



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

May, 2014

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, June 4, 2014

In This Issue:

A Visit from the Media	1
2014 Scholarship Winner	2
June Meeting Preview	2
The Great Race is Coming	3
Welcome, New Member	3
We're Trending!!	4
2014 Prediction Row Notes	4
Buster Burt Memorial Race	5
Breakfast With a Legend	5
Kurt Busch and the Double	6
Local Racing Corner	6
Your Pit Crew	7
Conkle's Corner	7
A note from Dora Thorne	7



May 7—Bob Bolles, Senior Technical Editor of Circle Track Magazine, joined us at our May meeting to give us an overview of what their publication is all about. Bolles, a twelve year veteran of the magazine's motorsports coverage, grew up in Daytona Beach and has a long history of visits to the Speedway as a Level 16 pass holder. He shared stories of hanging out in the pits back in the days when the sport was "more colorful" than now, and when driver access was more open than it is now.

Bob traced his professional history from an initial business venture in the surveying and civil engineering industry to his move to Virginia to begin working with race teams (which was more fun!). It was there that he really began to develop his motorsports interests, exploring race car technologies, set up, and performance, eventually becoming a published author on the subject of race car design and setup. Bob joined Circle Track's editorial staff in 2002, after contributing a number of articles that appeared in the magazine, and advanced to his present position quickly.

During his remarks, Bob shared remembrances of his good friend and early Circle Track contributor Smokey Yunick, and commented on his own personal stash of vintage Circle Track publications, including copies of the magazine's inaugural publication from 1981. In describing Circle Track, Bob noted that the magazine is viewed as a technical publication, oriented toward racers and designed to provide tips and techniques that will help them in their racing programs. One of the magazine's current primary focus areas is driver safety, he noted, commenting on the importance of safety education at the lower levels of the sport.



Bob recollected one of the highlights of his Circle Track career, a four-month tour of race tracks across the country promoting the Circle Track brand. Cruising in the AM-SOIL GREAT AMERICAN CIRCLE TRACK TOUR R/V, Bob and his wife visited over 100 race tracks in the U.S., where he reported really feeling the "pulse of short track racing."

During the Q&A period that followed Bob's remarks, he was asked for an opinion on the drop-off in racing interest here in Florida. In discussing this point, he noted the regional disparities in racing interest across the country, with heaviest popularity clearly present in the upper Midwest and Northeast, as well as California and other western states. One of the key problems in Florida, he suggested, is simply the wealth of options that people have for weekend entertainment. He also suggested that race track operators in Florida need to reconsider their approach to promoting their programs, citing some of the innovative steps taken at racing venues in states like Wisconsin.

2014 Scholarship Winner—Another Real Racer!



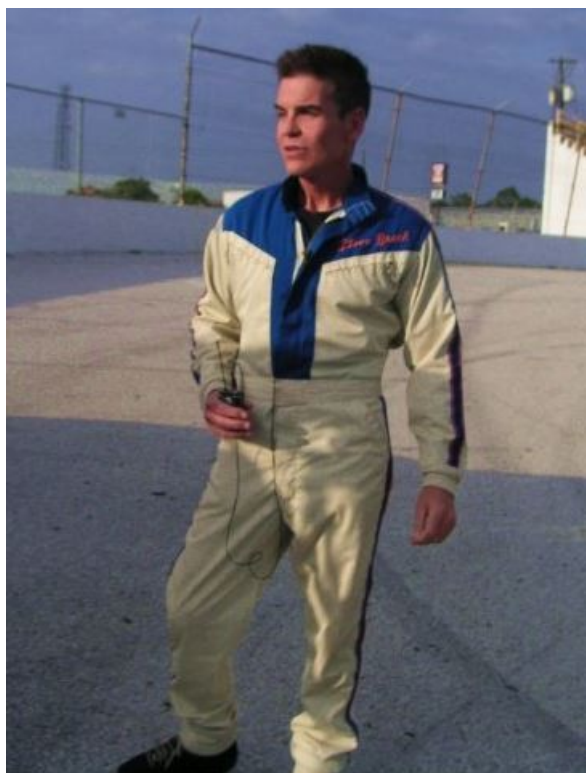
After a one-year hiatus, our The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Scholarship Program is back in operation! We're delighted this year to be awarding our \$500 scholarship stipend to Anthony Cataldi of Umatilla, Florida. Anthony will be studying the business curriculum at Stetson University this fall, with an eye toward eventually joining his family in their medical equipment business.

Anthony is no stranger to those of us who follow local stock car racing. Like most of today's racing stars, he began his racing career in go karts, right next door to us at Fruitland Park's Original Speedway Park. While competing at this level, he won three state championships and recorded wins at the national level as well. He progressed from karts to Legends cars, competing in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina and capturing a Florida state championship in this division. He was ranked 4th out of 386 Legends drivers nationwide.

