



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report

### April, 2011

#### In This Issue:

2011 Villages Cup	1
NHRA Gatornationals	2
The 2011 Poker Run is Coming!	2
Boggy Creek to Receive Contribution	3
Club Favorites Shine	3
Special Events Roundup	4
Bedell to Race at Ocala 4/23	5
Local Racing Corner	5
The "Woody" Collection	6
More Club Website Changes	6
Your Pit Crew	7
Holiday Shopping Tips	7
So you don't need to look it	7
Bumper stickers to ponder	7
Villages Cup Photos	8

#### Bill Ponstein Captures The Cup!

**March 20**—He's not only the father of a race car driver, he's a championship driver himself! Of course, we're talking about Bill Ponstein and his dominating win in the 2011 Villages Cup competition over defending champion George "Snowmobile" Glotfelty. Ponstein displayed a strong command of the tricky 1/8 mile gumbo clay track as he cruised to victory in the 10-lap feature event, while Glotfelty had his hands full dealing with club newcomer Steve Kessenich as they battled for runner-up honors.



Bill Ponstein's Victory Lap!

"Big Dave" Bockman finished fourth in the championship round after being plagued with mechanical problems early in the race. The Consolation Race also produced some exciting competition, with first place going to Jan Veenendaal. Corky Eck took second place, Paul Barth third, and Mike Roemer fourth. Jessica Greene of The Villages Daily Sun provided excellent coverage of the event...if you missed her article in their March 22 edition, you can catch a reprint on the "Archives" page of our club website. (More photos on page 8)



Crew Chief Hafer (I) with Championship Winners, from left, Ponstein, Glotfelty, Kessenich, Bockman, and Bockman's crew chief Nic Fernandez.



Hafer (I) with Consolation Winners, from left, Veenendaal, Eck, and Roemer. 3rd place finisher Barth is missing from photo.

## Gatornationals Report Full Throttle at its Best!

**March 11-**Our group was well-represented at this year's NHRA Gatornationals, with a contingent of 51 members making the trip to Gainesville Raceway. The weather was perfect for racing, and our Special Events Coordinator Wendy once again delivered with excellent spectator seating and bus arrangements. But beyond all of this, be sure to read Wendy's report on the trip (you can find it on the "Archives" page of our website).

Here are a few of the highlights...more can be found on our website.



Silky's Jacket gets another one...Bob Tasca this time!

And, as if the event itself was not exciting enough, several of our members were treated to an in-depth tour of Bob Tasca's pit area, arranged through club member Ron Schauster and his friend, Mike Cunningham. Cunningham holds the position of "Super Charger and Mechanic" on Team Tasca, and his son, Chris, is Tasca's Crew Chief. As our group has discovered over the years, up-close and personal experiences like this tend to make racing events all the more interesting.



Kurt Busch tries his hand at going straight! He actually did quite well for the first time out.

## Poker Run Preview

2011 Poker Run Chairman Wayne Nolan has organized a dedicated crew to oversee the April 16 event, and all of the details are coming together nicely. The event will get underway at 1:00 pm on that date, with all participants launched from Colony Cottage in search of the five stops in the run. A set of hints will be provided, and participants will be free to plot their own course, with only one caveat...

all five stops must be reached by 2:30 pm, so that participants can report back to Pimlico Rec Center for the start of festivities at 3:00 pm. The entry fee for the event is \$8 per participant, and this fee will cover prizes and food. In keeping with our typical format, the event will be BYOB and BYOC (since there is limited seating at Pimlico's pavilion).

Registrations will be taken at the April 6 meeting, or you can sign-

up by calling Wayne at 750-9082.

See you there!



Chef Wayne at work!



## Board Votes on Contributions for 2011

At its March 15 regular monthly meeting, our Pit Crew reached a decision to provide financial support to Camp Boggy Creek, Florida's "Hole in the Wall Camp" for seriously ill children. A contribution of \$1,000 will be awarded to this organization later this spring.

The Camp, located in nearby Eustis, Florida, is a member of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, "an international family of camps and programs that provide life-changing experiences to children with serious medical conditions, always free of charge. (Their) goal is to extend these experiences to as many children as possible around the world." An even more down-to-earth description appears on Boggy Creek's website: "The Main Purpose of Boggy Creek is to forget you have what you have."

