



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

Summer (June, July, August, September) - 2014

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, October 1, 2014

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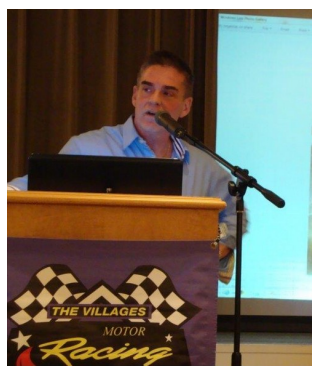
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Summer Months Bring Another Spectacular Line-up of Guest Speakers!

It might be the “dog days of summer” in other parts of Florida, but that’s clearly not been the case here at The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club. Our schedule of June, July, and August guest speakers once again brought us face-to-face with some of the most interesting motorsports talent, enabling us to continue bringing diverse and highly informative content to our members. Here’s a recap of our mid-year meetings...

June 4—The Return of the Brack Family!



The kick off for our summer of stars featured South Florida’s Steven Brack, sharing his personal reflections on growing up in a racing family and developing a racing career in his early years. As many of you already know, Steven is the son of legendary driver and club Hall of Famer Bobby Brack, and was accompanied on June 4 by parents Bobby and Pat on his visit with us. Steven shared a host of fascinating stories about his racing career and his life growing up at places like Hialeah Speedway and Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway, including his march to a Street Stock Championship at

Hialeah and his exploits in a variety of racing divisions through the years.

Steven also shared some of the inside story on his career as an actor and film producer, discussing several of the film credits related to his efforts. 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 Hialeah Speedway. His film credits also include a similar documentary on Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway, yet another major contribution to the retention of Florida’s racing history.

Steven was introduced by George Poveromo, a family friend and nationally known sport fishing professional. George kicked the session off with his own recount of the “golden years” of stock car racing in Florida, and paid tribute to the Brack family and our club godfather Dick Anderson for their contributions to building the sport in the early years.

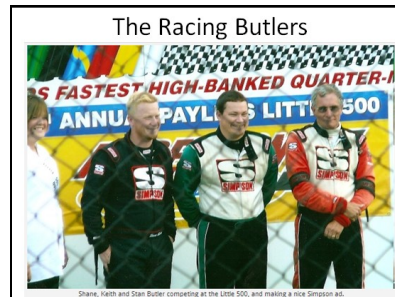


Summer Months Recap (continued)

July 2—Our Focus Shifts to Sprint Cars!



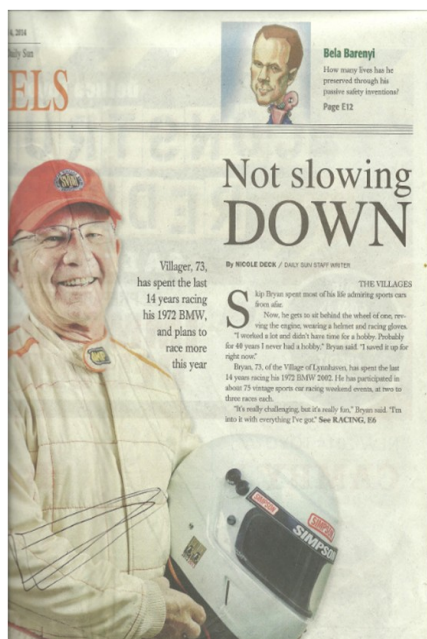
Our mid-year meeting brought us a fascinating perspective on the world of Sprint Cars, with the legendary Stan Butler giving us the inside story on the building of a successful and well-respected racing program. Butler, the patriarch of a family racing operation featuring him and his sons Keith and Shane, shared a lengthy analysis of the ups and downs of racing in this venue, including some of his fascinating stories about the “Little 500” at Anderson Speedway (where he’s made 26 starts!). Stan gave us a thorough review of the details associated with Winged and Non-Wing Sprint Cars, and discussed his duties at Citrus County Speedway overseeing the monthly schedule of Sprint Cars over at our “home track.”



Photos of Stan Butler in action (left to right): At Sunshine Speedway, at Citrus County Speedway, at Anderson Speedway.



August 6—Showcasing Local Talent!



At our August 6 meeting, we were treated to a lively account of a Villages resident living a life many of us dream about! Skip Bryan, from the Village of Lynnhaven, is an honest-to-goodness race car driver, still burning up the tracks in the Sportscar Vintage Race Association ranks at the age of 73. Growing up in Pennsylvania near the state’s premier racing venue—the Reading Fairgrounds—Skip acquired an interest in speed and competitive driving, especially sports cars, at an early age, fueled by his exposure to Reading’s other famous venue, the Duryea Drive Hill Climb.

Through the years, Skip was the proud owner of a variety of sports cars, including an MG, a Porsche, a Spitfire, a Lotus 7, a Jensen Healy, and a Mercedes Roadster, but it wasn’t until the year 2000 that he really got the bug. That was the year he took the step of acquiring his license to race under SVRC sanctioning. At age 60, it was game on for Skip, and he still hasn’t looked back. He competes in roughly 18 events each year, and racked up a SVRC championship in 2007.

Skip credits a lot of his success to the support of wife Carol, who appears well adapted to the life of “a racing wife.”

Summer Months Recap (continued)

September 3—A Formula 1 Analysis!



