



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report

### May, 2013

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, June 5, 2013

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## Learning About a Racing Landmark

**May 1**—Our May meeting brought us a visit from Sebring International Raceway's Assistant Director of Marketing, David Gourley (pictured at right). David gave our members a complete picture of one of the country's most enduring and best known racing venues, from its origin as a United States Army Air Forces training base and its first race in 1950, to its most recent running of the famed "12 Hours of Sebring" in March of this year.



Accompanied by a video of the track's many features and highlights, David covered the format of the "12 Hour" event, describing in detail the steps leading up to the big race and the various activities available to the 160,000 race fans who trek to South Florida each year for the historic event. He also reviewed preliminary planning for the 2014 edition of the event in mid-March, noting that 2014 will be the 62nd running of the legendary race.

David also discussed NASCAR's acquisition last year of Sebring Raceway, noting that a new series called United Sports Car Racing is being launched to debut at the "Rolex at Daytona" in February, then move to Sebring for the March 12-hour event, with other yet un-announced events to follow. He also previewed a Vintage Racing event to be held at Sebring in December...it's quite possible that we may be able to organize a bus trip there for this event. Stay tuned for details.



David Gourley's "Company Car" also created a stir at Colony Cottage!

## June Meeting Preview—A Rising Star Will Join Us

Our June 5 meeting will feature a visit from Devin McLeod, a rising young star on the Florida racing circuit. As is the case with most of the younger drivers these days, at age 19 Devin already sports an 11-year racing career, starting in Champ Karts in 2002, then moving to Mini-Cup cars in 2006, then Legends Cars in 2009, Pro Late Models in 2012, and Super Late Models in 2013. He also races Open Wheel Modified.

His honors so far include multiple championships in the Jr. Sportsman Kart ranks, a Mini-Cup Pro Division Championship, multiple Legends series Championships, and a Florida Pro Late Model Challenge Championship.

Along with Devin, we'll have Dick Anderson and his legendary No. 92 on-hand to give us a close-up look at this beautiful, recently-built Super Late Model entry. As many of you know, Devin has driven this car in competition over at Citrus County Speedway on two occasions, so we've had the opportunity to see both the 92 and Devin in action!

We'll also be hosting a picnic before the meeting at the Colony Cottage picnic area, so come out and join us for hot dogs and hamburgers, courtesy of the club! Serving starts at 5:30 pm.



## Segment 1 of Prediction Row 2013 Nearing the Checkers!

With only two races to go in the first segment of this year's Prediction Row competition, Syd Baker has proven that consistency pays off. Going with Jimmie Johnson in 10 of the 11 races has given him a commanding 31 point lead over second place Gary Civiletti (who's spread his picks across six different drivers) and Al Stone (four different driver picks).

Overall, our panel of experts has grabbed five winning picks out of the 66 opportunities, landing podium finishes 23 times. With 41 top ten finishes (a 62% rate), the group has demonstrated a pretty solid grasp of who's hot this year. On the qualifying side of the ledger, they've also done pretty well, with seven picks

earning the pole, and 39 picks nailing down top 10 starting spots (59%).

Meanwhile, the segment 2 predictors are watching the action closely, no doubt trying to determine how the various strategies play out week-to-week. As a refresher, here are the players this year:

### Segment 1 (Races 1-13)

- Syd Baker
- Gary Civiletti
- Jerry Conkle
- Gerry Hafer
- Wayne Nolan
- Al Stone

### Segment 2 (Races 14-26)

- Mike Anderson
- Jim Carter
- Jim Dunaway
- Corky Eck
- Jon Neville
- Wendy Touchette

Standings Thru Race 11			
Predictor	Points	Behind	Rank
Baker, Syd	420		1
Civiletti, Gary	389	31	2
Stone, Al	389	31	3
Hafer, Gerry	378	42	4
Nolan, Wayne	358	62	5
Conkle, Jerry	356	64	6



