



## PIT NEWS March, 2025

*Editor: Donna Gross*

**Next Meeting: April 2, 2025**

### *A Few Words from the President's Desk*



I want to thank everyone for attending regular meetings in our cozy Studebaker Room at Truman Rec Center. The old car theme is kinda appropriate for our club, some of us are oldies but goodies, too. We have one more meeting there, April 2, and I look forward to seeing you.

I also want to thank everyone who came out in support of our car show last Friday evening. For those of you who brought cars, they looked magnificent, shiny and prepped with loving care. For those of you who talked to people in the crowd who had questions about our club, great work. We handed out many brochures with applications to join. We also picked up a couple of possible speakers along the way.

The consensus is that it was the best car show yet. We had a lot of publicity in the Daily Sun and the crowds showed it. I want to say thank you to everyone, especially Jeff Ing, chairman of car shows, for such an effort, before, during and after the show.

As we enjoy this lovely Spring weather, stop to look at our beautiful cloud formations, our birds along the waterways and the many azaleas in bloom along our highways. Life in The Villages is good and we are all blessed to be able to live here.

**PLEASE NOTE: The April 2 meeting, will be held at the TRUMAN Rec Center, 2705 Canal St.**  
Colony Cottage Rec Center is still closed for repairs.

In closing, be sure to appreciate every day, enjoy our families and friends and always view your glass as half full.

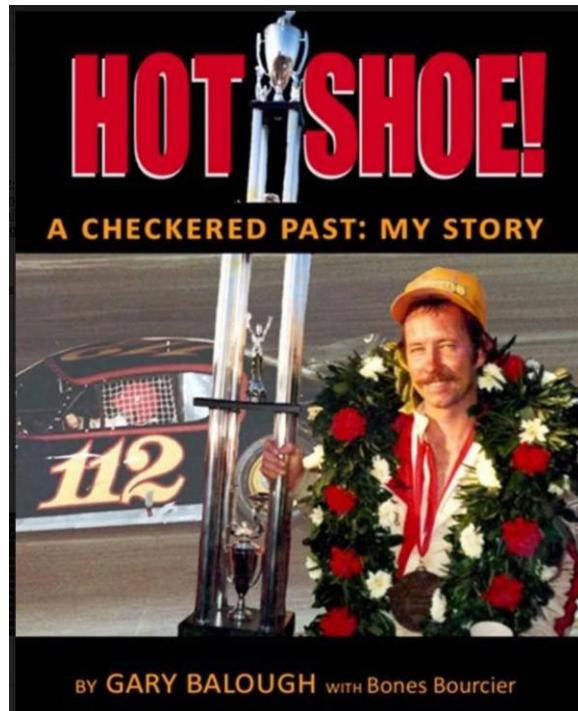
Sincerely,  
Gerry G, Prez

## Important Upcoming Dates

April 2, Wednesday  
April 5, Saturday  
May 7, Wednesday

Monthly Meeting, **Truman Rec Center, 2705 Canal St**, 7 PM  
Tailgate and Race at Citrus County Speedway, 4:30 PM  
Monthly Meeting, **Colony Cottage Rec Center**, 7 PM

### Next Meeting - April 2



Our next meeting is on Wednesday, April 2, at the **Truman Recreation Center, 2705 Canal St**, going green at 7 p.m. **Please take note of the temporary location.**

At the April meeting we will watch a 40-minute documentary about the infamous stock car racer, Gary Balough.

Gary grew up in Hialeah, Florida. He made a name for himself in Late Models on tracks in Florida and throughout the Southeast.

Balough then moved to Dirt Modifies in the Northeast and won multiple championships.

He also competed in NASCAR, achieving success in the Late Model Sportsman division and the Cup series.

Unfortunately, Balough's racing career was impacted by legal issues resulting from drug smuggling in organized crime.

## Pictures from February 5 Meeting



Guest Speaker Allan Gross and Club President Gerry Greim



### Prediction Row 2025



Prediction Row is a column in The Villages Daily Sun sports section every NASCAR points-race day.

We had two new winners after the race in Phoenix, which really shook up our standings:

1. Pete Zaagman - 1 win, 184 points  
(Pete, sorry for the misspelling of your name in the last newsletter)
2. Steve Poplarski - 1 win, 178 points
3. Richard Adkins - 1 win, 169 points
4. Jim Holcomb - 1 win, 119 points
5. Lou Palmer - 0 wins, 131 points
6. Gerry Hafer - 0 wins, 125 points

For the latest Prediction Row updates, please check the website.

Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator

## Citrus County Speedway Tailgate and Race – Saturday, April 5

Are you interested in attending a race at Citrus County Speedway along with a tailgate (club supplying the food)? Jeff Ing is coordinating this event and in order to have enough food, YOU MUST SIGN UP AT THE APRIL 2 MEETING OR CALL JEFF AT 631-897-6263. Meet at Citrus County Speedway, 3600 S Florida Ave, Inverness, FL at 4:30 PM.

## May 7 Club Meeting



The Board of Directors has decided to have a Chili Cook Off and Trivia Night at our May 7 meeting. We will have a sign-up sheet at the April 2 meeting. We did this awhile back and we had a great time. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Get out your recipe book and sign up to enter your chili in the contest and make it a fun event. Don't forget to bring your appetite on May 7.



