



PIT NEWS *July 2020*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: September 2, 2020

A Few Words from the President's Desk



The COVID-19 has brought many challenges to our lives, including how we run our racing fan club. The Board of Directors has been working diligently to figure out our future guest speakers and all new, required social distancing policies. We have been given the green flag from the Recreation Department, as of now, to have our meeting on September 2, 2020. We will be able to follow all social distancing requirements to accommodate about 110 members at the meeting. At this time, we are working on a guest speaker.

I am very pleased to announce that we now have a new Special Events Coordinator, as Michael Gross has volunteered to take on this position. The board is very grateful and will give him as much assistance as needed. Thank you, Michael.

After many discussions, the board has decided to make dues payable on a calendar-year basis from January through December. Therefore, we are giving four months of free membership dues to all members. In the coming year, we are putting a huge emphasis on attracting more guest speakers from all forms of motor racing. We are also working on car shows put on by the club. Please see page 7 for more information on the car show.

Please note that I am always open to different ideas about things that you as a group would like to do. You can email me at cbfla13@bellsouth.net or call me at 954-729-3050.

I am very excited about a very successful new year for the club. See everyone in September. Stay safe and stay well.

Regards,
Chris Bleistein

GATORNATIONALS UPDATE

NHRA has rescheduled the makeup race for the 2020 Gatornationals. The dates chosen are September 25-27, 2020 at Gainesville Raceway. The ticket you have is valid for the makeup race (no bus transportation available) or for the 2021 Gatornationals.

In light of this information, the club's board of directors has recommended that the best choice for our club members and their guests is to use their tickets for the 2021 event. We will once again be able to have a bus and do a complete trip. We will also be guaranteed our current block of seats. If you do not feel that this option works for you, please contact me at 352-633-5624 and we can discuss your options.

If you decide you would still like to attend the Gatornationals in September, the gates open every day at 7 a.m. Social distancing is currently in effect and is expected to remain in effect at the time of the race. The track is currently open and running with no fans, and only drivers and crews being allowed on premises. NHRA has plans to start allowing fans back in the stands on a limited basis starting in August. They will keep us apprised as to how it will work.

REMEMBER, PLEASE DO NOT THROW YOUR TICKETS AWAY. THEY ARE VALUABLE TO YOU AND THE CLUB. All refund requests (if any) will be handled through the Club.

My standard reminder to you is this: As NHRA said to me, "This information could change and we will do our best to keep you up to date because we want to give you a Gatornationals this year even if you just watch it on TV."

Thanks, Lois Taylor

We Have Lost a Great One



Class of 2019 Hall of Fame member Vicki Wood passed away Friday, June 5, 2020 after a lingering illness.

Vicki Wood was born on March 15, 1919 and recently celebrated her 101st birthday with friends and relatives in Michigan.

Wood was once known as the "fastest woman on the beach" during her NASCAR racing days. She earned the title in 1960 after a 150-mph straight-line run down the sands of Daytona Beach during NASCAR-sanctioned time trials. Vicki won more than 45 races in her career and was a great pioneer in a sport dominated by men. She was one of many

woman drivers who drove in the 1950s and 60s. She once held the record for fastest laps turned by a woman at Atlanta Motor Speedway and Daytona International Speedway.

Wood was a charming story-teller. Her stories about racing with the "boys," and beating them, were fun to hear.

David Rogers Loses Battle with Cancer



David Rogers, Hall of Fame Class of 2015, who is known as a Florida short-track racing legend, passed away March 8, following an 18-month battle with lymphoma. Rogers was 64 years old.

Rogers, a resident of Orlando, started his racing career as a teenager and became one of the most successful Late Model drivers in Florida racing history in his No. 11 TM Ranch Super Late Model.

Overall, Rogers won a total of six NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Florida state championships, with his last coming in 2017. He also has wins in all of New Smyrna Speedway's biggest races, including the Florida Governor's Cup, Orange Blossom 100, Red Eye 100, Pete Orr Memorial and World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing.

In December, Rogers broke the record for most career starts (33) in the Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway. Prior to the race, Rogers was honored with the "Derby Dedication Award" for his unmatched dedication to the event since his first start in 1976.

Rex White Suffers Stroke, Recovering



In late April, Class of 2019 Hall of Fame member Rex White suffered a stroke and was hospitalized.

We were happy to learn that by May 2, Rex was home recuperating. His address is 187 Rivers Rd, Lot 222, Fayetteville, GA 30214 if you wish to send him a card.

Rex raced in NASCAR from 1956 to 1964. He won the NASCAR championship in 1960. Besides winning the 1960 championship, that year he also notched the Most Popular Driver award, and the Driver of the Year award.

In 1998, Rex was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers. And in 2015, he was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Today, Rex is the oldest living NASCAR champion, an accomplishment he plans to retain for a long time.

Future Meetings and Events

TBA

TBA

September 2, 2020

January 23, 2021

February 1, 2021

Gatornationals

Camp Villages R/C Racing

Monthly meeting

Hall of Fame Banquet (where did that year go?!)

1st Annual Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Car Show

(See more info on page 7)

LOCAL SPEEDWAYS HAVE OPENED ... DRIVERS, START YOUR ENGINES!!

JOHN ANGIOLO ATTENDS THE RACES AT CITRUS COUNTY SPEEDWAY ON A REGULAR BASIS AND WELCOMES FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS TO JOIN HIM. HIS NUMBER IS 414-305-8094, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT HIM. (WEAR YOUR CLUB SHIRTS PROUDLY).



The website where you can find the 2020 schedule of events is www.citruscountyspeedwayandtrack.com. Looks like fun for the entire family, but keep in mind it is CASH ONLY and there is NO ATM on the premises.



