with them on a future regatta!



Prediction Row 2013 In Full Swing

As this newsletter is being written, we've completed five of the first 13 Sprint Cup races for 2013. If you've been following the weekly recaps on our website, or just tracking the progress via the Daily Sun, you know that our segment 1 panel is really "up on the wheel," so to speak.

The group has so far bagged two wins and 11 podium finishes, with a top-five percentage of better than 40%. Syd Baker, banking repeatedly on Jimmie Johnson, is leading the pack, while last year's Champion Wayne Nolan is struggling in the early going, mired below the final transfer spot in the standings. (But, remembering his late charge last year, don't count him out!)

As we near the mid point in this first segment, watch for a fierce battle as the predictors jockey for the final transfer spot.

Meanwhile, the segment 2 predictors

are watching the action closely, no doubt trying to determine how the various strategies play out week-to-week. As a refresher, here are the players this year:

Segment 1 (Races 1-13)

- Syd Baker
- Gary Civiletti
- Jerry Conkle
- Gerry Hafer
- Wayne Nolan
- Alan Stone

Segment 2 (Races 14-26)

- Mike Anderson
- Jim Carter
- Jim Dunaway
- Corky Eck
- Jon Neville
- Wendy Touchette

Standings Thru Race 5

Predictor	Points	Behind	Rank
Baker, Syd	183		1
Civiletti, Gary	181	2	2
Hafer, Gerry	166	17	3
Nolan, Wayne	164	19	4
Stone, Al	160	21	5
Conkle, Jerry	155	28	6

Officer Changes—New Leadership Takes Over With April Meeting

There were no further nominations for the open officer positions at the March meeting; as a result, Selection Committee chair Fred Coenen requested a blanket vote for the proposed candidates for President, Vice President, and Special Events Coordinator. With a resounding unanimous vote of confidence from the membership, Jerry Conkle, Dave Allen, and Gary Civiletti were elected to fill these key positions and to ensure the club's continued forward motion.

Outgoing Special Events Coordinator read a heartfelt summary of her time in the position, expressing

sincere appreciation for the support from fellow officers and members through the years. Outgoing President Gerry Hafer also expressed appreciation for what he termed "a first class pit crew" and a membership that embraces such a wide variety of motorsports venues.

So, beginning with the April 3 meeting, your new officer lineup will look like this:

- President—Jerry Conkle
- Vice President—Dave Allen
- Corresponding Secretary—Silky Meegan

- Recording Secretary—Gerry Greim
- Treasurer—Tom Horrmann
- Special Events Coordinator—Gary Civiletti
- Membership Chairs—Bob & Camille Sherman
- Webmaster—Mike Anderson
- At-large Members—Wayne Nolan, Peter Tetrault, Buster & Zoe Ann Burt
- Hospitality Coordinators—Ed & Janet Ott
- Past Presidents/Crew Chiefs—Gerry Hafer & Glen Carter

Looking Back at 2012—Racing's All Americans

The American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association (AARWBA) several weeks ago published their list of All-Americans for 2012. The list is compiled based on votes from their members, who cast ballots for individual drivers in eight separate categories.

The AARWBA is an interesting organization, and their website (www.aarwba.org) contains some fascinating information on awards and honors they've bestowed on motorsports personalities. Of particular interest is their "Legends in Racing" page, where they provide biographical sketches of 134 prominent names in racing, sorted alphabetically and giving a brief account of their contributions to motorsports.

Their "Legends" list is truly non-denominational, with honorees from just about every form of racing, as well as the press and media. It's worth a look-see!



First Team	
Category	Drivers Named
Open Wheel	Ryan Hunter-Reay & Will Power
Road Racing	Scott Pruett/Memo Rojas Team & Klaus Graf/Lucas Luhr Team
Short Track Racing	Bryan Clauson & Donny Schatz
Stock Car Racing	Brad Keselowski & Jimmie Johnson
Drag Racing	Antron Brown & Jack Beckman
Touring Series	James Buescher & Emil Assentato/Jeff Segal Team
Rising Star	Courtney Force

Second Team	
Category	Drivers Named
Open Wheel	Dario Franchitti & Scott Dixon/Helio Castroneves (tie)
Road Racing	Chris Dyson/Guy Smith Team & Ryan Dalziel
Short Track Racing	Bobby East & Darrell Lanigan
Stock Car Racing	Ricky Stenhouse Jr. & Clint Bowyer
Drag Racing	Tony Schumacher & Ron Capps
Touring Series	Ricky Johnson & Oliver Gavin/Tommy Milner Team
Rising Star	Frank Manzo & Jimmy Owens

FUPLMS 2013 Update

Club Hall of Famer Wayne Anderson captured impressive wins in the first Florida United Promoters Late Model Series events. As a result, he sits solidly at the top of the points race in this 12-race touring series, with son Randy Anderson (also one of our Hall of Fame members) in third place, just 19 points behind Wayne and three points behind second place Daniel Webster.

