



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report-April, 2009

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The 2009 GATORNATIONALS... Another Trip to Remember!

March 13, 2009 will go down in the history of our club as yet another great day...our maiden voyage to Gainesville for the Gatornationals! A wild and wound-up group of 56 club members and guests boarded the bus at Laurel Manor at 7:30 am, with Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette waving the green flag on what would prove to be a wild, loud, and exciting day. They were not disappointed. In fact, the day generated so much excitement that plans are already underway for a repeat in 2010.

Here's a sampling of feedback from some of the folks who attended the event:

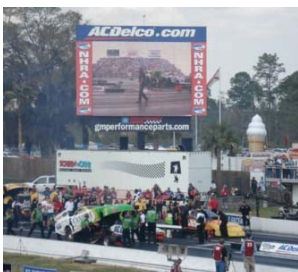
- I missed nobody making a left turn today but that worked out for the best. Thanks again for a great day!
- I just love that sound. I walked along the fence to get as close as I could get to the starting line.
- When John Force went down that track we



- (cont'd) could not believe how it shook the stands and even with ear protectors it was still deafening.
- The first time I heard that roar I was startled, but after that I wanted to hear more. Can I sign up now for the bus to the next Gatornationals?
- I've never had everything rattle, even my eyeballs, from any experience before!
- It was like standing on the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center during a shuttle launch!

So, this was without question one of the best trips our club has taken, and it added yet another dimension to our racing interests. In addition to our oval racing fascination, we can now say we're drag racing aficionados. It supports our long-standing creed that racing is racing, no matter what kind of engine or what kind of track is involved. Of course, we still need to explore speedboats...do any of you have any connection with this type of racing?

Wendy has already started a list of names for a repeat of the adventure in 2010. In fact, Wes the Bus Driver has indicated that he plans to have a larger engine installed in the bus, now that the experience has generated an extreme need for speed in his mind! (cont'd on page 2)



More on the 2009 GATORNATIONALS



Clockwise from top left: (1) The gang upon arrival, while they could still hear; (2) Gary Seyler taking in the action (hard to see, but his earplugs are actually spark plugs!); (3) Rumor has it Mike and Wendy bought this engine for their golf cart; (4) The Army team was either doing a burnout or making dinner; (5) See anyone you know? (6) John Force coming off the line.

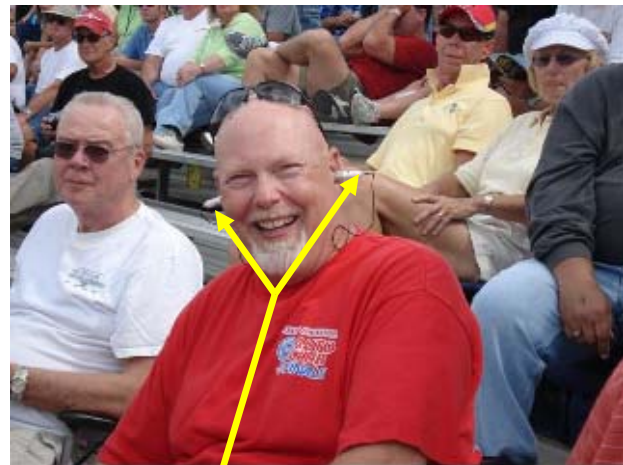
Still more on the 2009 GATORNATIONALS!



Kids and candy stores, perhaps?



Getting close to the action (left); Ted and Ashley Force (right)...dream on, Ted.



Your guess is as good as mine (left); A better shot of the "special" ear plugs (right)

Club Members in the News...

Our members continue to “make the news” in and around The Villages. For example, those of you who live south of CR 466 probably noticed this feature article on Mike Touchette that appeared in the February 14 edition of The Mix section of The Daily Sun. The article did an excellent job of highlighting Mike’s career as a big-rig teamster, and even touched on his exploits as a drag racer up in the New England area. As most of you know, he’s now serving The Villages as facility supervisor at Colony Cottage, and is personally overseeing the set-ups for our regular monthly meetings.



Other club news makers in the past few weeks included Silky Meegan and Ted and Diana Cahalane. The trio was honored in Pensacola for their continuing successful efforts on behalf of the “help them call home” project. The commemorative flag and plaque they received is pictured at left.



Barbara McLaughlin receives a letter of recognition from John Bircher, ambassador for Freedom Team Salute, Monday as members of The Villages Operation Shoebox were honored at Lake Miona Recreation Center.

2009 Spring Training Ticket Giveaway

TheVillages.Net customers, [register to win Atlanta Braves' Spring Training tickets](#) at Cracker Jack Stadium in Disney's Wide World of Sports® Complex. Good Luck from TheVillages.Net!!!

