



PIT NEWS *March, 2022*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: April 6, 2022

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Racing season is once again at full throttle. I'm happy to hear that our local short tracks are having great attendance.

Our bus trip to the Gatornationals started off well until we arrived in Gainesville and the rain came down in buckets. We stayed in the area for a short while on the bus, hoping to get the race in. We decided to return home. As we expected the race was finally called in the late afternoon. Everyone should hold onto their ticket until we get a directive from the NHRA.

Our club is having a motor racing show on Monday, March 28 from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Brownwood Paddock Square. Trophies will be given out at approximately 7 p.m. for different classes. Please have your friends and neighbors come out to see the different types of race cars and motorcycles that will be at the show. You will even get a chance to speak with the drivers.

Our guest speaker for our next meeting on Wednesday, April 6 will be NHRA Top Fuel owner/driver Josh Hart. He is also the owner of Burnyzz Speed Shop in Ocala. He won the 2021 NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville, Florida in his first professional Top Fuel race.

I know many of our snowbirds will be returning home soon. I thank all of you for your continued support this past season. I can assure you that the board of directors will be working diligently to bring you another year of interesting speakers and additional fun events. Have a safe trip home.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

Next Meeting - April 6



Our next meeting is on April 6 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Josh Hart, owner/driver of the R+L Carriers / TechNet NHRA Top Fuel Dragster.

Josh was born in Huntington, Indiana. In 2010 Josh and his wife moved to Ocala and founded Burnyzz Speed Shop.

Hart became an NHRA drag racer in 2011, racing in the sportsman class. After earning his Top Alcohol Dragster license in 2015, Josh won several national event titles and many regional races. Hart won the NHRA Regional Champions in 2017 and is a two-time NHRA U.S. Nationals winner (2018–19).

After earning his Top Fuel license in 2020, driving for Bob Vandergriff Racing, Hart elected to start his own Top Fuel Dragster race team in 2021. In his first NHRA Top Fuel race as owner/driver, Josh won the 2021 NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville Raceway.

The Josh Hart Racing team is now based in Brownsburg, Indiana.

Important Upcoming Dates

March 28, Monday	TVMRFC Motor Racing Show, Brownwood Paddock Square
April 6, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
May 4, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
May 12, Thursday	Golf Scramble, Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Documentary on Betty Skelton – Club Hall of Famer

There will be a sneak peek of the documentary "Betty Skelton Boundless – The First Lady of Firsts." Betty Skelton was a Villager and is in our Hall of Fame. She was a daredevil whose record-breaking aerobatics landed her famous plane "The Little Stinker" in the Smithsonian, set land speed records including a 300+ mph mark at Bonneville, and numerous Corvette speed records among many feats. She was so beloved by GM, they created a gold Corvette just for her to pace the field at the 1957 Daytona speed races. A special preview of "Boundless" will air on FS1 April 9.

TVMRFC Motor Racing Show – March 28

Mark your calendar for our very first Motor Racing Show in The Villages!

4-9 p.m., 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.

So spread the word about this exciting event. A lot of hard work and organization has gone into this event and we want it to a GIGANTIC success so that we are invited back in future years.

Golf Scramble – May 12 (Revised Date)

The Golf Scramble will take place on Thursday May 12, 2022

at Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course.

Putting contest starts at 10:00 a.m. The tee time for the shotgun start is 11:05 a.m.

You DO NOT need to be a club member. You just need to be a Villager, so ask your friends and neighbors to join in the fun.

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

Meet at the pavilion when all done - BYOB and snacks to share.

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

February 2 Meeting Jerry Clark



March 2 Meeting Jim Donnelly



Legends Stock Car Show & Parade at Daytona Beach Shores February 18

The Illinois Stock Car Hall of Fame and The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club booth enjoyed many racing stories and greeting fans from all over the United States. 2018 Illinois Engine Builder Inductee Keith Simmons displayed his restored coupe. Chicago Soldier Field 1949-52 Champion and 2021 inductee "Skippy" Michaels' career was highlighted at the booth.

At this event, Keith Simmons was inducted into The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club 2021 Hall of Fame by club president Chris Bleistein and hostess Gerry Greim.

