



PIT NEWS *March, 2023*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: March 1, 2023

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Happy Spring, Racing Fans:

The green flags are flying and some checkered flags have fallen. Congratulations to the Kansas City Chiefs who have a few Eagles' feathers in their caps. Congratulations also to Ricky Stenhouse Jr. on his Daytona 500 win. Speed Week is over and the regular season racing is on. I hope to see some of you at Citrus County Speedway, Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala or New Smyrna Speedway some Saturday night real soon.

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach, is the Florida Short Track Racing Legends Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction. Buzzie Reutimann, Wayne Anderson and David Rogers are this year's inductees. They are also in our Hall of Fame. Please join us in support of our Hall of Famers and attend the event. The cost is \$50 per person, contact me with your reservation ASAP. The doors open at 9:00am, 10:30am is induction ceremony, 10:45am lunch is served, and

after that you can hit the beach for a few hours.

We are planning a 5-day trip Sept. 7-11 to the Moonshiner's Reunion in Mt. Airy NC. We will carpool and lodging will be about \$99/night. The whole town is in party mode. We will also visit Andy Griffith's Mayberry. As reservations must be made early, your reservation deposit of \$200 must be in by the April 5, 2023 meeting. See Mike Gross at the back table at the meeting.

Our speaker for March will be Ron Hedger, sports writer for more than 40 years. He will tell us some of the stories and people he has encountered along the way.

HELP HELP HELP - We still need a recording secretary to take minutes at the monthly board meetings. A man can do the job if he has typing skills or ask your wife if she would like an opportunity to become involved with a fun group of people.

Thank you everyone,

Gerry G

Pictures from February 1 Meeting



John Mulloy – February Speaker

Past president Jerry Conkle presenting retiring president Chris Bleistein with the Presidential Appreciation Award



Important Upcoming Dates

- Mar 1, Wednesday Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
- Mar 10, Friday Gatornationals, Gainesville FL
- Mar 19, Sunday Florida Short Track Racing Legends Reunion and HOF Induction
- Mar 27, Monday 2nd Annual Motor Racing Show, Brownwood Paddock Square, 4-9 p.m.
- Apr 5, Wednesday Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.

Daytona Watch Party Pictures



Light attendance but a fun time had by all!

Next Meeting – March 1



Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 1 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker is Ron Hedger, a Villages snowbird and a long-time friend of our club.

A high school auto mechanics teacher by trade, Ron built and was chief mechanic on a number of NASCAR modifieds through the late '60s and early '70s.

Then Hedger sent a column on safety to National Speed Sport News and has now been with them for 45 years. Along with Speed Sport, he was a contributing editor for Stock Car Racing and Open Wheel magazines and motorsports writer for the Schenectady, NY Daily Gazette.

Ron is a past president of the Eastern Motorsport Press Association and voted on the NASCAR Hall of Fame panel during that time. He is also a trustee of the Saratoga Automobile Museum and curator of the racing gallery there. For many years, Hedger headed the New York Stock Car Association Hall of Fame panel and is now a member, along with his late father.



Prediction Row for 2023 NASCAR Season

We are only two weeks into the season, but our Spring Segment competitors are busy making their predictions. Below are our standings after the second week:

Brian Dillon - 1 win, 91 points
Rick Almeida - 1 win, 78 points
John Mulloy - 1 win, 67 points
Craig Simundza - 0 wins, 69 points
Bill Samuels - 0 wins, 37 points
Jeff Ing - 0 wins, 26 points

For weekly updates, you will find Prediction Row in the Sports Section of The Daily Sun on NASCAR points race day. You can always get the latest information on the club website.

Silky Meegan
Prediction Row Coordinator

**Silky saying a few words of acceptance at the Hall of Fame Celebration for
Donna Dillon - Winner of the 2022 Prediction Row**



2nd Annual Motor Racing Show



We are proud to announce we will be showcasing various forms of racing at our Show and Display on Monday, March 27th 2023 from 5-9 pm. at the Brownwood Paddock Square, 2720 Brownwood Blvd. The Villages, FL.

This year we will have 30 race cars entered. There will be dragsters, INDY 500 pace cars, short track Late Models, Open Wheel Modifieds, Sprint Cars, motorcycles, NASCAR cars and go-karts.

The cars will parade into Brownwood Square starting at 4 pm.

Racing Show 4-9pm. Live music 5-9 pm.

Awards & door prizes will be presented at 7:45pm.