Congratulations to this weeks winners:

- Lesly Lopez
- William Hammond
- **Peter Tetrault**

There are more tickets to give away, so it's not too late to [register to win](#).

Another civic project ardently supported by our club is **Operation Shoebox**, and club member Barbara McLaughlin was recently recognized during a ceremony at Lake Miona Rec Center for her outstanding service to this group. Also, Zoe Ann Burt continues to receive public accolades for her daring “bucket list” step of skydiving.

A “Bucket List” Comes to Life

**GERRY HAFER
CORRESPONDENT**

So, what possesses a 72-year-old mother of three, stepmother of two, grandmother of ten, cancer survivor, and wife of a former NASCAR driver to step out of a perfectly sound airplane at a height of 14,000 feet?

It can't be a lack of exciting experiences - she's had more than a few. It can't be the challenges of just living day-to-day - she's had a few of those, too. It must be something else and, in Villages resident Zoe Ann Burt's case, it was the epiphany she experienced last summer after watching the movie, “The Bucket List.”

Zoe Ann and her husband, Arthur (a.k.a. “Buster”), each vowed to create their own Bucket List as homage to the movie's impact on them, and sky diving was at the top of Zoe Ann's list.

Buster put returning to the high banks of Daytona Speedway—where he raced at the track's inaugural event in 1959—as his number one item. And he soon

was one of tremendous joy, incredible wind velocity, and astonishingly cold air.

Free falling for roughly one minute at a rate of 160 feet per second gave Zoe Ann little opportunity to ponder the experience.

were her brother, Brad Gaudin from Michigan, and her best friend, Connie Ferrin - from Maine. After the shared experience, she reports, all three acknowledged that they've substantially strengthened their

Zoe Ann Burt, 72, after her first parachute jump.

And, in case you missed it, or if you don't subscribe to thevillages.net, congratulations are in order to Peter Tetrault for winning tickets to a 2009 Spring Training game!

Welcome, New Members!

With our recent relocation to larger quarters at Colony Cottage, we have a lot more room for new members! And, they just keep coming! We added a few more at the March meeting, two of whom are pictured below. As I mentioned before, it is sometimes difficult, with the chaos that goes on during breaks and after meetings, to grab the new members for photos, so if you are a new member this year and you've not been pictured in our newsletter, please let Tom Horrmann know (he's the guy moving around constantly taking pictures during the meetings!) and he'll snap you. It's your chance to make the news!

Here are the two Tom was able to corner at the March 22 meeting:



(Left) Richard Pitts- Holbrook, N.Y. ; (Right) Richard Many- Freedom, N.H.



Another Form of Racing Heard From...Formula 1

Club member Duncan Paterson provided a riveting presentation at our March 25 meeting, covering the intricacies of Formula 1 racing and its similarities to, and differences from, the types of racing our club has followed so far. Affectionately known during his tenure in European and Canadian F1 racing circles as "Hot Doc," Paterson covered a number of aspects of open wheel F1 racing, from technical differences to track differences, and entertained our audience with tales of his exploits as a track surgeon, a competitor, and a spectator. During his presentation, he explained the basic technical specification differences between NASCAR cars, IRL cars, and traditional Formula 1 cars, using charts like the one shown at right. His remarks covered the technical differences in F1 cars in the area of breaking, aerodynamics, and body design, as well as the characteristics of a number of the more prominent race tracks on the F1 circuit, including Mosport, Brands-Hatch, and Watkins Glen, to name a few.

Paterson's comments had the ring of authenticity as a result of his experience as Track medical Officer at four Formula 1 tracks, coupled with his experience as a car owner/competitor. His experience, by the way, includes several seasons of competition in ice racing in Ontario, where he earned championships two years running in the Studded Class! That was interesting to hear, since we really don't do much ice racing here in Florida. All-in-all, another great night for the club and another fascinating venture into yet another dimension of racing.

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CAR COMPARISON

INDYCAR SERIES CAR

Engine	2.6L, 2800 cc	Weight	1600 lbs
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Length	140 in
Engine	2.6L, 2800 cc	Width	60 in
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Height	40 in
Engine	2.6L, 2800 cc	Weight	1600 lbs
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Length	140 in
Engine	2.6L, 2800 cc	Width	60 in
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Height	40 in

FORMULA ONE CAR

Engine	2.4L, 2400 cc	Weight	1600 lbs
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Length	140 in
Engine	2.4L, 2400 cc	Width	60 in
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Height	40 in
Engine	2.4L, 2400 cc	Weight	1600 lbs
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Length	140 in
Engine	2.4L, 2400 cc	Width	60 in
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Height	40 in