2012 Illinois Stock Car HOF inductee Fred Lorenzen's original 1967 Ford Fairlane was on display, owned by John Kiser. The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club HOF inductee Marvin Panch's 1962 Wood Bros. Ford was displayed, too.

Former Chicagoland Raceway Park champions Pat Echlin and Jerry Clark, and Kankakee Fairgrounds dirt legend Tommy Kroll were bench racing all morning! It was great exchanging short track stories with Jim & Angel Sieron, Mike Turcol, Jim & Jeanne Mordick, Joyce Konicek, Dennis Hawthorne, plus Motor Racing Fan Club members John Angiolo, Jerry Conkle, Tom Kwasniewski, Gene Kovacs and Sam Patrick.

We would like to thank John West and NASCAR North Series Champion Dave Dion for their hospitality. It was a great day!



Prediction Row 2022

We are five races into the season and there is no doubt that the Next Gen cars have leveled the playing field as far as giving the newer and younger drivers a better chance to win. That being said, Hendrick's drivers have dominated.

Austin Cindric, a rookie driver for Penske, won the Daytona 500. On to Fontana where Kyle Larson, a Hendrick driver, won and gave three of our predictors a win - the only wins scored so far. Hendrick driver Alex Bowman won at Las Vegas. On to Phoenix where Stewart-Haas racer Chase Briscoe took the checkered. Finally, at the "new" Atlanta superspeedway, another young Hendrick driver, William Byron, scored a victory after a wild race in which all but nine cars that started were involved in a wreck. Interestingly, Corey LaJoie scored his first top five finish. He is the son of our Class of 2015 Hall of Famer Lisa LaJoie.

Prediction Row standings as of March 20:

Jim West – 1 win and 176 points

Bob Lupini – 1 win and 168 points

Doug Baker – 1 win and 131 points

Chris Six – 0 wins and 165 points

Chris Dirato – 0 wins and 121 points

Rich Benitz – 0 wins and 92 points

Silky Meegan

Prediction Row Coordinator

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.

Gatornationals Bus Trip – March 11



Our club had hoped to enjoy a day at the NHRA Gatornationals but Mother Nature didn't cooperate. The decision to turn around and come home was made after it was evident that there was no way the track would be dried and ready to have the cars run. A thank you to bus captains Tony Kennea and Sam Patrick for helping out on the bus. The race was later cancelled. If you had tickets to this event, please keep them in a safe place until we get a directive from NHRA. P.S. I saw on TV that people were playing around the track in kayaks. Now that isn't something you usually see at the races. On a positive note, while at a pit stop the members ran into Angelle Sampey. Chris Dirato (former PR rep for Angelle) got his picture taken with her.

National Parts Depot Tour – March 10



A great time was had by all when club members attended the National Parts Depot tour. Thank you Tom Horrmann for organizing this great tour. Looking forward to doing it again.

Daytona 500 Watch Party – FEBRUARY 20

The Daytona 500 Watch Party was a fun time for all attendees. A few hours enjoying watching the race, eating some yummy food and teasing each other about whose driver is better. Ultimately, Austin Cindric took the checkered flag.



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

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



OK, I am trying to follow in Jerry Conkle's footsteps.....

A man and woman were married for many years. Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!" Neighbors feared him. The old man liked the fact that he was feared. Then one evening, he died when he was 98. After the burial, her neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?" The wife said, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down...and I know he won't ask for directions."



Let's Welcome our New Members!

Mike Brook from Michigan
Jim DeBruin from Wisconsin
Tom Handley from New York
Jill Lind from Delaware
Larry Ricci from New York
Christopher Wagner from Florida

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
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Coordinator	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
John Angiolo	Member At Large	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Chris Dirato	Member At Large	Mechanic	917-921-9070
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
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



ARCA
Midwest Tour



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



Ultrex Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Lefthander Chassis
Roscoe, IL
815-389-9999



Professional
Home
Maintenance
and Repair
Services

Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN



Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9111



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Fox Pest Control
Orlando, FL
407-863-3592



Benefactors
John Angiolo
Pat Fehrman

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