## The Villages Daily Sun Takes Note of NASCAR's "Penalty-gate"

If you were paying close attention to The Villages Daily Sun recently, you'd have noticed Larry Croom's column titled "Hey NASCAR, it's time to back off with hefty fines, penalties." As always, Larry delivered an insightful dialog on a NASCAR-related subject, this time an analysis of the sanctioning body's propensity this year for handing out punishment to it's marquee teams for what appear to be inconsequential rule infractions. What prompted Larry's April 29 tirade was the spectacular penalties levied on Matt Kenseth and Joe Gibbs Racing for an underweight connecting rod (too thin by, as Larry pointed

the weight of an empty envelope). I think we're all in agreement here that there's something going on at NASCAR that we're not aware of. I mean, there has to be to generate madness like this, wouldn't you say?



Anyway, what made Larry's column so meaningful to our group in particular is that he elected to solicit opinions from several of us, and he included our comments as

"color" for his article. Glen Carter, Gerry Hafer, Jerry Conkle, and Mike Touchette were given the opportunity to weigh in on the absurdity of this year's round of major big time scoldings, and the comments followed along closely with Larry's premise...that NASCAR seems to have lost its sense of reason.

By the way, Larry is a member of our "Hall of Fame" (class of 2007), and has been a long-time supporter of what we're about in the motorsports world.

## Dick Trickle—The Racing Community Has Lost One of Its Greats



**May 16, 2013**—The motorsports world was shocked and saddened by the news of Dick Trickle's death at age 71. Trickle's legacy includes not only a wildly successful career on the nation's short tracks, where he's reported to have logged more than a million laps in competition, but is also well know for his colorful lifestyle off the track. In eulogizing Trickle, one veteran sportswriter recalled suggesting in an interview that he recap his life and career in an autobiography, to which the affable driver replied, "Well, there'd need to be two books...one that would be published, and one that people would want to read." That remark summed up the two sides of Dick Trickle.

Club "Godfather" Dick Anderson was a long-time competitor and personal friend of Trickle, and carries an extensive storehouse of fond memories for the veteran star. As a driver, Anderson recalls Trickle as smart and cagey behind the wheel, with a habit of laying back and saving his equipment until about 30 laps to go. "As you got near the end," Anderson notes, "there he'd be, up on the wheel and fighting for the win." Like Anderson, historians agree that Trickle is credited with more than a thousand wins in his career.

Anderson also recalls the Trickle's social side. "He did love to party," Anderson acknowledged, "and his philosophy was that you only needed one hour of sleep for each hundred laps of racing. So one hour of sleep was enough for a 100-lapper!"



## Night Golf Re-Scheduled for June 13

2013 Night Golf Coordinator Wendy Touchette reported that our annual "golfing in the dark" excursion at Saddlebrook Golf Course has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 13 after a round of dismal weather settled on The Villages May 2. One would-be competitor put it this way, "Playing in the dark is one thing, but playing in the rainy dark was just out of the question!"

So, the event has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 13 at Saddlebrook. Here are the details:

- \$10 per person
- Putting contest at 7:00 pm
- Golf Instruction at 8:00 pm, tee-off at 8:29 (approx.)
- If you received an email from Wendy stating that you were taken off the waiting list and moved to the play list, please bring your registration fee to the club meeting June 5. This will help things run smoother at the event on the 13th.
- If you'd like to be on the waiting list in the event of cancellations, just send an email to Wendy at [mrswwmt@comcast.net](mailto:mrswwmt@comcast.net). Include your cell phone number and your Villages Golf ID #.



## Local Racing Corner

As we've mentioned quite a few times in the past, these tracks represent the local roots of racing and they need our support! If you've been to an event at any of these tracks recently, you'll no doubt agree that attendance is down. Car counts are down as well, and it's easy to see that either of these facts represents a cause-and-effect situation. If the cars don't come, neither will the fans, and it's becoming a downward spiral that can only lead to the closing of tracks here in Central Florida. We've already lost one this year (Columbia), and most of the others are struggling. So, let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth. Without local tracks, there'd be no NASCAR!

Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	<a href="http://originalspeedwaypark.com">originalspeedwaypark.com</a>
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	<a href="http://citruscountyspeedway.com">citruscountyspeedway.com</a>
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	<a href="http://bubbaracewaypark.com">bubbaracewaypark.com</a>
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	<a href="http://newsmyrnaspeedway.org">newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a>
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	<a href="http://orlandospeedworld.org">orlandospeedworld.org</a>
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	<a href="http://eastbayracewaypark.com">eastbayracewaypark.com</a>
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	<a href="http://ocalamicrospeedway.com">ocalamicrospeedway.com</a>
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	<a href="http://auburndaleracing.com">auburndaleracing.com</a>
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	<a href="http://puntagordaspeedway.com">puntagordaspeedway.com</a>
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	<a href="http://desotosuperspeedway.com">desotosuperspeedway.com</a>
Bronson Motor Speedway	Bronson	352-486-2763	N/A

## Welcome, New Members

We welcomed another batch of new members at our May meeting, but we again were only successful in getting one of them to stand still for a photograph. Make sure you chat him up at the next meeting!



Manuel Furlong, from Portage, Indiana

## Buster Burt Hits the "Big-84"

A small contingent of club members headed out to Sumter Place on Saturday, May 11 to help the legendary Arthur "Buster" Burt celebrate notching another year onto his belt. And a great celebration it was, with live music, a fantastic race-themed cake (complete with a replica of Buster's own race car upside down along the side of the race track!), and a host of friends and fellow Sumter Place residents on hand to sing "Happy Birthday" to the always lively and exciting Buster.

Here are few action shots from the day's festivities, courtesy of famed photographer and club member Mike Heinke...





## Special Events Roundup



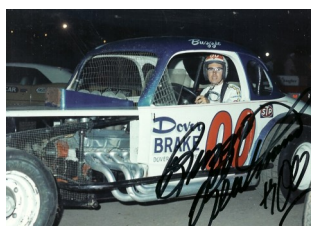
Can you believe it? We're heading into the middle of the year already, and we've already rolled through just about a third of the NASCAR season! The Daytona 400 is the next big trip on the list for us, although we're always arranging car pool trips over to Citrus County Speedway and other local tracks. Watch your email for details.

The events and activities now on the schedule are listed below. As always, if any of you have any suggestions for trips, events, or activities, please let me or any of the Pit Crew members know so we can do some research and lay out a plan. We've covered a lot of motorsports ground over the past six years, and we have every intention of maintaining the momentum...maybe even ramping it up a bit! Just let us know what's of interest to you.

*Gary*

Date/Location	Event Details
Month of June Colony Cottage and Seabreeze Rec Centers	R/C racing on the second Wednesday and fourth Saturday at Colony Cottage, and every Sunday except the fourth Sunday at Seabreeze (Call Dave Allen (205-7985) or Mike Roemer (633-0134) for details)
Wednesday, June 5 Colony Cottage	Regular club meeting; Guest Speaker will be Devin McLeod, and we'll have Dick Anderson and the "club car," the legendary No. 92 Mustang. If that's not enough, we'll also be hosting a cookout starting at 5:30 pm at Colony Cottage.
Saturday, June 8 Citrus County Speedway	Race No. 5 in the Florida United Promoters Late Model Series. Club Hall of Famer Wayne Anderson has won the first four in this series...let's see if he can keep the streak going! Contact Gerry (ghafer@comcast.net) for details.
Thursday, June 13 Saddlebrook	Night Golf scramble event at Saddlebrook. This is the rescheduled event from the May 2nd rainout. Email Wendy (mrswmt@comcast.net) for details.
Wednesday, July 3 No Meeting	<b>There will be NO July Club Meeting this month, next meeting will be Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.</b>
Saturday, July 6 Daytona International Speedway (See Flyer Attached)	"Coke Zero 400" at Daytona, it will be with "Dolphin Tours", it's The Motor Head Package, Mid-Level seating in the Oldfield or Lockhart box, Keech or Depalma sections, and the cost is \$125.00/person, \$75.00/Transportation only. Call Jerri Sioutis at Dolphin Tours at: (407)352-4646, ext. 1 and tell her you're from the VMRFC, the flier with more info is posted on our Web Site, there is a 30 person minimum, please call me at: 751-4030 or e-mail at: <a href="mailto:C6Gary@comcast.net">C6Gary@comcast.net</a> to let me know that you have signed-up.
Thursday, July 11 La Hacienda Rec Center	9:00am – 12:00 noon, "R/C Cars for Camp Villages" at La Hacienda Recreation Center. Set-up will be on Wednesday night, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, volunteers needed both days, <u>call</u> Don Day at #(508)954-8762 or e-mail at <a href="mailto:fsufan1952@yahoo.com">fsufan1952@yahoo.com</a>