Established in 1990 on a 232 acre tract in Lake County, the



Camp's 2,000 volunteers have served more than 40,000 children and their families. The children are between the ages of 7 and 16, and are experiencing one of these diseases: asthma, bleeding disorders and hemophilia, cancer, craniofacial disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart/cardiovascular, HIV/AIDS, Inflammatory bowel disease, kidney disease, rheumatic disease, ventilator assisted disorders, sickle cell anemia, spina bifida, and transplants. All of the services are provided through contributions and donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

The contribution to Camp Boggy Creek is in addition to a \$500

contribution made last month to Speedway Park as part of the track's Marty Ruser Tribute, and event conducted to raise funds to defray medical expenses accumulated by Ruser, the track's Race Director. The contribution was in the form of a class sponsorship for their February 19th major national-level karting event, during which club members played a key support role in running the event that brought roughly 175 race teams to the Lake County racing facility.

In deciding on these contributions, the Pit Crew expressed pleasure that the club is able to continue the philanthropic portion of its mission. Crew Chief Gerry Hafer reports that, since its inception in 2006, the club has awarded more than \$15,000 to various charities, scholarship recipients, and a variety of sources in direct support of local racing programs in Florida.

## Two Club Favorites Shine at Speedway Park!

**March 19**—A contingent of club members was on hand at Speedway Park on March 19 to witness **Harold Bedell's** return to action in the Florida Slingshot series. It was a great night, with Harold winning his heat race handily, and then placing a solid second in the Slingshot feature race. What made this feature finish even more respectable was Harold's between-race recovery from a broken steering linkage that occurred at the end of the heat race. It was a treat for us to see our club logo once again circling the track on

the wing of Harold's red No. 24 entry!

And to make the night even more spectacular, **Nic Fernandez** won a heat race, finished fourth in his second heat, and finished second in his feature race. He's recorded a feature win already in 2011, and is looking like a title contender at this point. In fact, after four nights of racing, Nic sits firmly atop the standings in the Junior Purple division, with a 135-point lead over second place Blaise Leithhead.



Top—Harold Bedell, still living a dream! Bottom—Nic Fernandez, a rising star!



## Special Events Roundup



Well, the 2011 Villages Cup came and went, and I decided to let the guys have all the trophies this year :) It was another outstanding day for the club, and I was amazed to see the number of people that turned out to cheer for the competitors. Congratulations to Bill Ponstein and Jan Veenendaal on their first place trophy runs in the Championship and Consolation races, as well as to Buddy Pearce and Nic Fernandez on their celebrity event wins.

Not too much going on right now in the way of trips and special events but, don't worry, things will pick up as we get further into the racing season. Here's the current list of some club activities for the next few weeks...watch our website for changes and updates!

*Wendy*

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, April 2 Saturday, April 16 Saturday, May 7 Saturday, May 21 Speedway Park	Speedway Park's normal schedule for racing is the first and third Saturday of each month. Head over and watch the karts go at it, and cheer for club favorite Nic Fernandez as he races his blue number 3 go-kart. He's really on a roll, solidly leading the points race in the Junior Purple class.
Wednesday, April 6 Colony Cottage	Our regular monthly meeting, featuring Pete Rosendahl. Pete's topics will be racing from a sponsor's point of view and R/C racing (with information on an opportunity for the club).
Saturday, April 16 Golf Cart Poker Run	Wayne Nolan and his committee have begun to develop detail plans for this event. A route has been mapped out, and Wayne and his committee are working out the details. The Run will start at Colony Cottage and end at Pimlico, and we'll have hot dogs and hamburgers as we celebrate the winners. Cost is \$8 per person.
Saturday, April 23 Ocala Micro Speedway	Harold Bedell and the Slingshots are racing at Bill & Lori Cleary's new racing facility in Ocala. We'll be running a carpool trip up to the track, with a sponsorship package in support of Harold's racing efforts. The carpool will leave from Laurel Manor Parking lot at 4:00 pm. A sign up sheet will be available at the April 6 meeting. Cost is \$10 per person.
Wednesday, May 4 Colony Cottage	Our regular monthly meeting, featuring Bill Garcia. Bill will be sharing his history and experiences as a sprint car driver.
Wednesday, June 2 Colony Cottage	Our regular monthly meeting, featuring Lee Krauss. Lee's topics will be "Rat Rods" and his experience in building one. He will have his 1946 International Harvester Rat Rod on display.
Saturday, July 2 Daytona International Speedway	Coke Zero 400. We're again working through Lake Limo for this trip, with an announced package price ranging from \$91 to \$139. Call Aimee @ 742-2808 for details...this trip is open to the general public. (See flyer attached for details).

