



PIT NEWS *April 2021*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: May 5, 2021

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Once again we have a very exciting guest speaker, Becca Monopoli, for our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Please see more about Becca's attributes in the feature article in this newsletter.

I would like to thank all of our members who have paid their annual dues, which has greatly helped to keep our club in good financial standing. I would also like to send a huge thank you to our sponsors for all their support. We have been able to donate \$100 to the third-place finisher at the local short tracks many times this season and are hoping to continue. These donations are giving our club lots of positive recognition throughout the area and in the racing community.

We will be taking our summer break and therefore, the May 5 meeting will be our last meeting until we reconvene in September once again. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and **require that masks be worn** at the May meeting.

Donna Gross is hoping to continue with the newsletter throughout the summer months, but it may be an abbreviated newsletter so that she may enjoy the summer, too.

We are already planning for many fun activities when we return. Please try to support our local tracks for a fun evening wherever you may be.

Please continue to enjoy our newsletter and if anyone has a suggestion for a guest speaker or anything else they would like to see the club do in the future, please let me know. My e-mail is cbfla13@bellsouth.net.

I wish everyone a very safe and fun summer.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

Our Guest Speaker for May 5 Meeting Becca Monopoli



Our next meeting is on May 5 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker is an outstanding local racer, Becca Monopoli.

Becca is a Lakeland Fla. native with ten years of racing experience on Central Florida tracks. In her first season of racing in 2011, Monopoli won Florida's state points championship for Legends racing and Auburndale Speedway's driver of the year award.

The 31-year-old has moved up to the Pro Truck series and done extremely well. In the 2019 season, she won the Auburndale Pro Truck track championship. At that point in her racing career, she had 14 track titles to her credit. She has also seen success behind the wheel of a Super Late Model.

Becca is a graduate of Daytona State College with a degree in interior design.

**To see Becca in action, watch her compete at Citrus County Speedway
on Saturday, May 1**

**** IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL MEETINGS **
Masks MUST BE WORN at ALL TIMES during the meetings and
entering and leaving the recreation center**

Prediction Row 2021



Art Staus and Melanie Scott are our only "winner pickers" thus far. Art predicted Truex at Martinsville, the eighth race of the season. This is the first time in 13 years our first winning prediction has come so late in the racing season. Melanie picked Keselowski at Talladega.

After the Talladega race on April 25, our standings are as follows:

Art Staus - 1 win 302 points
Melanie Scott - 1 win 292 points
Doug Baker - 0 wins 345 points
Larry Hanna - 0 wins 340 points
Jim West - 0 wins 287 points
Shel Larsen - 0 wins 259 points

As expected, the dirt race at Bristol seems to have been the most interesting and eventful so far. To begin with, ALL the predictors picked Larson - no surprise here. This was only the second time in 13 years everyone picked the same driver; he ended up with 8 points. The dirt racetrack turned into a mud pit and the ensuing rains forced a postponement until Monday. With a field of mostly non-dirt drivers, the learning curve was huge and many never learned. Most of the favorites wrecked, leaving Logano as the winner.

With three races to go in the Spring Segment, picking a winner becomes even more important. Remember, the top three will move on to the Playoff Segment. For the latest weekly predictions, follow Prediction Row in the Daily Sun on NASCAR Cup race day and look for the most recent updates on our website.

Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator

Some pictures from our April 7, 2021 meeting



L-R Art Fehrman, Chris Bleistein, John Angiolo, Paul and Kathy O'Connor, Jerry Conkle



Guest speaker Paul O'Connor (above and below)



Important Upcoming Dates

May 5-Wednesday Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm

July 22-Thursday Camp Villages R/C Racing-La Hacienda Rec Center 8am

January 30, 2022-Sunday Awards Celebration (Details will be forthcoming)

HELP CAMP VILLAGES KIDS START THEIR ENGINES



Bob Woodsford is organizing a dedicated group of club members who will transform the La Hacienda Recreation Center into a tough oval race course for the annual Camp Villages R/C car racing extravaganza on Thursday, July 22.

Wednesday, July 21, 4 p.m. -- Volunteers are needed for track set up. The more help we get, the quicker we get done.

Thursday, July 22, 8 a.m. -- We will need volunteers to help with the event. Yellow shirts are required on the day of the event. The event will be completed before noon.

Bob needs your help! Volunteers must sign up at the May 7 meeting or email Bob at woodsfordr@gmail.com

Gary Civiletti Featured in Daily Sun



Gary Civiletti is a long-time club member. He once held the position of Special Events Coordinator on our Pit Crew.

Civiletti also has a long history of playing bocce with his buddies in The Villages. Their favorite part about bocce is the camaraderie and the socialization.

Gary and his buddies were recently featured in The Villages Daily Sun. You can download the full Daily Sun article from our website.

Annemarie Prioriello Enjoys Clowning



Club member and future Hall of Fame inductee Annemarie Prioriello was our guest speaker in March 2020. At that meeting, we learned about her experiences while she handled timing and scoring at Sports Car Club of America events.

Annemarie was featured in The Villages Daily Sun because she enjoys clowning as much as motorsports. "Ravioli" is her clown persona and it allows her to have fun and to give back. Currently, Prioriello is president of The Villages Clown Alley #179.

You can download the full Daily Sun article from our website.

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



Just a few things that make you go hmmmmmm.....

--Why do we park in driveways and drive on parkways?

--How come there aren't B batteries?

--Why do hot dogs come ten to a package and hot dog buns only eight?

--In a country of free speech, why are there phone bills?

Jerry's Joke

A red headed woman went to the doctor. The doctor asked, "What is wrong with you?" She replied, "When I push here it hurts. When I push there, it hurts and when I push over here, it hurts." The doctor said, "You are a blonde, aren't you?" She said, "Yes, how did you know?" The doctor replied, "Because you have a broken finger."

Jerry Conkle's Trivia Continues.....

1. Who has won the most NASCAR races at Phoenix Raceway?
A) Bill Elliot B) Dale Earnhardt C) Kevin Harvick D) Denny Hamlin
2. Who was the last driver to win the Daytona 500 from the pole?
A) Dale Jarrett B) Jeff Gordon C) Bill Elliot D) Denny Hamlin
3. Which of these drivers did not drive in the Brickyard 400?
A) Geoff Brabham B) AJ Foyt C) Danny Sullivan D) Michael Andretti
4. Which driver has the most wins at the Homestead-Miami Speedway?
A) Kevin Harvick B) Matt Kenseth C) Ryan Newman D) Denny Hamlin

GOOD LUCK. ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 8. NO PEEKING.



Let's Welcome our New Members!

Marion Notaro from Florida
Vic Reinwald from Florida
Mike Reed from Maryland
Mike Schnellger from New York
Jimmy Schumacher from Illinois
Rich Rutherford from Georgia

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.

Here Are the Trivia Answers

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. D

Club Apparel

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 and are available for pick up at the next meeting. 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
John Angiolo	Hospitality Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Manager	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Tom Horrmann	Member At large	Mechanic	352-430-0195
Janine Woodsford	Member At Large	Mechanic	352-430-5804
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



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Lefthander Chassis
Roscoe, IL
815-389-9999



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN



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



ARCA Midwest Tour



Ultrix Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9511

Benefactor

Pat Fehrman
The Villages, FL

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