EVERY THURSDAY Club members and guests meet at Bob Evans Restaurant, 2199 Parr Drive, corner of CR 466 & Tall Trees Lane.

EVERY FRIDAY Club members and guests meet at Toasted Yolk Cafe, 657 Kristine Way, Lake Deaton Plaza.

We order at 8 a.m. Come join the fun. Sit with fellow members and have a coffee or have breakfast and chat about all things racing.

## TVMRFC CAR SHOW - MARCH 7

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Car Show was held at Brownwood Paddock Square on Friday, March 7. Thanks to all the club members that came out to help and, of course, to the car owners who travelled to display their cars.



(L) Best Appearing: #3 Wrangler Monte Carlo, John Criswell  
(R) Oldest Car: 1935 Ford Pace Car, John Angiolo, both with Jeff Ing



(L) Travelled the farthest: Richard and Sue Poindexter, #14 Modified  
(R) Club members Jeff Ing, Silky Meegan and Gerry Greim - Awards Presenters

## Car Show Pictures – Continued



(L) Silky, Dick Anderson, Godfather of our club and Florida State Champion, Gerry and Art  
(R) Drag Racing Champion Sam Patrick – Custom Ford

## Citrus County Speedway VIP Booth – February 8

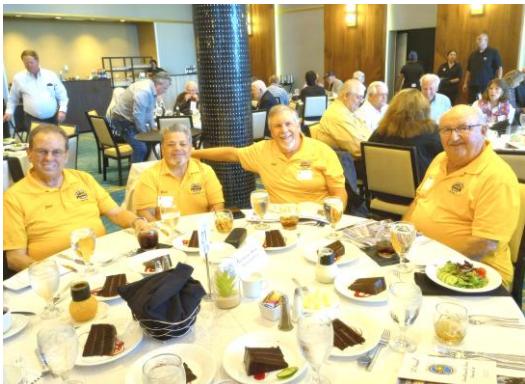


Nick Neri - 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish and receiving The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Bonus Award

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Living Legends of Auto Racing Banquet

There were 20 members from our club that attended the banquet. Ernie Irvan (pictured below and a member of our Hall of Fame) was honored with the Distinguished Driver Award.

A good time was had by all.



## Living Legends of Auto Racing Car Show – Daytona Beach





## *New Members*

GRANT TAPPEN - MICHIGAN

### **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 [Itaylr@hotmail.com](mailto:Itaylr@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.

### **Editor's Corner of jokes (and sometimes) useless funny tidbits...**



*The Best Things*  
in life are the people we love, the places we have been  
and the memories we have made along the way.

*Make memories today, as tomorrow is not promised.*

## Get Well and Thinking of You

*We would like to send well wishes to all of our members and their families who may be recovering from or are in the midst of dealing with a medical illness.*

### Club Apparel



Get ready to rock your club pride with our exclusive "crew uniform" apparel, featuring the iconic club logo! From stylish shirts to bold jackets, show the world you are part of the action. Check out the full collection now at [VillagesRacingClub.com](http://VillagesRacingClub.com)!

These top-quality items are available for viewing at every club meeting, and some items – without your personalized embroidery – are "cash and carry" for your convenience. Need your name embroidered? No problem! Orders for personalized gear are taken at every meeting, but we do require a minimum of six items per order (total from all members). Remember, cash or check is needed at the time of purchase.

Got questions or ready to place your order? Catch Mike Gross at a club meeting or reach out via email at [mikesg201@gmail.com](mailto:mikesg201@gmail.com). Let's gear up and represent the club in style!



## 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
Jeff Ing	Vice President and Car Shows Coordinator	Car Chief	631-897-6263
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary and Prediction Row Coordinator	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Craig Simundza	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	708-744-7292
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
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	Spotter	401-323-1334
John Angiolo	Sponsors Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Art Fehrman	Special Tours Coordinator	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Chris Bleistein	Immediate Past President	Team Owner	954-729-3050
Tony Kenna	Past President	Team Owner	352-603-9197
Jerry Conkle	Past President	Team Owner	352-630-9234

**Don't forget to visit our website for more club information.**

# Thank You



Mike Scott Plumbing  
Wildwood, FL  
352-748-9111



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



Ultrex Printing  
Lady Lake, FL  
352-205-8222



Kokomo Speedway  
Kokomo, IN  
765-459-3877

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.

## Village Kart Aide



Village Kart Aide  
The Villages, FL  
352-409-5853



Parts Geek  
Doylestown, PA  
800-541-9352



Mammoth Machines  
Leesburg, FL  
407-235-5282



ASA  
Midwest Tour



Choice Awards  
Bellevue, FL  
352-245-4496



TriLine Services  
The Villages, FL  
217-433-1394

## **GOLF Central**

Golf Central  
The Villages, FL  
352-633-5059



Historic Auto Attractions  
Roscoe, IL  
815-389-7917

## Benefactors

John Angiolo

Pat Fehrman

Jimmy Schumacher

Alan Stone

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