Stop by our Villages Motor Racing Fan Club booth for 2023 race schedules, motor racing fan club memberships & 50/50 and prize drawings!

We hope to see you there and be sure to wear your yellow club shirts to support our club!!!!!!!!!!



2022 Hall of Fame Induction Celebration. Oh, what a night.....



February 4, 2023

Hall of Fame Inductees

****Bill Watson**BlackieWangerin**Bill Blair, Jr.**
Jim DonnellyCody Hills**
Jerry ClarkRichard Poindexter****

There were 130 people in attendance and everyone appeared to have a great time. It was a winning combination - great people, delicious food, Suzie Casta entertaining us and wonderful conversation.



Club President/Hostess Gerry Greim and MC Art Fehrman

Pictures from Hall of Fame Induction Celebration



Above: Chris Bleistein accepting for Blackie Wangerin



Gerry Greim presenting Bill Blair Jr. his award



Pictured Left: Jim Donnelly



Pictured Right: Cody Hills



Pictured Left: Jerry Clark



Pictured Right: Richard Poindexter



Pictured Left: Bob Watson



Pictured Right: Dick Anderson

2022 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Jim Donnelly, Bob Watson, Richard Poindexter, Jerry Clark, Cody Hills
Not pictured: Bill Blair Jr., Blackie Wangerin

Pictures of members and guests enjoying the festivities.....



More fun pictures from Hall of Fame Celebration





2022 Glen Carter Crew Chief Award - Chris Bleistein

Buz McKim, host of the Legends of Racing Radio Show, had the honor of announcing that Chris was the recipient of this award.

Past-president Chris Bleistein has been successful in every area of the club's performance.

Through his relentless efforts, membership nearly doubled. Chris developed an admirable ability to consistently recruit excellent guest speakers for our meetings. With his leadership, club activities and outside events were always well received. His vision for continuous improvement elevated the quality of our annual Hall of Fame event to a higher level.

In accepting the award, Chris exhibited his humility by thanking the numerous members whom he felt were more deserving than he. His hard work and selfless attitude have put our club in an excellent position for a great future.

Membership Notice

Renewal time is quickly concluding. If you have not renewed, you can still do so at the March meeting at sign-in. You can renew by mail if you wish by sending me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check made out to TVMRFC for \$20.00. My address is Lois Taylor, 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163 and I will mail you the purple 2023 sticker for your membership card. After the March meeting, I will remove all who have not renewed or spoken to me.

If you are not sure you need to renew, please look at your current membership card. If it has a purple 2023 sticker on it, you are current. If it does not, then you need to renew. If at any time you are not sure, please free to call me at 352-633-5624 and I will check the membership list. We are growing and you do need to bring your membership card with you to the meeting.

I do have a number of cards that have not been picked up so I can also check on that for you. Arrive a little early for this March meeting. At the February meeting, we had people signing in just before the meeting started and had to have the Colony Rec Center staff set up more tables and chairs while the meeting was about to start, causing a delay to the start of the meeting. March is also a month that we have a large number of members and guests present.

Also, any changes in email address, Village address or phone number should be given to us as we sometimes need to reach out to you.

Lois Taylor
Membership 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 members.

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.

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



Took this month off. I was too tired from taking and posting pictures.



Let's Welcome our New Members!

Brian Broughton from Pennsylvania

Ronald Cook from Florida

Mark Ellis from Virginia

Ronald Manna from New York

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 need to order a minimum of six 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.

Sponsorship Opportunity with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club



Our club's Sponsorship Program is "revved" 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, Gerry Greim at 215-630-1402 or gerryglbi@cs.com.



Assistant Media Coordinators

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 and Facebook. We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. If you would like to talk about this opportunity, please call or email Mike, 217-714-2245 or mike.mag70@gmail.com.

Recording Secretary

We need a volunteer to record minutes at our board of directors meetings. These are held at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, August - April. The minutes are then emailed to the board members. Please call or email club president Gerry Greim to talk about this opportunity, 215-630-1402 or gerryglbi@cs.com.



PIT CREW

**Need to get in touch with a member of the Pit Crew?
Please see the information below.**

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Gerry Greim	President	Crew Chief	215-630-1402
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Volunteer needed	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	
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
Jeff Ing	Member At Large	Spotter	613-897-6263
Chris Bleistein	Immediate Past President	Team Owner	954-729-3050
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



ASA
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
765-459-3877



Platinum Sponsor
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
Alan Stone

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