



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report-June, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 8

June 1, 2008

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Can you believe it? The Memorial Day Holiday has just passed by, and that means we're pretty much into the summer season. As you all know from Wendy's updates at our meetings, we have another ambitious schedule set for the months ahead, and more details on these upcoming events can be

found inside this newsletter.

Speaking of Memorial Day, I was personally humbled by the many tributes to our military folks, especially those that made up the pre-show portions of Sunday's major races. It was good to see this outpouring of respect.

And how 'bout those races? The Indy 500 got a little slow because of the cautions, but the sideline stories added quite a bit of drama to the event. Tough day for the ladies, but I hope they stay encouraged enough to stay in the game! The Coke 600 was a bit more interesting in my opinion, right down to the last few laps. Who would have predicted the end?...but as the saying

goes, it ain't over till it's over!

I'd also like to thank Dave Bockman for sharing his Indianapolis memories with The Daily Sun. Their article was great, and it's always heart-warming to see a fellow club member spotlighted in the media. Those of you who haven't had the opportunity to see Dave's "museum" first hand need to give him a call!

We'll see you all at our June 4 meeting...we're hopeful that Buzzie Reutimann's schedule will allow him to make his long-awaited trip to The Villages!

*Glen*

## The "Brothers In Black" Pay Us a Visit!

Our May 7 meeting featured yet another great night of racing stories, this time from the legendary "Brothers In Black"—Chuck and Willie Burkhalter. Coming from a heritage of Southern Stock Car Racing (their father, uncle, and older brother were all racers of note in Florida), Chuck and Willie regaled us with tales of their racing days, with anecdotes of their on- and off-track

adventures. And there were quite a few, from the start of Chuck's driving career 26 years ago, to his 1998 and 1999 track championships at Ocala Speedway, to Willie's exploits in car building and fabrication. These two Florida



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Chuck Burkhalter (Center) shares a racing tale as brother Willie (right) and Dick Anderson (left) look on.

# The “Brothers In Black” Pay Us a Visit!

(Continued from page 1)

### SPECIAL NOTE

*We’re still participating in the “Help Them Call Home” program, so don’t forget to bring to the meeting any old cell phones you may have.*

natives shared their stories with us, generated quite a few laughs, and traced their path to their current racing involvement as chief mechanics for Dick Anderson’s New Dixie Racing team in Wildwood, Florida. Along

with Dick, they discussed their present work with up-and-coming drivers, including Jessica Murphy and Shea Holbrook, as well as their views on the state of stock car racing in Florida. Responding to a barrage of

questions from club members, Chuck, Willie, and Dick provided a detailed explanation of the economics of fielding race cars, as well as the “glamour” work that goes on back at the shop between races.



Chuck’s trademark look on the track!

## Buzzie Reutimann Fans Surface

Those of you who were at our May meeting probably noticed the serious Buzzie Reutimann fans who showed up expecting to meet with the racing legend. Unfortunately, as you know, Buzzie had to re-schedule his visit with us due to unexpected commitments at Darlington. These fans—Al and Joyce Varrone—were undaunted, and are still looking forward to seeing Buzzie on June 4. In fact, they have some autograph work lined up for Buzzie...Joyce intends to have him sign a jacket she’s held on to for a number of years, as well as a die cast model of one of his signature cars from decades ago. I caught up with the Varrones a week or so ago at their Bonnybrook home, and was treated to a veritable treasure trove of memorabilia relating to stock car racing in the northeast, a lot of which brought back fond recollections of the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s. Pictured here are some shots from Al & Joyce that will take many of you for a ride down memory lane!