In September, we focused on the world of Formula One racing, an area we hadn't visited since the late Duncan "Hot Doc" Patterson covered it in depth back in March of 2009. This time, it was another one of our members from "across the pond," as they say, who gave us a thorough recap of what's going on in this highly competitive racing series. Tony Kennea, a dedicated Formula One aficionado, covered the early days of F1, showing a progression of photos of vintage racing cars and punctuating his discussion of the "old days" with a humorous video of a pit stop sequence from 1950 contrasted with a current pit stop showing the dramatic evolution that has occurred in the sport.

During his remarks, Tony covered the teams that have been predominant through the years in F1 competition, and addressed car design and track configurations, emphasizing the criticality of safety and highlighting many of the precautions and safety features that have been implemented throughout the decades. He concluded his remarks with a fascinating review of car designs anticipated in the future. Here are a few of the photos Tony used in his remarks:



October 1 Meeting Preview—Florida Open Wheel Expert Visits



Our October meeting brings us an accomplished motorsports journalist and columnist, Richard Golardi, author of a weekly publication titled "Florida Open Wheel." Richard has covered racing at major tracks (including Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Daytona International Speedway, and Homestead-Miami Speedway), and many short tracks in Florida and around the Midwest. As a noted authority on Sprint Car competition, he is preparing to release his first book, a profile of Florida Sprint Car racing legends. In compiling material for the book, he has conducted over 50 individual driver interviews, and is expecting to publish the work in 2015. During his visit with us, he will share some excerpts from the interviews, featuring great racing stories as told by the legends themselves. Since he's focusing

on Florida legends, there's no doubt that he'll be profiling at least one member of our own Hall of Fame. Let's be sure and confirm that with him!

Florida Open Wheel

The Great Race is Now History

June 29 is a day that has gone down in the books as one of the greatest motorsports-related dates of all time in The Villages. Lake Sumter Landing took center stage that day as the end point of "The Great Race," which concluded the nine-day run that started in Ogunquit, Maine and traveled down the east coast, with stops at places like Poughkeepsie New York, Valley Forge PA, and Wilmington North Carolina before hitting The Villages.

In case you missed the event, here are a few photos from the event, most of them courtesy of The Villages Region Antique Automobile Club of America.



Prediction Row—The Chase is On!



The Chase is on, and our six Prediction Row finalists are up for the challenge. Janine Woodsford paced the field going into Race No. 1 (Chicagoland), seeded first with 12 bonus points as a result of her four winning predictions. John Angiolo, Syd Baker, Shirley Birchwale, and David Vanderwall were next in line with six bonus points each, and Mike Anderson assumed shotgun-on-the-field position with three bonus points.

Here's where they stand after Race No. 1:

Predictor	Bonus Pts.	Race 1 Pts.	Total Pts.
Shirley Birchwale	6	47	53
Janine Woodsford	12	38	50
David Vanderwall	6	41	47
John Angiolo	6	40	46
Syd Baker	6	32	38
Mike Anderson	3	32	35

Club Godfather Preparing for Comeback



In what promises to be the Florida motorsports story of the year, our own Dick Anderson is preparing to return to stock car competition later this year, but not in the famed No. 92 Super Late Model. This time—it's the third time he's stepped out of retirement to compete—he'll be piloting his brand new Open Wheel Modified entry, the No. 7 pictured below. With partial sponsorship from Circle Track Magazine, Dick completed the car over the summer months, and is expecting delivery of the power plant being built by Deland's Byron Khoury later this month.

With well over a thousand feature wins in a racing career that spanned a forty-year period, Anderson has earned—over and over—the title “King of the Florida Short Tracks.” He began his career in the Quarter Midget ranks at age 12, and launched his stock car career in 1964 at age 16 at Hialeah Speedway driving a 1949 Ford. Although predominantly known as a Florida driver, his career featured racing success at a host of Midwest and Northern states.

Stay tuned via our website for scheduling details. And, of course, our club logo will be featured prominently on the eye-catching racing machine!



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 Hormann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Gary Civiletti, Special Events (751-4030)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Syd and Nancy Baker, Hospitality Coordinators (750-2126)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President /Newsletter (751-3643)
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

From the Vault



Photos courtesy of Henry McKenzie

Conkle's Corner...

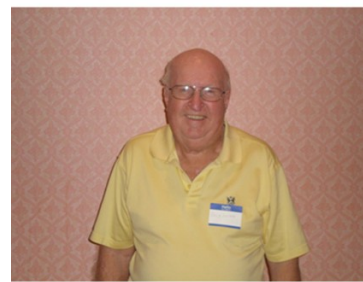
Greetings friends...I know it's been a while since you heard from me. That's actually Gerry's fault, since he's been slacking off with the newsletter! Anyway, we're back in gear, so to speak, so here's another dose of my wisdom for you.



- The National Institutes of Health has released the results of a \$200 million research study completed under a grant to Johns Hopkins. The new study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.
- A recent article in the Dominion Post reported that a woman, Anne Maynard, has sued Wellington Hospital, saying that after her husband had surgery there he lost all interest in sex. A hospital spokesman replied: "Mr. Maynard was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct his eyesight!!!!"
- The Great American Race came to The Villages. That's pretty neat. That's when old cars meet old people.



In Memoriam



Top—David Leedke
 Right—Duncan Patterson