Currently, Anthony is a competitor in the Super Late Model ranks, most recently running in the now-defunct Florida United Promoters Late Model Series, where he was ranked second in the point standings.

Anthony will be join us at the June 4 meeting, so come on out and meet this young, rising star. His credentials, both race-related and academic (a 4.059 weighted GPA at Mt. Dora Bible School) make him an excellent example of the type of scholarship recipient we strive to honor.

June Meeting Preview A Combination Racer/Actor/Film Producer—Steven Brack



There's no question about it...we're continually breaking new ground in our quest to bring exciting content to our monthly meetings. So far this year, for example we've heard from the originator of Speedway Illustrated, the premier reference document for the country's race tracks. We've heard dirt track racing tales from the Midwest. And just a few weeks ago we heard from the inner sanctum of Circle Track, motorsports revered technical source.

We're continuing on this track at the June meeting, this time with a multi-faceted personality from South Florida—Steven Brack. Steven is an accomplished race car driver, as evidenced by his Street Stock Championship from Miami's Hialeah Speedway, but as it turns out, he also knows his way around the motion picture industry quite well.

Steven is an actor and film producer, with several film credits to go along with his documentary production accomplishments. In fact, last fall he was awarded an Emmy Award by The National Academy Of Television Arts And Sciences for his work in producing an acclaimed history of Florida's Hialeah Speedway subtitled "No Guts, No Glory." His other film credits include a similar documentary on Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedways, yet another major contribution to the retention of Florida's racing history.

This is another meeting you won't want to miss. Join us at our June 4 meeting for your chance to hear from Steven.

"The Great Race is Coming"



The Villages will take center stage this June, when the 2014 edition of "The Great Race" ends its Maine to Florida run at Lake Sumter Landing on June 29. This nine-day event will originate in Ogunquit, Maine and travel down the east coast to The Villages, with stops in between at places like Poughkeepsie New York, Valley Forge PA, and Wilmington North Carolina before hitting the square on the 29th.

Here's an excerpt from a Hemmings Daily, "World's Leading Classic Car New Source" press release that will give you additional background on this fantastic event: "...the Great Race has released the route for (this) year's running of the event. Just as last year, the Great Race will be a north-to-south affair, this time traveling from Maine to Florida."

Beginning in Ogunquit, Maine, on

June 21, 2014, the Great Race will make overnight stops in Lowell, Massachusetts; Poughkeepsie, New York; Wayne, Pennsylvania; Norfolk, Virginia; New Bern, North Carolina; Wilmington, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; and Jacksonville, Florida. Lunch stops will take place in Bennington, Vermont (Hemmings HQ!); Long Pond, Pennsylvania; Millsboro, Delaware; Elizabeth City, North Carolina; Jacksonville, North Carolina; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; and Ocala, Florida, before the Great Race wraps up on June 29 in The Villages, Florida. Visit www.GreatRace.com for more info.

The Great Race is supported locally by The Villages Region chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America, and our group will be participating in the event's conclusion festivities at Lake Sumter Landing on June 29...stay tuned!

Welcome, New Member



As he promised he would, our April keynote speaker Grady Wade became a member of our group at the May meeting. It was great to see him again, and we look forward to him joining us on club activities. By the way, the write-up that appeared in last month's Pit Report about Grady's visit with us last month generated some reader feedback from International Speedway Corp.'s Motorsports Archives. Dave Westerman commented: "Is Grady Wade living in the Villages area now? I followed his career through National Speed Sport News... He won a lot of big races out in the Midwest..."

Be sure to welcome Grady next time you see him!

Hey...We're Trending!

The May edition of "The Villages Magazine" gave us a nod this month, calling us "Club of the Month!" in their "What's Trending Now?" section. Combining an interview with Crew Chief Conkle with several club archive photos from a recent trip to Daytona International Speedway, the article covered the scope of what we do as a group and invited interested parties to visit our website for more information.

As we've discussed from time to time, we've been please with the media coverage we've received in our seven-plus years as an organization. What makes this recognition even more special is the fact that we've been selected from a collection of well over 2,000 individual clubs in The Villages. This recognition is the result of a spirited membership base (our roster has been in the 150-200 range since we started back in 2006), as well as a dedicated Pit Crew that goes out of its way as a team to organize and conduct activities that are of interest to race fans of all types.

What's **Trending** Now?
CLUB OF THE MONTH

THE VILLAGES MOTOR RACING FAN CLUB



Jerry Conkle, a Village of Rio Ponderosa resident, loves auto racing. Back in Indiana, he watched Jeff Gordon in midnets and followed the superstar's career all the way to NASCAR. He became involved with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club after moving to Florida's friendliest Hometown and reading about the club in The Villages Daily Sun. "The group is made up of race enthusiasts of all types. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month at Colony Cottage Recreation Center," said Jerry.