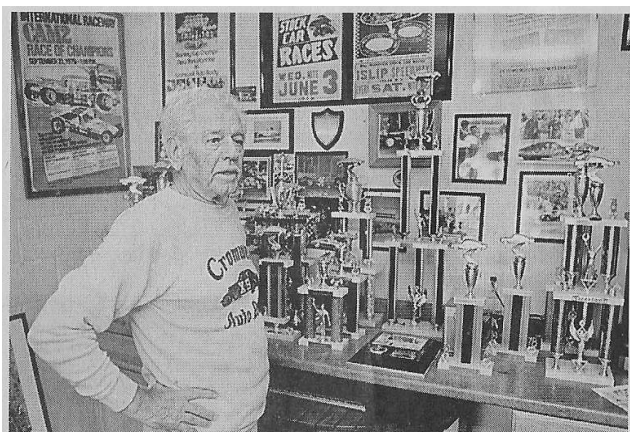
The website where you can find the 2020 schedule of events is www.volusiaspeedwaypark.com.



The website where you can find the 2020 schedule of events is www.newsmyrnaspeedwayusa.com.

INTERESTING DAILY SUN ARTICLES ABOUT CLUB MEMBERS

George Wagner and Chris Bleistein



Photos by John DeClerk | Daily Sun

George Wagner, of the Village of Winifred, stands in front of his many trophies Thursday. They were won during a racing career that spanned from 1962 to 1982.

More than 50 years ago, Hall of Famer George Wagner and club president Chris Bleistein were often at the same New York race tracks but they didn't know each other.

Wagner was a hot shoe who piloted the iconic No. X-9 open wheel modified. As a fan, it was Bleistein's favorite car.

Fast forward to The Villages and they are both members of the Motor Racing Fan Club.

[Click Here](#) to download the full Daily Sun article from our club website.

Art Fehrman



Board member Art Fehrman owns a family heirloom in the form of a 1957 Chevy Bel Air convertible.

It was found by his Dad in 1969. Dad spiffed it up while Art served overseas during 1970-71. Since then, Art has enjoyed transporting his kids and grandkids for many miles of smiles.

[Click Here](#) to download the full Daily Sun article from our club website and see pictures of Art's black beauty.

Coming to a Square Near You

1st Annual Motor Racing Fan Club Car Show Coming Soon!



Marty Robbins' Stock Car will be one of the cars on display

We are proud to announce we will be showcasing all forms of racing at our first-ever racing show at Brownwood Paddock Square on Monday, February 1, 2021, 5-8 p.m.

On display will be Ole Coupes of Yesteryear, Record-Setting Motorcycles, Dragsters, Open Wheel Modifieds, current short-track Late Models, and area race track Pace Cars.

Driver interviews at 7 p.m. Awards and prize drawings will be held at 7:45 p.m. Race schedules for 2021 will also be available.

Anyone interested in showing their racing machine can call Art Fehrman at 708-254- 5196 for more show information. You do not need to be a Villages resident or a member of the Villages Motor Racing Fan Club to show your racing machine.

Prediction Row



After a tumultuous schedule, the Spring Segment of Prediction Row wrapped up at Talladega.

The racing season was interrupted by stay-at-home orders. When racing resumed, the sports section of the Daily Sun was non-existent, but the sports editors made sure our predictions were published.

Our predictors survived and the top three will advance to the Playoff Segment.

Here are the Spring Segment final standings:

- 1. Larry Hanna 4 wins, 546 points**
- 2. Art Staus 3 wins, 495 points**
- 3. Jim West 3 wins, 480 points**
4. Woody White 2 wins, 487 points
5. Carol Wagner 1 win, 404 points
6. Jackie Putman 1 win, 354 points

The Summer Segment begins Saturday, June 27 at Pocono. It will run to the beginning of the NASCAR Playoffs and the start of our Playoff Segment.

Here are the six fearless Summer Segment prognosticators:

John Goodyear	Donna Gross
Gerry Hafer	Paul O'Connor
Steve Poplarski	Bob Woodsford, defending champion

To follow their predictions, be sure to read The Villages Daily Sun each race day, or visit the club website to see their predictions and check the standings.



Let's Welcome our New Members!!

MEMBER

TIDBITS OF INTEREST

Gail Hamilton
Illinois

Sponsored a Champion Legends Series driver

Jim Maybeck
New York

Owner/Driver of Screaming Eagle Blown Fuel Funny Car sponsored by US Savings Bonds in late 60's. Early 70's featured in Car Craft & Hot Rod magazines, etc. Also, DAAR Midgets/Modifieds

Editor's Corner of useful (and sometimes) useless funny tidbits....



For those members who follow racing on oval tracks, you know that the winner enjoys doing donuts at the Finish Line, but do you know what the number 1 donut in the USA is?

The Glazed donut takes the checkered flag, followed by the Boston Creme and in a close third is the Jelly-filled donut. Now you know.....



PIT CREW

**Need to get in touch with a member of the Pit Crew?
Please see the information below!**

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Chris Bleistein	President	Crew Chief	954-729-3050
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Gerry Greim	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	215-630-1402
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
Mike Gross	Special Events Coordinator	Jack Man	401-323-1313
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Mechanic	352-633-5624
John Angiolo	Hospitality Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Mike Anderson	Social Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Paul Morbit	Crew Uniform Manager	Logo Mart	443-622-3181
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Tom Horrmann	Member At large	Mechanic	352-430-0195
Janine Woodsford	Member At Large	Mechanic	352-430-5804
Jerry Conkle	Past President	Team Owner	352-750-1185

Don't forget to visit our website for more club information.