



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

May, 2012



Memorial Day—May 28

In This Issue:

"Post Time" with Denise Sullivan	1
Remembering "Big Dave"	2
2012 Scholarship Winner	2
Night Golf A Huge Success	3
Prediction Row Update	3
New Website Soon to Launch	4
June Meeting Preview	4
Welcome, new Members	5
Local Racing Corner	5
Special Events Round-up	6
Buzzie Tears 'em up at Ocala	7
Saratoga Museum Note	7
Your Pit Crew	8
Conkle's Corner	8
Camp Villages R/C Event	8

Like We've Said..."Racing is Racing!"

May 2—We've had stock car racers at many levels, from go-karts to Sprint Cup. We've had drag racers, sports car racers, auto cross racers, sprint car racers—we've even had an airplane racer! And now, thanks to the generosity of Villages resident Denise Sullivan (pictured at right), we've had a bona fide horse racer!

Denise reviewed her stellar career wearing racing silks, beginning with the thrill of winning the first time out. As part of her presentation, she played a video of this initial break from the post, describing the feel of the race and the wall of sound coming from the grandstands. She also discussed the physical aspects of the sport and the degree of exertion needed to not only train for an event, but to run in competition.



Despite her fast start in racing, Denise reported encountering difficulties being a female in a male-dominated sport and facing the reluctance of owners to put her on a horse. Her persistence paid off, though, with a career that spanned several decades and taught her much about the personalities of horses. For example, she discussed the importance of feeling the horse—not only the one you're riding, but the others around you during competition.

In terms of details, Denise provided a fascinating tutorial on the components of a race course, using an aerial view of a track (see photo below) and pointing out the markers and posts that jockeys use as reference points. She also explained the activities leading up to post time—the parade exercises, the vet checks, the gallop/trot/walk exercises, the loading at the gate, and the constant effort to relax the horse.



During the race, she explained, the jockey's mission is to guide the horse as close to the rail as possible, while not impeding the other horses, and then help guide the horse to a resting stop for a vet check to make sure there are no injuries. As in the case of any type of racing, she explained, there's a lot going on that doesn't meet the spectator's eye.

Denise is in training to be a polo competitor, so look for her soon on the polo fields in The Villages, riding the gentler polo ponies.

Remembering “Big Dave”

May 26—About a month ago, we were shocked to learn of the passing of one of our more notable members, “Big Dave” Bockman. Since first hearing this dreadful news, we’ve all been reflecting on Dave’s involvement with the club, and on the many good, memorable times we had with the big guy. As many of you know, Dave was memorialized in a wonderful service May 4 at New Covenant United Methodist Church, and I’m pleased and proud to report that more than 50 (some estimates range as high as 75) of our members turned out to participate in the service. It was an incredible display of camaraderie for a fallen member, and I might add an impressive

“yellow sea” of club shirts in the center pews. Speaking of yellow shirts, Margy informed us that “Big Dave” was cremated in his club shirt...an indication of how highly he valued his relationship with us.

Many of you are aware that we are planning to remember Dave in a more permanent way, with an investment in equipment for the choir at New Covenant that he so proudly served, and we are planning to invest in a commemorative brick for the Veteran’s Memorial Park in Spanish Springs. We are also considering other items in memory of “Big Dave,” so anyone wishing to contribute should send a check to Treasurer Tom Horrmann (\$20 is suggested, although that decision is up to you!)

There are many photos of “Big Dave” in our files, and you’ve seen them all, but here are perhaps the two that he’ll be best remembered for:



That's why they call him "Big Dave!"

Our 2012 Scholarship Winner—Sean Hensley

May 2—At our May meeting, our members had the opportunity to meet Sean Hensley, the winner of our 2012 Book/Tuition Scholarship. Sean is the fourth winner of our \$500 scholarship award, joining the following young area residents who have earned this honor:

- 2009—Matt Bowers
- 2010—Scott Hensley
- 2011—Amanda Ferguson

Sean lives in Fruitland Park, and will be graduating from Wildwood Middle High School this year. He has been accepted into Stetson University’s Sports Management program, where he plans to build toward a

career as a “behind-the-butescenes” organizational and operational expert in major sports venues. Racing is in his blood by virtue of his dad’s history as a driver at Ashville (N.C.) Speedway, so it’s likely that we’ll see his name surface somewhere in the motorsports field in the future.

I had the pleasure of appearing at Wildwood Middle High School’s annual awards convocation on May 8 to “officially” acknowledge our selection of Sean as our 2012 recipient, and was amazed at the number of awards he compiled. It appears we made an excellent selection again this year!