In addition to cookouts, the club also welcomes some well-known speakers such as Geoff Bodine and Marvin Panch, both whom have won the Daytona 500. "We have had guest speakers bring race cars and race boats to meetings," said Jerry.

Tell us about The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.
We have about 150 members right now, and we meet once a month. We have cookouts and we have different speakers come and talk about automobile racing. The club has welcomed people of all kinds such as jockeys and folks who race airplanes. But it is mostly automobile racing.

Does the club get together to watch races?
Yes, we do bus trips to Daytona and carpool to different racetracks. The club also raises money for scholarships at places like Camp Boggie Creek. We have a lot of fun.

Some members of the Villages MRFC at the Budweiser Duel, Daytona Speedway.

For information on joining the club, visit villagesracingclub.com.

48
MAY 2014

Prediction Row—Segment 1 Sailing to a Conclusion

The first 13-race segment of our 2014 Prediction Row competition is reaching a fever pitch and, with Charlotte and Dover to get by, it looks like we've got the three "Chase round advancers" set. This, of course could change, depending on the final two races in this segment, so hold on to your hats for awhile!

Janine Woodsford has displayed her superior level of racing knowledge by picking winners at Fontana, Richmond, and Kansas, while John Angiolo and Paul Barth have also weighed in with winners. The irony of all this, of course, is that even though he trails leader-board king Angiolo by a whopping 100 points, and even though he's solidly in last place in total points, Barth still has a comfortable shot at transferring in the fall.

Mirroring the NASCAR points system does tend to make things interesting at times, doesn't it? We'll see what happens in the next two races.

2014 Prediction Row Lineup

Round One Field Standings (post Kansas)

John Angiolo—397 (1)
 Janine Woodsford—373 (3)
 Syd Baker—348
 Barb Pappas—347
 Gerry Greim—307
 Paul Barth—297 (1)

Round Two Contestants (races 14-26)

Mike Anderson
 Shirley Birchwale
 Mimi Carter
 Tom Horrmann
 David Vanderwall
 Daryl Ware

Reminder—Don't Miss the 5/24 Buster Burt Memorial Race

May 24—Most of us recall Buster's role in the start-up of what has become a major force in Villages racing activities—the Radio-Controlled Car Racing Program now operated by The Villages R/C Racing Club. Always a racer, Buster accepted the health issues that relegated him to the sidelines on many physical fronts, but he did not let that stop his need for speed. He began to build R/C cars in his garage, and quickly assembled an impressive stable of competitive cars, even one closely resembling the Legends Series car he raced up in Maine in the late 1990s.

Buster was a fixture at many of the R/C club gatherings, actively monitoring the pit action as well as the on-track competition. He even slipped into the role of "car owner," brokering deals with independent drivers like Mike Heinke to represent his fleet in on-track performances.

In fact, in November of 2012, the R/C racing group honored Buster by appointing him Grand Marshall for the 2012 edition of The Villages Cup. This was the first running of this

annual event using R/C cars as the venue, so it was fitting that Buster be honored in this way. Now, as a memorial to his years as a racer, historian, and dear friend, the R/C club will be staging a Buster Burt Memorial race on Saturday, May 24 at Sea Breeze Rec Center. Here are the details:

- 9:45 am—Opening Ceremonies
- 10:00—Heat Races, with four classes (Stock, 2-wheel modified, 4 wheel modified, and NASCAR)
- Trophies will be awarded to all 1st place finishers

Let's all head out to Sea Breeze and remember Buster by watching some great racing!



Breakfast With a Legend!

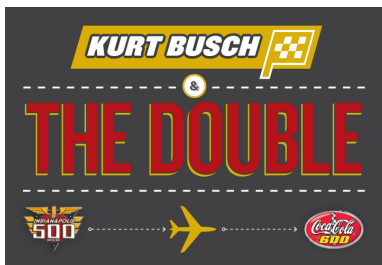
May 8—Our Thursday morning breakfast group, as you know, occasionally has drop-in visitors. Personalities like Dick Anderson and NASCAR Champion Randy LaJoie, for example, have joined us for the early morning caucus that serves as a motorsports debate forum. We've even had media representatives drop in to check us out! Earlier this month, we added yet another chapter to our history with a field trip over to Deland to raise our coffee cups with an authentic NASCAR legend—one of NACAR's 50 Greatest, **Marvin Panch**.