NASCAR SPRINT CUP STOCK CAR

Engine	5.0L, 5000 cc	Weight	3500 lbs
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Length	140 in
Engine	5.0L, 5000 cc	Width	60 in
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Height	40 in
Engine	5.0L, 5000 cc	Weight	3500 lbs
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Length	140 in
Engine	5.0L, 5000 cc	Width	60 in
Driver	One driver, 170 lbs	Height	40 in

Source: www.nascar.com, www.f1.com, www.indycar.com

Special Events Roundup



It's hard to believe we're this far into the 2009 racing year! With the Daytona and New Smyrna Speedweeks events behind us, we're beginning to develop some plans for club events for the next few months. So far, we've laid out some tentative plans for the club to do some new things (stretch our wings a bit), and we've come up with these items so far:

- **Saturday, May 2**—Florida Champ Kart League Race at Speedway Park right here in Fruitland Park. This is a major event for the track, and will feature roughly 50

of the best Kart racers in Florida, as well as many from out-of-state. Details will be discussed at the April 22 meeting, but we're planning a full day event with picnic refreshments and close-up racing.

- **Saturday, June 20**—the second annual Club Golf Scramble has been scheduled for Bacall, with a starting tee time

At 1:02 pm and a pot-luck picnic to follow. Dave Colbert is doing the heavy lifting on this one, and has agreed to address the severe weather problems we had at last year's event. Go, Dave!

See you all at the 4/22 meeting...of course if you have any ideas for activities, just let us know. *Wendy*

Local Racing Corner

Location	January Event Schedule
Ocala Speedway 9050 NW Gainesville Rd Ocala, FL 34482 (352) 622-9400 (www.ocalaspeedway.com)	Racing every Friday night for regular classes
Citrus County Speedway U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds. (352) 726-9339 (www.citruscountyspeedway.com)	Racing every Saturday night for regular classes
New Smyrna Speedway Corner of State Route 44 and 415. P.O. Box 1500 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170 (386) 427-4129 (www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)	Racing every Saturday night for regular classes
Orlando Speedworld 19164 East Colonial Drive (Highway 50 just west of 520 Cocoa cut-off) Orlando, FL 32833 407-568-1367 (www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org)	Racing every Friday night for regular classes;
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 466A near The Villages) Florida's oldest 1/8th mile clay oval Go-Kart track; less than a mile from The Villages! See website for schedule (www.speedwaypark.net)	Racing the first and third Friday of each month

Visit our website: www.villagesracingclub.com

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

Glen Carter, President (751-6442)
 Gerry Hafer, Vice Pres./Newsletter (751-3643)
 Ted Cahalane, Treasurer (751-2638)
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Linda Carter, Historian (751-6442)
 Mike Touchette, Member at Large (430-0239)
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)
 Tom Horrmann, Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)

Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



Greetings, fellow race fans! Well, we made it through our first meeting at the new location, and what a great night it was. Wasn't it wonderful to have so much room to spread out? We had a total of 99 members and guests at the meeting, and we still had plenty of breathing room! We're looking forward to many more great meetings and activities at the beautiful

Colony Cottage facility. And, while I'm talking about the meeting, I want to extend yet another note of thanks to Duncan Paterson for taking us on a great trip through Formula 1 racing. Us fender-bound, step-on-the-gas and turn left, bump-drafting stock car guys sometimes forget there are other worlds of fascinating racing.

And, speaking of other worlds, how about the trip to the NHRA Gatornationals? Man, my ears are still ringing! Many thanks to Dave Colbert for helping open us up to still another tremendous (and close-by) racing event.

On May 2, we'll get to experience one more "new" type of racing—Go Karts—when we take the 10 minute trip over to Speedway Park. Gerry and I went over there a few weeks ago and sampled it, and we can tell you it's pretty exciting.

Hope to see you all on April 22 at Colony Cottage!

Glen

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

Now here's an interesting perspective that I stumbled across while digging around on the NASCAR.com site. While it doesn't relate directly to wins or points, it does provide a measure of the consistency that the drivers exhibit throughout their competitive time on the track. It's called "Average Running Position," and it's the sum of the driver's position on *each* lap, divided by the laps run in the race. So, if you compare this statistic to the current Cup points standings, you'll see that consistency does really pay off! These stats, by the way, are through the Texas race (April 5).