*From the  
vault*



## Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)  
 Dave Allen, Vice President (205-7985)  
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)  
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)  
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)  
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Gary Civiletti, Special Events (751-4030)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)  
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)  
 Syd and Nancy Baker, Hospitality Coordinators (750-2126)  
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President (751-3643)  
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

## Old Guys Rule!

### Ken Schrader Dominates ARCA At Toledo



**May 19**-In his first ARCA series start since 2010, 57-year old Ken Schrader towered above the competition at Toledo Speedway, leading 163 of 200 laps on the half-mile concrete track. It was Schrader's first ARCA win since 2007, and his first visit to Toledo Speedway since 2006. It was his fifth win at Toledo.

And, speaking of old guys, James Harvey

Hylton was also in the 31-car Late Model field. At age 78, James just keeps plugging along in the ARCA series, where he's been a competitor since the 1990s. He was the NASCAR Winston Cup Rookie of the Year in 1966, and his record includes two Cup wins in 11 years of Cup competition.



## Conkle's Corner...

You've probably figured out by now that I enjoy using humor in just about everything I do (even though sometimes it's a little hard to figure it out!). Years ago I heard people say I was a little funny, so I assumed they meant that in a good way and I began to work hard to build up a library of funny (well, hopefully, anyway) stuff. Here's this month's dose....



Just about everybody's aware of Yogi Berra and his unique (some would say strange) brand of humor, and just about everybody's heard a Yogism somewhere along the way. How about a refresher:

- "It's like deja vu all over again."
- "We made too many wrong mistakes."
- "You can observe a lot just by watching."
- "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."
- "He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious."
- "If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be."
- "If you don't know where you're going, you might end up some place else."
- "Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours."

A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it's 3:00 in the morning and it's pouring rain out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too."

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband. "Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing set, replies the drunk.



55th Annual



Saturday July 6th 2013 Under the lights at Daytona International Speedway

It's a summer tradition as American as fireworks and cookouts. Be a part of the event that's produced some of the most dramatic moments in racing history, while you enjoy one of the nation's biggest fireworks displays after the race. It's the perfect way to spend a summer night at one of America's most festive times of year.

#### TICKET & TRANSPORTATION PACKAGES

##### MOTORHEAD

- \*Round trip transportation.
- \*Mid-level seating in Oldfield or Lockhart Box, or Keech or Depalma Chair Section. (\$65 VALUE)

**ADULT: \$125.00**

**ONLY NEED TRANSPORTATION? JUST \$75 ROUND TRIP!**

DEPARTING 2:00PM  
BARNES & NOBLE,  
1055 OLD CAMP RD.,  
THE VILLAGES,  
FL 32162 (REAR PARKING LOT)

CALL 407-352-4646 EXT 1 FOR RESERVATIONS  
MINIMUM 30 BOOKINGS REQUIRED TO OPERATE