Clockwise, from top left: Buzzie at Orange County (NY) Speedway, 1977; Buzzie at Middletown, 1978; Flemington, Memorial Day 1978; Syracuse, 1978; Joyce Varrone, with Reutiemann items; Nazareth, 1979;

## Special Events Roundup for 2008

Our Special Events Committee continues to work diligently to bring you the very best in activities and experiences. Here's a recap of what you can look forward to for the rest of 2008:

- **June 13**-Open Wheel Modifieds at Ocala (Sponsorship of Buzzie Reutimann)
- **July 4-5**-Coke 400 and

Nationwide Race, Daytona Speedway

- **July 26** - Club picnic at Dick Anderson's Race Shop in Wildwood (Details will be covered at June 4 meeting)
- **August 2**-Sunoco Sunbelt Series Race at USA International Speedway, Lakeland, FL (Sponsorship of Dick Anderson)

- **October**-Poker Run
- **October 5**-Bus trip to Talladega for AMP Energy 500 Sprint Cup Event
- **October 17** - Florida Mini-stock Challenge event at Orlando Speedworld (Sponsorship of Steve Griffin)

- **November 22**-43rd annual FL Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway (Sponsorship of Dick Anderson)

Also, we're repeating last year's raffle for a Richard Petty Daytona driving experience; \$10 per entry.

See Wendy Touchette or any Pit Crew member for details.

## Local Racing Corner

Here are the operating schedules and the contact info for our neighboring tracks:

Ocala Speedway—Friday nights, gates open at 6:00 pm.

9050 NW Gainesville Rd  
Ocala, FL 34482  
(352) 622-9400  
(www.ocalaspeedway.com)



Citrus County Speedway— Saturday nights; Gates open at 4:00 pm, first event runs at 5:30 pm.

U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds.  
(352) 726-9339  
(www.citruscountyspeedway.com)



New Smyrna Speedway— Saturday nights; Gates open at 5:00 pm.

Corner of State Route 44 and 415.  
P.O. Box 1500  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170  
(386) 427-4129  
(www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)



USA International Speedway—Special events only...no regular series schedule.

Florida Triple Crown Series—Super Late Models  
All ProJ-Pull-It 125  
Saturday June 7; Race at 7:30 pm.  
(www.usaspeedway.com)



**Special Note—“Our Car”, with Jeff Choquette at the wheel, is entered in this event. Good opportunity to see our logo in action (and in the winner’s circle, I expect!)**

Speedway Park—Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 466A near The Villages)

Florida's oldest 1/8th mile clay oval Go-Kart track; less than a mile from The Villages! See website for schedule  
(www.speedwaypark.net)



Visit our website: [www.villagesracingclub.com](http://www.villagesracingclub.com)

## The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

Glen Carter, President (751-6442)  
 Gerry Hafer, Vice Pres./Newsletter (751-3643)  
 Ted Cahalane, Treasurer (751-2638)  
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)  
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 Linda Carter, Historian (751-6442)  
 Mike Touchette, Member at Large (430-0239)  
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)  
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)  
 Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)

## 2008 Golf Scramble— A Washout!

Despite several intense weeks of intense planning by Wayne Nolan and his crew, our May 23 Golf Scramble succumbed to the whims of Florida weather. A wild storm (some folks referred to it as a mini-hurricane) roared into the southern end of The Villages, and specifically the Sandhill Golf Course, shortly after the first of our 50 golfers teed off. The first group made it as far as the fourth hole, at which point the lightning, wind, and torrential rains led to a re-evaluation of objectives. As a contingent of would-be players huddled in the rest room at Sandhill, and as another group hunkered down in their golf carts on the parking lot, the storm raked the area and left the course virtually unplayable. Here's what it looked like at about 1:30:



So the only recourse at that point was to ride it out and then travel over to Bridgeport for the celebration dinner. Our 60 dinner guests were treated to a catered Pig Roast and, after the prizes were awarded via lottery, it's safe to say "a good time was had by all" except maybe the pig.



## So you don't need to look it up...

There's been quite a bit of hype in the past few years on the subject of "women in racing," no doubt fueled by the phenomenon of "Danicania" in the Indy Racing League. While it's certainly been an interesting story, there's really nothing new about the subject. In fact, women first competed in the Indianapolis 500 in 1977 (Janet Guthrie) and in the highest levels of NASCAR since 1949. In fact, the website [www.racerchicks.com](http://www.racerchicks.com) lists the resumes of several hundred prominent professional female race car drivers. Included in this website is the bio of Florida's own Alli Owens, a frequent competitor at tracks in central Florida, including New Smyrna Beach Speedway. (Look for Alli to run the Pocono 200 on June 7, 2008 on the Speed Channel).