A contingent of club members braved the unseasonably cold weather for the March 2 Ice Breaker 100 kick-off event, and were treated to a dominating performance by the veteran Anderson, who grabbed the lead from Randy on lap 10 and went on unchallenged to the checkers. Randy ran a strong second for most of

the race, finishing in third place. Meanwhile, you'll recall that our club car, Dick Anderson's brand new No. 92 Mustang entry, was piloted by Devin McLeod of Zephyrhills. Devin qualified 10th, but had to recover from a first-lap incident that resulted in some substantial cosmetic damage to the car. He rebounded with a strong performance, finishing fifth.

At Auburndale Speedway on March 9, Wayne again dominated the field, setting fast time and going on to win his second straight race in the series.

The tour returns to Citrus County Speedway on Saturday April 6 for the third race in the series. As of this writing, there's a possibility that Amanda Ferguson will be



in the line-up, so we'll have potentially three club Hall of Famers to cheer on. Dick Anderson also is planning to run the No. 92 in this event, with Devin McLeod at the wheel. What a night this could be!

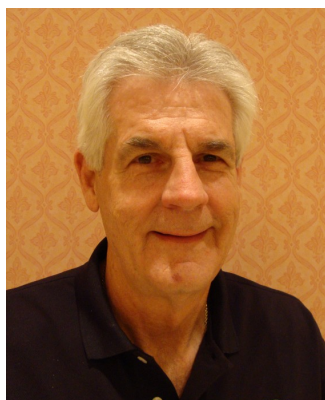
Local Racing Corner

As we've mentioned quite a few times in the past, these tracks represent the local roots of racing and they need our support! If you've been to an event at any of these tracks recently, you'll no doubt agree that attendance is down. Car counts are down as well, and it's easy to see that either of these facts represents a cause-and-effect situation. If the cars don't come, neither will the fans, and it's becoming a downward spiral that can only lead to the closing of tracks here in Central Florida. We've already lost one this year (Columbia), and most of the others are struggling. So, let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth.

Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
Volusia Raceway Park	Barberville	386-985-4402	volusiaspeedwaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	orlandospeedworld.org
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	ocalamicrospeedway.com
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	auburndaleracing.com
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	puntagordaspeedway.com
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	desotosuperspeedway.com

Welcome, New Members

We welcomed another batch of new members at our March meeting and, based on the descriptions of their racing interests they shared with us, we're looking at some pretty well-versed motorsports enthusiasts. Make sure you chat them up at the next meeting!



Left-to-right: **(Row 1)** Larry Bartling—Brookfield, WI; Ron Enestrom—Athens, IL; Bill Pappas—Raleigh, NC
(Row 2) Ben Stankewicz—Strengsville, OH; Hadley Stranyhouen, Jr.—Overland Park, KS

Our Logo Hits the Winner's Circle Again!

March 2—In one of the support races in advance of the Ice Breaker 100 at Citrus County Speedway, standout Open Wheel Modified driver Richie Smith became the 24th driver to carry our club logo into competition. Piloting the Dick Anderson-prepared, Randy & Donny Lewis-owned No. 289, Hernando Florida-based Smith came from deep in the field to dominate the final stages of the 50-lap event that included tough competition from the likes of perennial local favorite Herb Newman Jr.



Special Events Roundup



First, I want to thank everyone for the well-wishes as I step into the position previously handled so well by Wendy. She's been a big help to me as I prepare, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you as we move through another productive year of club activities.

In keeping with tradition, I welcome any suggestions that anyone has for club events, trips, or activities. We've covered a lot of ground in the past, but we all know there's more territory out there for us. If you have any thoughts on areas you'd like to explore, just drop me a note, or an email, or a phone call and we'll see what we can put together.