Club board members gather with our 2012 scholarship winner following the May 2 meeting (Sean’s the tall guy in the middle).

Our First Experience With Night Golf...A Huge Success!

May 3—We'd been talking about it for some time, and we finally got around to arranging for our group's first venture into night-time golf. On Thursday, May 3, 36 avid golfers converged on Saddlebrook Golf Course for what many believe will be at least an annual event for us, and were treated to a fun-filled night of excitement on Saddlebrook's nine-hole course.

Wendy and Mike Touchette, assisted by Peter Tetrault, Jerry Conkle and Silky Meegan, were the organizers and coordinators for the occasion, and their team pulled off another outstanding event!

First up was a putting contest on Saddlebrook's practice green, but it wasn't that simple. What compounded the "short

game" was the insistence that contestants wear a blindfold! For some of us, it didn't really make much of a difference, but Bob Bowden proved that the obstacle was easy to overcome. He "holed" his second shot to take the competition easily!

After the preliminary contest, the real fun started, with a shotgun start beginning around 8:30 pm. The best-ball scramble format yielded some impressive scoring, with the foursome of Wendy and Mike Touchette, Marcus Saenko, and Dan Fulmaro take top honors with a 1-under 26.

Second place went to the team of Glen Carter, Peter Tetrault, John Neville, and Phil Broccoli, with third place honors

going to Mac Ingalls, Ernie Batee, Kenny Rogers, and Gary Crabtree.



Top—Wendy Touchette congratulates Bob Bowden on putting contest victory; Bottom—The winning foursome

2012 Prediction Row Segment 1 Drawing to a Close

May 26—Things are really tightening up as we near the end of segment one in this year's Prediction Row competition. After eight consecutive events at the top of the leader board, Jerry Conkle is beginning to feel the heat building from Gary Civiletti's late-season charge. With only two events left in this first segment, Civiletti lies a mere 17 points behind Conkle, with Fred Coenen, Jim Carter, and Bob Giles also developing as potential threats. Meanwhile, Wendy Touchette continues to struggle at the bottom of the board, suffering from an extra-

ordinary run of bad luck. But who knows...a pair of winning picks, coupled with disasters among the other five, could turn the whole thing around. We'll see in just three weeks!

Statistically, the Segment One forecasters have performed admirably, with five winning picks (an 8% average), 37 top 10 predictions (56%), and 21 top 5s (32%).

Remember, it all ends for the segment one group with the June 3 race at Dover. The top three will then take a break to rest up for the Chase round,

which begins September 16 in Chicago.

While the segment one frenzy winds to a close, the segment 2 predictors are beginning to limber up for their 13-race stretch. They are:

- Corky Eck
- Jon Neville (R)
- Wayne Nolan (R)
- Matt Paterson (R)
- Connie Scalzitti
- Al Stone

Neville, Nolan, and Paterson are rookies in Prediction Row competition, while Stone is defending champ. Should be fascinating!

New Club Website Close to Launch!



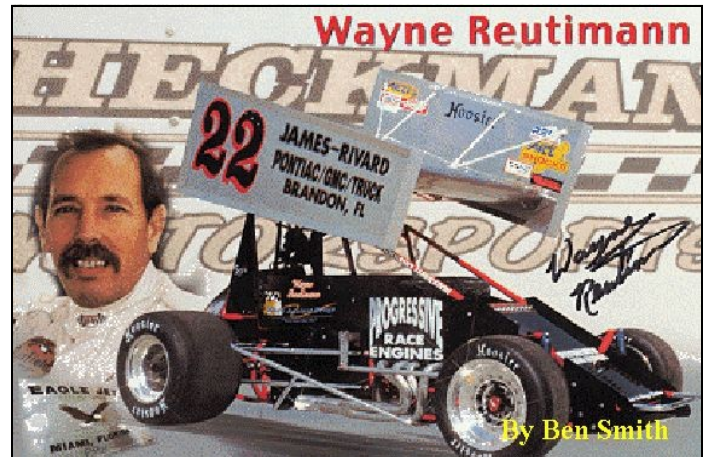
May 24—A subcommittee/focus group of interested members will meet today to discuss their views on the revised club website being developed by Mike Anderson. The new site has been in alpha and beta test states since early in 2012, and Mike has poured a substantial amount of effort into a layout that thoroughly modernizes the look and feel, as well as the functionality, of our widely popular website.