Anyway, here are the women who have raced in NASCAR's cup-level series (and its predecessor series), courtesy of a website maintained by Ivy Armstrong, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

- [Sara Christian](#) (1949-1950) 7 races
- [Louise Smith](#) (1949-1950) 11 races
- [Ethel Mobley](#) (1949) 2 races
- [Ann Bunselmeyer](#) (1950) 1 race
- [Ann Chester](#) (1950) 2 races
- [Marian Pagan](#) (1954) 1 race
- [Fifi Scott](#) (1955) 2 races
- [Goldie Parsons](#) (1965) 1 race
- [Janet Guthrie](#) (1976-1980) 33 races
- [Christine Beckers](#) (1977) 1 race
- [Lella Lombardi](#) (1977) 1 race
- [Robin McCall](#) (1982) 2 races
- [Patty Moise](#) (1987-89) 5 races
- [Shawna Robinson](#) (2001-02) 7 races

And now, taking a look at the Indy Racing League's female competitors, here are the ladies who have competed in the Indy 500:

Driver	Janet Guthrie	Lyn St. James	Sarah Fisher
Years	1977-79	1992-00	2000-08
Races	3	7	7
Best start	14	6	9
Best finish	9	11	18
Laps	220	947	632

Driver	Sarah Fisher	Danica Patrick	Milka Duno
Years	2000-08	2005-08	2007-08
Races	7	4	2
Best start	9	4	27
Best finish	18	4	19
Laps	632	669	250

## ***SPECIAL REPORT***

### ***CLUB PICNIC AT NEW DIXIE RACING***

#### ***July 26, 2008***

As mentioned in the “Special Events Roundup” on page 3, the club is planning a picnic for Saturday, July 26 at Dick Anderson’s New Dixie Racing facility in Wildwood. Mary and Dick have invited us to visit them at their race shop for what will undoubtedly be an afternoon of fun, camaraderie, entertainment, and of course racing discussions. We’re hoping to have a number of race cars on display, from quarter midgets to trucks to Super Late Models, and there’s a very good possibility that Jeff Choquette will be dropping in to chat with us during the day. Jessica Murphy, the newest entry into Dick’s list of up-and-coming drivers, will also be invited to join us, along with Wayne Anderson, Dick’s son and Florida racing standout. With these guests, and with Dick and Mary providing tours of their life in racing, you’ll be guaranteed to come away with a good understanding of Florida’s racing history.

Many of you have visited Dick’s Wildwood race shop, and are familiar with the layout of his facility. For those of you, though, who have not had the opportunity to make the trip down there, here are some photos of the Anderson’s property and the site of our upcoming event.



The entrance to the Anderson’s homestead is pictured at left, just off of CR 507.

As you drive up the lane, you reach the parking area and entrance to the garage bays, pictured at right.



Top left is another angle on the entrance to the garage area, showing the hauler where it is normally parked (Dick will probably move it for the picnic!) Photo on right is a look inside the garage, showing our car on the lift and one of Jessica Murphy’s car on the right.

More photos on back .....

***SPECIAL REPORT (Continued)***  
***CLUB PICNIC AT NEW DIXIE RACING***  
***July 26, 2008***



Left: One of the walls in the garage, showing a few of Dick's 1000+ trophies. Notice that there are several wall-hangings containing news clippings of Dick's accomplishments. Dick will look forward to sharing the many "war stories" that go along with these clippings.

Right: "Our car" being refurbished and readied for combat!



One of Jessica Murphy's cars, also being readied for competition. This is the stuff that keeps Dick, Chuck, and Willie busy!



A view of the southwestern end of the Anderson homestead, just past the garage area.

Mark your calendars for this event...it's also a preview event for the August 2 Sunoco Sunbelt Series race at USA Speedway in Lakeland, where the club will be traveling and sponsoring Dick and Jeff in the #92. We'll discuss both of these upcoming events in greater detail at the June 4 meeting.

See you then!