

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

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A Message from your Crew Chief



Many of you know that I am continuing the recovery from my May surgery, and I feel fortunate at this point that it's progressing so well. I've said it before, and I'll probably say it again, but I am extremely grateful to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes as I go through this. I expect to be back on the pit box for next week's regular meeting, so I look forward to seeing you all again. In fact, I'm feeling so well that I'm considering joining a few

fellow club members on a field trip to Citrus County Speedway on Saturday night (7/28) to watch Steven Griffin drive! I'll let you all know next week how it went.

As you know, we're nearing the end of our first year as a club, and what a year it's been! Thanks to your interest and participation, and to the efforts of our hard-working pit crew, I think we're well on the way to making this one of the most successful organizations in The Villages. I look forward as we continue to build toward an even more exciting second year.

Glen

July's Big Event – Daytona!!!



Eighteen robust club members broke new ground for us on July 6 & 7. As participants in the club's first field trip to a major NASCAR event, they were subjected first to the ordeal of waiting out the weather that caused the postponement of the Friday night Winn-Dixie 250 Busch race, then to the extraordinary festivities preceding the Nextel Cup event on Saturday afternoon, and finally to the spectacular running of the 2007 Pepsi 400 event on Saturday night. The club's Special Events Committee—with exceptional assistance from Sabrina Gardiner of International Speedway Corporation—assembled a first-class package for the group, complete with excellent seating, Fan Zone access, and a complete package of "goodies" packaged in a

NASCAR-approved carrying bag. Now that we've taken the plunge into a major event, we expect that future field trips of this type will become a standard for the club.

In addition to the club members making the trip, we were pleased to have Katie Evans of The Villages Daily Sun accompany our group to cover the trip. Ms. Evans' front page report in the Sunday July 8 edition of the Daily Sun provided an extensive recap of the event and our club's participation in it, as well as several photos of club members "in action" at Daytona International Speedway. In the photo to the right, Ms. Evans can be seen interviewing our Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette.



Join us at our August 1 meeting to hear the first hand observations from our members as they recap the excitement of the trip. In the meantime, here are a few of the photos collected at the event:



and, of course.....



Local Racing Corner

In keeping with our objective of promoting local racing interest, here's a recap of upcoming dates at several of our closest tracks. These venues offer great car pool, tailgating opportunities to watch real exciting grassroots racing.

Citrus County Speedway (http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com)	
Date	Event
August 4	Open Wheel Modifieds, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers, Fig 8, F.O.W.L., Outlaw Mini Mods Outlaw Modifieds
August 11	Gulf Coast Modified, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers
August 18	FAST TRUCKS, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers, Fig 8
August 25	Super Late Model, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers
Ocala Speedway (http://www.ocalaspeedway.com)	
August 3	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman & Late Models). PLUS - FAST Pro Truck, FAST Kids, FAST Mini Cups & Street Car Challenge
August 10	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman & Modifieds). <u>Drivers</u> note: DOUBLE POINTS. PLUS – School Bus Figure “8” 20 Laps - \$1,000 to Win. (Half-time - Kids may take ride around track in School Bus) & <i>Figure “8” cars</i>
August 17	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman & Late Models (DOUBLE POINTS for Late Models - PLUS – <i>Kids Bike Race</i>).
August 24	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock & Street Stock PLUS – Gulf Coast Modifieds; Florida Mini Cup & <i>Figure “8” cars</i>
August 31	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock – <u>2nd Place Car is Winner</u>) (Street Stock, Sportsman & Late Models). PLUS – 3rd Annual Out-House Race.
New Smyrna Speedway (http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)	
August 4	TBARA OUTLAW WINGED SPRINTS 30, Pro-Trucks, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
August 11	SPORTSMAN 50, Late Model, Modified, Super Stock, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
August 18	GOODYEAR CHALLENGE LATE MODEL 100, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
August 25	VOLUSIA PENNSAVER FAMILY FUN NIGHT - Kids Bike Races, Kids Race Car Rides, Enduro 100, Sportsman, Super Stock, Strictly Stock
USA Speedway, Lakeland (http://www.usaspeedway.com)	
August 4	Guaranteed Concrete Florida Triple Crown Race #2 The 9th Annual Florida State Late Model Championship 200 FASCAR Sunoco Sunbelt Super Late Model Series

So You Don't Need to Look it up!

Now here's two fascinating sets of statistical information for you: the qualifying records currently on the books for all active NASCAR tracks, and the roster of former winners of the season opening "Bud Shootout". As always, we know that this is the type of information that just keeps you up all night thinking about!