The snapshot at left of the site's homepage gives you a feel for appearance, with navigation controls displayed along the left-hand margin, a more appealing header at the top, and quite a few other new and improved features, like headline articles on the homepage, variable font size (for those of us who have vision problems!), and a generally easier-to-read format.

Our original website has served us well over the years, and has racked up nearly 27,000 hits since its start-up at the end of 2006. All of the content available from the original site will be retained on the new site, including newsletter archives, trip archives, and contact information, and new features have been added to make calendaring easier to use. The new site should be ready for final roll-out at mid-year.

June Meeting Preview

On Wednesday, June 6, we'll welcome another member of the legendary Zephyrhills-based Reutimann family to The Villages...this time, Buzzie's kid brother, Wayne Sr. At 67 years of age, the younger Reutimann is widely recognized as one of the most prominent sprint car drivers ever to get behind the wheel. For example, records show that during the 1969-2007 stretch, Wayne Sr. logged an impressive 96 sprint car wins in the Tampa Bay Area Racing Association (TBARA), and most of us know that he's a pretty fine stock car driver as well. In fact, he's a two-time winner of the Florida Governor's Cup 200 (1965 and 1973), and has visited the winner's circle at many tracks in the northeast. In fact, he also has a win (1979) in the prestigious "Little 500" at Anderson Raceway, where he finished in the top 10 50% of the time! His racing history also features a dramatic half car length win over NASCAR legend Bobby Allison in



a 200-lap Florida State Late Model Championship event at Golden Gate Speedway, as well as his 1965 capturing of the Championship.

Our group has had the honor of inducting two Reutimanns into our growing Hall of Fame (Buzzie in 2008 and Shawn in 2011), and we're looking forward to adding Wayne Sr. to our rolls. If we keep at it, we'll eventually have the entire family. We still have our sights set on David, as well as on sister Joy, who was also an accomplished stock car racer back in the day (not to mention her 1969-70 laurels as Miss Pasco County!) Joy has indicated she may tag along to the June 6 meeting.

Welcome, New Members

At our March meeting, we added three more racing enthusiasts to our group! Be sure to greet them next time you see them and strike up a conversation about their interest in the wide world of motorsports!



Bill Seng, from Allentown, Pennsylvania.



Daryl Davis, from Forest Grove, Oregon

Local Racing Corner

Watch your email and the club website for periodic announcements of trips and car pools being formed to visit these great relatively local racing venues. We frequently visit our "home tracks" (Original Speedway Park and Citrus County Speedway), and of course Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala whenever we hear of Buzzie Reutimann planning to make an appearance. Remember that Randy Anderson frequently races at Citrus County Speedway, and that Amanda Ferguson and Wayne Anderson regularly run at Punta Gorda Speedway. In fact, we're planning a trip down to Punta Gorda for later this year to catch the Super Late Models in action, so stay tuned!

Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
Volusia Raceway Park	Barberville	386-985-4402	volusiaspeedwaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	orlandospeedworld.org
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	ocalamicrospeedway.com
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	auburndaleracing.com
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	puntagordaspeedway.com
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	desotosuperspeedway.com



Special Events Roundup



Almost Memorial Day, and here comes summer! It's been a lively year so far, and it's only going to get better as the months unfold. I know many of you are looking forward to the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona on July 7, and as noted on the preceding page Local Racing Corner), we're hitting the local tracks on a somewhat regular basis. Also, don't forget about our twice-a-month R/C racers...they're putting on some pretty good exhibitions as their skills improve, and they're willing to let you try your hand at piloting one of these great little machines...just stop in and ask for some "seat time!"

Some of the events and activities on tap for May, June, and beyond are shown below. As always, though, we'd love to hear your suggestions for trips and events... just give me a call!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, May 26 R/C Racing	Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!
Saturday, May 26 Citrus County Speedway	Join us for a car pool trip to Citrus County Speedway. Randy Anderson will be running in the Late Model event. The car pool will be leaving from Laurel Manor at 5:00 pm. Call Gerry (751-3643) or Glen (751-6442) for more info.
Wednesday, June 2 Regular Meeting	Our June regular meeting will feature a visit from the "Racing Reutimanns," featuring Buzzie and Wayne Sr. This should be yet another night of great storytelling...sister Joy has indicated she might tag along!
Wednesday, June 13 R/C Racing	Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!
Saturday, June 23 R/C Racing	Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!
Wednesday, July 4	 NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING THIS MONTH! 
Saturday, July 7 Coke Zero 400 at Daytona	See website homepage for details and downloadable flyer
Thursday, July 12 Camp Villages R/C Racing Event	Our club will again be hosting this event at La Hacienda Rec Center. Don Day is coordinating for us, and will need volunteers to staff the crew. Call him at 508-954-8752 to sign up. Time is 8:00 am to noon.
Thursday, October 25 Colony Cottage	Bingo fund-raiser—details TBA!