Gary

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, March 30 Original Speedway Park	Third Annual King of the Outlaws program, featuring Karts, Slingshots, and Flat Track Motorcycles. Racing set to kick-off around 4:00 pm. Check originalspeedwaypark.com for last minute details and schedules.
Saturday, April 6 Citrus County Speedway	Race No. 3 in the Florida United Promoters Late Model Series; 100-lap feature race featuring club favorites Wayne Anderson, Randy Anderson, and Amanda Ferguson (tentative). Car pool will be leaving Laurel Manor at 5:00 pm.
April at Colony, Hacienda, and Villages Hospital Campus East	R/C racing on the second Wednesday, fourth Saturday, and every Sunday (Call Dave Allen (205-7985) or Mike Roemer (633-0134) for details)
Thursday, May 2 Saddlebrook	Night Golf scramble event at Saddlebrook. Pot Luck social scheduled at Saddlebrook before the event. Call Wendy (303-9734 for details)
Saturday, July 6 Daytona International Speedway	Coke Zero 400...Details TBA.
Thursday, July 11 La Hacienda Rec Center	Third Annual R/C Cars for Camp Villages event; Volunteers will be needed; Details TBA; Contact Gary Civiletti at 751-4030

Update on Ernie Battee

Club member Ernie Battee continues to struggle with his paraplegic condition down at Lake Harris Health Center, 701 Lake Port Blvd., Leesburg, FL. For those of you who are not aware, Ernie was injured in a Dec. 2 auto accident at the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd. and CR 466. Ernie had very severe injuries, including a severed spinal cord and 120 lacerations, including part of his scalp. As a result, he remains paralyzed from his neck down. Ernie's daughter Lisa, wife of NASCAR Champion Randy Lajoie and mother of K&N East driver Corey Lajoie, is with him virtually everyday, having relocated from North Carolina for the time being to oversee his care. Please consider carving some time out of your schedule to pay Ernie a visit...he really appreciates it!



Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)
 Dave Allen, Vice President ()
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Hormann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Gary Civiletti, Special Events (751-4030)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President (751-3643)
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

A Little Bit of Florida Racing History

Most of you are aware that we've sort of adopted Wild-wood racing legend Dick Anderson as "the Godfather" of our group. He was our inaugural speaker way back in 2006, and we maintained a relationship with him throughout our years in a fashion that has brought up close (sometimes very close) to the local racing action.

You've also probably read or heard a fair amount about his on-track accomplishments, and it's no secret why his rivals have titled him "King of the Florida Short Tracks." One day, while riffling through some archives, I came across an article written by the late Gainesville Sun motorsports journalist Norm Froscher that gives further credence to Dick's legacy.

Titled "Six Days in May," the article details a stretch back in 1989 when Dick accomplished a sweep of all six events he entered:

- May 12—100 lap feature at New Asheville Speedway in North Carolina
- May 19—100-lap feature at Orlando Speedworld
- May 20—50-lap feature at DeSoto Speedway
- May 26—25-lap feature at Orlando Speedworld
- May 27—50-lap feature at New Smyrna Speedway
- May 28—100-lap feature at Volusia County Speedway

When interviewed by Froscher after the May 28 win, Dick's comment was, "I was on a roll."

Conkle's Corner...

On April 3, I'll be taking a big step in my history with the club, taking over the reins from Gerry Hafer. As I mentioned at the March meeting, I'm looking forward to working with all of you as we continue to build on the club's many successes in the past, and I welcome the opportunity to hear any suggestions you may have for tackling new and different areas.



In the meantime, here's what may be the last edition of Conkle's Corner. I say this because I'm thinking that stepping up to the Crew Chief position requires me to act a bit more presidential. What do you think? If you think I should continue throwing this monthly dose of wit and humor at you, let me know. But, for now, here goes:

• FIVE RULES TO REMEMBER IN LIFE

1. Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy, but remember the idiot's name.
3. If you help someone when they're in trouble, they will remember you when they're in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then neither does milk.

• Racing's Top Ten List:

10) The number of times you get hit in a pileup is directly proportional to the number of times you said "I think it will go ok today". 9) You only get the lead when you need fuel. 8) If a tire can go on the wrong side, it will. 7) A part will never break during a test session, only during a race. 6) The driver behind you is always the one you punted last week. 5) The part you left at the shop is the one you need. 4) The number of laps remaining is always one more than the amount of fuel left in the car. 3) Your good car will get wrecked, your bad car will finish the race, two laps down. 2) The concrete wall is harder at the tracks you wreck at. 1) A 10-car pileup will never happen *behind* you!

- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'