RANK	CAR	DRIVER	RACES STARTED	AVERAGE PLACE
1	24	Jeff Gordon	7	5.175
2	48	Jimmie Johnson	7	7.935
3	11	Denny Hamlin	7	9.721
4	2	Kurt Busch	7	10.199
5	14	Tony Stewart	7	10.474
6	99	Carl Edwards	7	10.613
7	18	Kyle Busch	7	13.564
8	5	Mark Martin	7	14.129
9	33	Clint Bowyer	7	15.270
10	31	Jeff Burton	7	15.509
11	88	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	7	15.827
12	9	Kasey Kahne	7	15.827
13	16	Greg Biffle	7	16.297
14	00	David Reutimann	7	16.554
15	83	Brian Vickers	7	16.786
16	42	Juan Pablo Montoya	7	17.730
17	29	Kevin Harvick	7	18.437
18	26	Jamie McMurray	7	18.731
19	17	Matt Kenseth	7	19.577
20	39	Ryan Newman	7	20.600
21	12	David Stremme	7	20.698
22	44	AJ Allmendinger	7	21.773
23	6	David Ragan	7	22.224
24	1	Martin Truex Jr.	7	22.437
25	47	Marcos Ambrose	7	22.685

And, here's another interesting view...the top twelve drivers in terms of the number of miles they've led through the April 5 race.

RANK	CAR	DRIVER	MILES
1	18	Kyle Busch	500.97
2	24	Jeff Gordon	495.70
3	48	Jimmie Johnson	373.44
4	2	Kurt Busch	367.36
5	17	Matt Kenseth	268.00
6	16	Greg Biffle	231.50
7	11	Denny Hamlin	159.43
8	31	Jeff Burton	91.50
9	14	Tony Stewart	67.50
10	99	Carl Edwards	61.62
11	00	David Reutimann	60.53
12	19	Elliott Sadler	60.00

(Data Source = NASCAR.com)

Buddy Pearce—In the News Again!

In case you might have missed this, Daily Sun columnist Bob Turner provided an excellent tribute to club Hall of Famer Buddy Pearce on March 9. It is reprinted here with permission...sorry that looks a bit like a ransom note!



**BOB
TURNER**
COLUMNIST

Resident used to race stock cars

Spruce Creek South resident Buddy Pearce raced stock cars on dirt tracks in the 1940s, long before NASCAR made the sport a household word. The walls of his den are decorated with just a few of the many black-and-white, 8-by-10-inch glossy photos that document his racing days.

He said he began racing stock cars at age 14 at local tracks in the Pittsburgh, Pa., area, winning a fair number of races. He was driven to the track by members of his pit crew since he was too young for a driver's license.

In 1960, Buddy moved with his wife to West Palm Beach, where they opened a small restaurant. A customer who knew Pearce from "Up North" came into the new establishment and approached Buddy, saying, "We have to get you a car out there for this speedway."

He was referring to a race track that recently had been built in the area. Pointing to a photo of himself racing the "Orange Blossom 100," running second to Bobby Allison from the "Alabama Gang" who went on to NASCAR fame, Buddy said, "This was the fastest high-banked, 'S'-asphalt, half-mile track in the United States – The Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway!" He then pointed out others in the photo, including Red Farmington and Donnie Allison. They all were bunched in a tight turn.

A large trophy dominated one corner of the room. Early fans of stock car racing might recognize some of the names engraved on small plaques attached to the ornate fixture. As I read aloud the names of those destined for the Hall of Fame, Buddy told me how the trophy found its way to his home.

It seems the town fathers were under pressure to eliminate stock car racing at the fairgrounds as the sport was perceived by some to be noisy and dirty and was thought to be distracting from the dignity of the town. Consequently, the track was demolished.

According to Pearce, workers assigned to clean out a shed came across items they considered to be valuable memorabilia. They were shrugged off by the person in charge, who told them, "I do not care about that. Get rid of all the junk. Put it in the Dumpster."

At 10 that evening, Pearce received a phone call from a car enthusiast living in Jupiter who had retrieved some of the artifacts. "I went up there

that night, and he gave me that trophy. It was all broken apart and I restored it," Buddy said.

At a recent reunion of drivers and pit crews, including the Hall of Fame Allison brothers, Pearce related how the earlier decision to demolish the track was discussed with people currently associated with the West Palm Beach Fair.

They told him, "This could have been Homestead."

He chuckled when he said, "They missed the boat."

He was asked if he would consider selling the piece back to the West Palm Beach Fairgrounds. The trophy remains secure at his SCS home among Buddy's other

mementos of his days as a stock car race driver.

Pearce has another love – restoring Model A Fords. He is president of the Heart Of Florida Model A Restorers Club. Of the many he has restored, his pride and joy is a 1932 model, which, after restoration, is close to 100 percent authentic.

He has won the highest award in class from the two national antique automobile clubs, AACA and VMCCA.

"It is a very good hobby. It is the cheapest hobby you can get into, because once you buy a car, and as long as you take care of it, it will always be worth more money," Pearce said.

Gesturing toward the beauty in his garage, he said, "This car is worth twice as much as I paid for it 12 years ago. And I have had \$10 million worth of fun out of that car!"