## Harold Bedell Racing at Ocala 4/23

In just the past few days, we learned that Harold Bedell and the Florida Slingshots will be making an appearance at **Ocala Micro Speedway** on Saturday, April 23. The quarter mile dirt track, located at 7197 N.W. Gainesville Road, is the former site of Thunderbowl Speedway and was recently taken over by Bill and Lori Cleary. Bill and Lori, of course, or members of our club's Hall of Fame and were the operators of the now-defunct Sumter Motorsports Park east of Bushnell. Logistical issues in 2010 forced the closing of SMP and the Cleary's subsequent move to Ocala, where they initiated racing operations late last year.

Ocala Micro Speedway's long backstretch...the drivers love it!

In a recent telephone interview, Bill Cleary reported that "Things are really falling into place for us, and the track is in great shape." With this in mind, and based on our interest in Harold's career, we immediately jumped on the opportunity to orchestrate a club trip for the April 23 racing date. The carpool will



leave Laurel Manor parking lot at 4:00 pm, and the track's refreshment concessions will be open by the time we arrive.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the April 6 meeting and, if you can't make the meeting but would like to join us, give Gerry Hafer a call at 751-3643.

### Local Racing Corner

Race Track	Website & Telephone	Current Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway, Ocala	<a href="http://www.ocalaspeedway.com">www.ocalaspeedway.com</a> 352-622-9400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apr. 1—Open Wheel Mods</li> <li>Apr. 8—Late Models</li> <li>Apr. 15-17—Monster Jam Summer Heat Tour</li> <li>Apr. 22—Open Wheel Mods</li> </ul>
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	<a href="http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com">www.citruscountyspeedway.com</a> 352-726-9339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apr. 9—Reg. show</li> <li>Apr. 16—Reg. show, w/DAARA cars</li> <li>Apr. 23—Reg. show</li> <li>Apr. 30—Reg. show, w/Green Mamba</li> </ul>
New Smyrna Speedway, Samsula	<a href="http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org">www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a> 386-427-4129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apr. 2—Reg. show</li> <li>Apr. 9—Reg. show, w/LLM 50 lap</li> <li>Apr. 16—Reg. show, Billie Harvey Mem. SLM100 lap</li> <li>Apr. 23—Reg. show</li> <li>Apr. 30—Reg. show</li> </ul>
Orlando Speedworld, Bithlo	<a href="http://www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org">www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org</a> 407-568-1367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apr. 1—Reg. show, w/SLM</li> <li>Apr. 8—Reg. show</li> <li>Apr. 15—Reg. show, w/SLM</li> <li>Apr. 22—Reg. show, w/SLM</li> <li>Apr. 29—Reg. show, w/SLM</li> </ul>
Speedway Park, Fruitland Park	<a href="http://www.originalspeedwaypark.com">www.originalspeedwaypark.com</a> 352-308-7664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apr. 2—Regular show</li> <li>Apr. 16—Regular show</li> </ul>
Ocala Micro Speedway, Ocala	<a href="http://Www.ocalamicrospeedway.com">Www.ocalamicrospeedway.com</a> 352-279-6218	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday night racing</li> <li>Apr. 23—FL Slingshots (Club trip)</li> </ul>



## Remember Those Old Woodies?

A few weeks ago, Tom Horrmann sent me a collection of photos of wood-sided cars from quite a few years back. I can remember a few of these woodies rolling along the highway as I delivered newspapers up in Reading, PA. They kind of stood out amidst the limited number of paint schemes available back then, so you had to notice them!

In researching the origin of the photos, I learned that they are from a collection owned by a BMW dealer in the Los Angeles area (I noticed two different owner names, Nick Phillips and Nick Alexander), and there was one report that the collection was recently sold for \$7 million

at an auction in Monterey, CA (although another report placed the auction at Pebble beach). Anyway you can view the collection at <http://www.jalopyjournal.com/forum/showthread.php?t=466583>, and here are a few photos from the site:



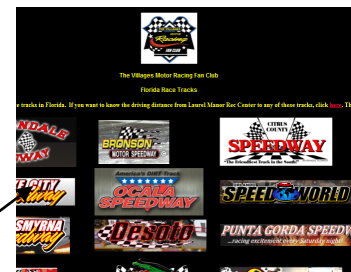
## Club's Website Expanded

**March 31**— You may have noticed some additional changes implemented over the past month to our club website. Following closely on the heels of the “one-click” high profile information access feature added to the homepage in early March, club webmaster Gerry Hafer has recently begun to expand the website’s “Links” page to include a number of research features. Through this page (which is accessed via the navigation bar at the bottom of the homepage), visitors can browse to the webpages of race tracks in Florida, to webpages covering racing activities in a variety of racing series in Florida and across the nation, websites presenting a wide variety of media information on all aspects of motor racing, and websites containing historical information on just

about any form of motor racing, from NASCAR to drag racing, from IndyCar to general stock car racing, and so on.