Thru Race #17 New Hampshire	
Track Qualifying Records	
Atlanta	197.478 mph, Geoff Bodine, Nov 15, 1997
Bristol	126.709 mph, Ryan Newman, March 21, 2003
California	188.245 mph, Kyle Busch, Febuary 27, 2005
Chicago	188.147 mph, Jimmie Johnson, July 8, 2005
Darlington	173.797 mph, Ward Burton, Mar 22, 1996
Daytona	210.364 mph, Bill Elliot, Feb 9, 1987 (Non Restrictor Plate)
Dover	161.522 mph, Jeremy Mayfield, June 4, 2004
Homestead	181.111 mph, Jamie McMurray, Nov 14, 2003
Indianapolis	186.293 mph, Casey Mears, Aug 8, 2004
Kansas	180.856 mph, Matt Kenseth, Oct 8, 2005
Las Vegas	184.855 mph, Kasey Kahne*, March 11, 2007
Louden	133.357 mph, Ryan Newman, Sep 12, 2003
Lowe's	193.216 mph, Elliott Sadler, Oct 13, 2005
Martinsville	98.084 mph, Tony Stewart, Oct 21, 2005
Michigan	194.232 mph, Ryan Newman, Jun 19, 2005
Phoenix	135.854 mph, Ryan Newman, Nov 5, 2004
Pocono	172.533 mph, Kasey Kahne*, June 11, 2004
Richmond	129.983 mph, Brian Vickers, May 14, 2004
Sonoma	94.325mph, Jeff Gordon, June 25, 2005
Talladega	212.809 mph, Bill Elliott, April 30, 1987 (Non Restrictor Plate)
Texas	196.235 mph, Brian Vickers, Nov 3, 2006
Watkins Glen	124.580 mph, Jeff Gordon, Aug 8, 2003

Bud Shootout Winners	
2007	Tony Stewart
2006	Denny Hamlin*
2005	Jimmie Johnson
2004	Dale Jarrett
2003	Dale Earnhardt Jr
2002	Tony Stewart
2001	Tony Stewart
2000	Dale Jarrett
1999	Mark Martin
1998	Rusty Wallace
1997	Jeff Gordon
1996	Dale Jarrett
1995	Dale Earnhardt
1994	Jeff Gordon
1993	Dale Earnhardt
1992	Geoff Bodine
1991	Dale Earnhardt
1990	Ken Schrader
1989	Ken Schrader
1988	Dale Earnhardt
1987	Bill Elliott
1986	Dale Earnhardt
1985	Terry Labonte
1984	Neil Bonnett
1983	Neil Bonnett
1982	Bobby Allison
1981	Darrell Waltrip
1980	Dale Earnhardt
1979	Buddy Baker

Statistics courtesy of our friends at <http://www.theinsidegroove.com>. Visit this site and view a fantastic collection of information about NASCAR!

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Meet your fellow Club members

This Month – Gerry Hafer, Your Newsletter Editor



Yeah, that's me sitting on the pit wall at Dover International Speedway contemplating my turn out on the track. My wife, Sandy, after hearing me say over and over again that "I'd really like to try driving one of those things!," presented me with a driving experience package at the "Monster Mile" for my 49th birthday back in 1995. Those of you who have ever done one of these know that it is a thrill that you never forget...the feel of 700+ horsepower, the g-forces in the turns, the way that things look so different at track level...you name it. If you haven't had

the opportunity to do one of these experiences, you gotta consider it. You'll never watch a race the same way again!

Now back to me. I grew up in the racing capital of southeast Pennsylvania (Reading), home of the then-famous Reading Fairgrounds half-mile clay oval, and eventually the home base for Penske Racing. With modified stock races every Friday and Sunday nights, and occasional visits from the USAC sprint car stars (Mario Andretti lived just up the road in Nazareth), you really couldn't help but become a fan. Besides, there really wasn't much to do in Reading other than racing. I started going to events at the age of ten, when my Sunday school teacher invited me to come out and watch him drive (Red Leshar, driving the 101 Electric Heat Special...those were the days!) Along the way, I had the opportunity to watch the "greats" of the day...Al Tasnady, Gerald Chamberlain, Kenny Brightbill, and of course guys like A. J. Foyt, Andretti, Eddie Sachs, and the Unsers when they came to town. I was also intrigued to learn recently that Dick Anderson raced at Reading occasionally in the modified series back in the 1970's. I was probably in the grandstands when he was there.

Regarding my background, I retired in 2003 after a 35-year career in the Reading area, most of which was spent with an electric utility as an "IT guy". My last five years of full-time work involved managing a regulatory law firm (although I'm not a lawyer.) After reading about The Villages in a magazine, Sandy and I decided to visit the area in 2002 and, after two more visits (to check out the seasons), we took the plunge in August of 2003. Not being one to retire completely, and recognizing that my golf game is not ever going to be good enough to entertain me consistently, I joined the adjunct faculty staff at two local community colleges, where I teach a variety of business programs. Also, since I really enjoyed being a part of the electric utility industry, I am an "occasional" consultant for Sumter Electric Co-operative (SECO). So, that stuff keeps me off the street, as does working with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club and my current stint as President of the Summerhill Social Club.

In terms of my days as a racing spectator, I enjoy watching NASCAR races, although I must admit that my interest has waned a bit in favor of the local tracks. I was (and still am, sadly) a devoted Bill Elliott fan, and just can't seem to make the transition to the "young guns." During the years, I've attended events at Dover, Pocono, Charlotte, Indianapolis, Richmond, Nazareth, and Watkins Glen, as well as many of the Florida and Pennsylvania short tracks. These days, I get more enjoyment out of watching the local short track events at places like Ocala, Citrus County, New Smyrna, Bronson, etc.

If any of you have ever had the pleasure of "wearing the dirt" at Reading's famed track, flag me down at a meeting so we can reminisce about the old days!