Marvin, of course, is a member of our Hall of Fame (Class of 2011), and we've made it a point to stay in touch with him. On May 8, a contingent of 16 of our Thursday morning group traveled to meet Marvin at a local breakfast house in downtown Deland known as Doug & Lil's Potato Patch, and it was a great morning for all of us! Despite the early hour, Dick and Mary Anderson joined us for this epic event!

Here are some photos of the occasion...



Following Kurt Busch



OK...he's gonna do it! It's been a few years since anyone tried to do the double. Robby Gordon was the last to make the attempt, way back in 2004, with John Andretti and Tony Stewart the only others to take up the grueling challenge. Up until now, it seemed like just a bunch of hype...until the early practice sessions when Busch blistered the track in the 230 mph range. Those speeds not only demonstrated that he was serious, but opened a lot of eyes to the fact that he might just be a contender. In fact, club Hall of Famer Diana Hubbard (Class of 2012), on duty at Indy as part of her ESPN pit road spotter duties, put it this way prior to qualifying, "I think he could be in the fast 9...he is the real deal."

Well, he didn't make the fast 9, but he did earn a respectable 12th place starting spot, joining veterans Juan Pablo Montoya and Scott Dixon in row 4. You can be sure we'll be watching the 500 closely, especially those who have signed up for the pool on how many combined laps Busch will run in the two events. Seventeen entries have been posted, ranging from a low of 321 from pessimist Jerry Conkle to a high of 600—the full load—from the ever-optimistic Bob Woodsford.

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 two this year (Columbia and Putnam County), 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, and they need us in the stands. Remember...without these tracks, there'd be no NASCAR!

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
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
Bronson Motor Speedway	Bronson	352-486-2763	facebook.com/ bronson.speedway

Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)
 Wendy Touchette, Vice President (303-9734)
 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)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (20-8503)
 Syd and Nancy Baker, Hospitality Coordinators (750-2126)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President /Newsletter (751-3643)
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

A Note From Dora...

Editor's Note: I get a boatload of email everyday. Some of them are interesting, and some of them (like this one) make you really feel good!

Dear Villages Motor Racing Fan club members, (My racing peeps) Lol....

First of all, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support.

I can "feel it" when you guys/gals are in the stands. All I have to do is look up into the grandstands and see those "Yellow shirts" and know that I have ya'lls support. It's a great feeling. I no longer have any family to speak of and have adopted ya'll as my racing family.

Hoping to make ya'll proud because I sure give it my "all" every time I pull on the track. I have "dipped my toe" in the water at Auburndale and Showtime to gain more experience and skill at different tracks. (I must say that Showtime is a little rough). If you can get to my Facebook page, look up the video "It's Showtime Baby" and you will get a first hand look at what went on there. (From my "in car" camera)(Also has sub titles as you watch)... Lol.....

I'm also going to try a new venture this month in a center seat SS Figure 8 car on 5-24-14 as well as my Street Stock. Same number just a different car for that class (Metric Monte). (not as treasured to me as "my baby" the Street Stock Camaro).

Once again, Thanks for all the support you guys give me, couldn't do it without ya'll.

All the best and I'll try and keep up the good work....

Dora Thorne

Ps. By the way, Dora grabbed another podium finish 5/17 at CCS—2nd place in the SS Feature!

Ps. Ps.—Dora's running Figure 8s this Saturday (5/24)...gonna be great!



Conkle's Corner...

Greetings friends...I'm planning on stepping back into the Crew Chief harness for the June meeting! And again I want to thank Mike Anderson and the rest of the board for stepping up and keeping the car on the track during my absence.

This shows what a great club we have.

I want you all to know also, that my time off has given me opportunities to think back on the stories I've heard along the way. Here's one I recall...



Back in January, a group of Pekin Illinois bikers were riding west on I-74 when they saw a girl about to jump off the Murray Baker Bridge. So they stopped. George, their leader, a big burly man of 53, gets off his Harley, walks through a group of gawkers past the State Trooper who was trying to talk her down off the railing, and says, "Hey Baby... Watcha doing up there on that railen'?" She says tearfully "I'm going to commit suicide."

While he didn't want to appear 'sensitive', George also didn't want miss this 'be-a-legend' opportunity either so he asked..."well before you jump, Honey-Babe... Why don't you give old George here your best last kiss?" So, with no hesitation at all she leaned back across the railing and did just that....And it was a long, deep, lingering kiss followed immediately by another even better one.

After they breathlessly finished, George gets a big thumbs up approval from his biker-buddies, the onlookers, and even the State Trooper, and, then says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I have ever had, Honey! That's a real talent you're wasting, Sugar Shorts. You could be famous if you rode with me. Why the hell are you committing suicide?"

"My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl." The State Trooper's report states that it's unclear whether she jumped or was pushed.

From the Vault Guess who?



(The car number should give it away!)

Photo courtesy of Henry McKenzie