Additional linkage is planned for the future, including links to driver sites and blogs, as well as

links to sites that are of general interest to club members. Hafer reports that this expansion effort is part of an overall mission of making the club’s website a premier source of motorsports information for members and for the public at large.



### Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)  
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)  
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)  
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)  
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)  
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)  
 Buster Burt, Technical Consulting (751-4643)  
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (408-3712)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)  
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)

### Shopping Tip

With Christmas being only 266 days away, now's the time to start thinking about those motorsports-themed gifts for those special ones on your shopping list. To help you in this effort, your website staff has been doing some preliminary research on your behalf, and we've located a site that offers some unique items that you may want to consider. Take a look at **mygaragestore.com**...you'll get some pretty interesting ideas for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list. For example, there's a variety of racing-wheel bar stools and tables, a chrome piston-shaped coffee mug, simulated diamond plate switch covers, and a pendulum clock made out of recycled cycle chains. There's also my personal favorite, the backyard cooler made from an actual tire from a Cup car.



### Bumper Stickers to Ponder



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

There are a lot of "young guns" popping up in the NASCAR Sprint Cup ranks (like Trevor Bayne, for example), but you have to wonder...how long will they be around? That got us thinking about the veterans and all-time greats, and how long they campaigned, week after week after week. We found this statistic that put this matter in perspective...the number of Cup-event starts these "old timers" recorded during their careers. Here are the top 20 in this statistical category:

- 1) Richard Petty, 1184 [200, 16.9%]
- 2) Ricky Rudd, 906 [23]
- 3) Dave Marcis, 883 [5]
- 4) Terry Labonte, 869 [22]
- 5) Kyle Petty, 829 [8]
- 6) Bill Elliott, 825\* [44]
- 7) Darrell Waltrip, 809 [84, 10.4%]
- 8) Mark Martin, 799\* [40]
- 9) Michael Waltrip, 761 [4]
- 10) Sterling Marlin, 748 [10]
- 11) Ken Schrader, 732 [4]
- 12) Bobby Allison, 718 [84, 11.7%]
- 13) Rusty Wallace, 706 [55]
- 14) Buddy Baker, 699 [19]
- 15) Dale Earnhardt, 676 [76, 11.2%]
- 16) Dale Jarrett, 668 [32]
- 17) JD McDuffie, 653 [0]
- 18) Buck Baker, 636 [46]
- 19) Bobby Labonte, 623\* [21]
- 20) Jeff Gordon, 622\* [83]

But starting a race is one thing, running a race is something else. Here are the top 20 in terms of Cup laps actually run competitively:

- 1 Richard Petty, 307,836
- 2 Ricky Rudd, 259,746
- 3 **Terry Labonte**, 251,066
- 4 **Bill Elliott**, 238,676
- 5 Darrell Waltrip, 237,773
- 6 Kyle Petty, 232,922
- 7 Dave Marcis, 231,337
- 8 **Mark Martin**, 224,441
- 9 **Michael Waltrip**, 213,447
- 10 **Ken Schrader**, 211,254
- 11 Sterling Marlin, 209,071
- 12 Rusty Wallace, 204,818
- 13 Dale Earnhardt, 202,888
- 14 Bobby Allison, 197,438
- 15 Dale Jarrett, 185,948
- 16 Jeff Gordon, 178,840
- 17 **Bobby Labonte**, 175,861
- 18 Jeff Burton, 166,136
- 19 James Hylton, 160,762
- 20 Geoff Bodine, 158,418

Statistics courtesy of ESPN/Jayski's Silly Season Site





## *More Action Shots from The 2011 Villages Cup!*



The event attracted a huge crowd of spectators!



Grand Marshal Buster Burt checks out the track



Jim Dunaway...set to go!



Wendy "Danica" Touchette...outta my way!



"Big Dave" Bockman battles an ill-fitting helmet



Buddy Pearce...a happy man!