Buzzie Puts On a Show at Bubba Raceway Park

May 19—Buzzie Reutimann turned 71 years young on May 7 and, like many Villagers who have reached that age, he's begun to take it easy. In fact, he took a leisurely drive through the 17-car field of Open Wheel Modifieds on May 19 at Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala, en route to a decisive win in the "Scorpion Racing Products Modified" feature event. Starting in 15th spot in the field (that's the second-to-last row, folks), the venerable Reutimann took the famed "Double Zero" to the top with five to go, winning handily over his younger competitors.

It was a sight to behold as Buzzie was joined by sister Joy in the winner's circle for his post-race interview. What made things even more memorable for the group of "yellow shirts" who made the trip to Ocala was Buzzie's interview comments acknowledging his fans from The Villages and their continuing support of his racing program. Tom Hormann provided these photos, as well as a first-hand account of Buzzie's racing prowess, noting "He was picking the young guys off like they only had six cylinders!"



Buzzie and Joy, center, salute the crowd after another spectacular run at Ocala



One for the Folks "Up North," from Ron Hedger

Three-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart has agreed to loan the Saratoga Automobile Museum two of his most prized possessions for the highly anticipated "FROM MOONSHINE TO MILLIONAIRES - NASCAR's History, Heroes and Technology" exhibit, set to open on June 2, 2012. Both cars sport bright orange and white Home Depot livery, with the Dallara/Oldsmobile Aurora that Stewart drove to a ninth place finish bearing #22 and the Joe Gibbs Racing Pontiac sporting the team's trademark #20. After a quick flight to Charlotte from Indianapolis, Stewart led the 600, which was won by Jeff Burton, for 13 laps before finishing fourth. All told, he ran 1090 miles that day. The upcoming exhibit will also feature race cars driven by such NASCAR greats as Herb Thomas, Curtis Turner, Jeff Gordon, Bobby Allison, Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, Kevin Harvick, Ron Hornaday and Kurt Busch along with a Ford Thunderbird that led the very first Daytona 500 in 1959. The Saratoga Automobile Museum is located on the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs, NY. More information on the museum's broad spectrum of programs, exhibits and car shows can be found online at www.saratogaautomuseum.org.

Submitted by Ron Hedger, National Speed Sport News

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 Hormann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Jerry Conkle, Technical Consultant (750-1185)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

Help Wanted—Camp Villages

Note Revised Date—Thursday, July 12

Coordinator Don Day is now recruiting for volunteers to help conduct the Radio-Controlled Racing Event included in as part of the 2012 edition of Camp Villages. Last year's event was clearly one of the Camp Villages favorites, and those who participated will vividly recall how great it was. Eighteen highly-charged young racing enthusiasts showed up ready to take on the competition at La Hacienda Speedway, where our members served as pit crews, driving instructors, spotters, fab shops, and race officials. Our own Buster Burt also served as a mentor for some of the drivers, especially those in search of an edge over the competition!

As a reminder of how much fun this event was last year, here are a few flashbacks...



Clockwise, from top left: Buster Burt inspects the field of cars; Bob Giles and Larry Anderson building the track; the race track layout; Don Day overseeing the motor shop; the winners!

Conkle's Corner...

I usually write about the INDY500 and NASCAR, and some humor, but not this time. I want to talk about your good friend and mine, Dave Bockman.



Dave could sing the National Anthem better than anyone I know. In fact, many of you will recall that he was invited to perform over at Citrus County Speedway any time he wanted. A friend of mine said you should hear him sing in church, but I never had the privilege.

A while back, we went on a bus racing trip, and Dave asked me to save him a seat. I did, but I forgot how big he was! When he sat down beside me, I was up against the window so hard, I found out how a bug felt being smashed on the windshield. But I know that if we were in an accident, he would have held his big arm out to protect me...that's the way he was!

Dave had a goatee, and when I grew one, I told him I might have to start wearing a hat, so they could tell us apart. He laughed.

Dave has done a lot of charity work that no one knew about, and of course he's done a lot of fund raising work for our racing club.

He was your friend and mine. He's gone but never forgotten.