



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report-August, 2008

August 1, 2008

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Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



Man, it's hot this year, and I'm not just talking about the weather. Dick Anderson's New Dixie Racing team continues to tear up the local tracks, Buzzie Reutimann continues to build on an already-great set of career statistics, NASCAR's "Silly Season" has launched itself earlier than usual, and on and on. At the same time,

our club has been actively producing opportunities to take part in the racing activities available to us here in Florida, including trips to NASCAR events and group trips to local tracks, along with presentations from great speakers from many different racing venues. In fact, this month's sponsorship deal with Buzzie at Ocala represented yet another high point for us, as does the upcoming sponsorship of Dick's car at Lakeland.

And, speaking of sponsorship deals, those of us who made it up to Ocala on July 18 got to see a great night of racing. The bad news was that Buzzie didn't have such a good night (see the recap on page 5), but the good

news is he's returning to Ocala Speedway with a vengeance on Friday August 1, determined to win! If you can make it, stop up and see this legend race again...it'll be worth the trip.

One final item...those of you who were unable to make it to Dick Anderson's on July 26 for the club picnic missed a great time. Dick and Mary opened their home to us, and were absolutely gracious hosts to a contingent of over 100 club members and about 40 guests from one of Dick's main sponsors—BDH Construction. See the recap on pages 6 & 7...it was an incredible event!

Glen

Yet Another Venue Heard From...SCCA!

In our continuing quest to accommodate all types of motor racing, we were delighted to have with us at our July 2 meeting a representative of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). And not just any representative, but a member of SCCA's national Board of Directors. Villages resident K. P. Jones, SCCA's current board treasurer and Area Director for SCCA's South-

east Region, joined us for what turned out to be another great night of true-life stories about racing—in this case sports car racing and its many facets. K. P., a native of West Virginia but a 40+ year Floridian, shared his love of racing

(Continued on Page 2)...



K. P. Jones shares an electrifying tale of his sports car racing exploits.

Yet Another Venue Heard From...SCCA!

(Continued from page 1)



and his passion for sports cars, and described in hilarious detail his entry into the sport. His narrative of a Corvair/TR4 pilgrimage from Ft. Pierce to Orlando to participate in his first driving school kept the crowd in stitches, as did his

recounting of on-track (and, of course, off-track) adventures in racing. K. P. also shared an amusing story of the origin of his racing interest, featuring his discussion with a driver involved in a wreck at the 12-hours of Sebring event many years

ago. Since the driver seemed to be alright, K. P.'s instant decision was that this was the sport for him!

During the more serious side of his remarks, K.P. described the organization of SCCA and its many (30+) divisions. He discussed many of the big-name racing personalities who passed through the SCCA ranks, including Mario and Michael Andretti, Bobby Rahal, Scott Pruett and others, and outlined opportunities for those in the audience who might want to consider becoming a part of SCCA at the "hands-on" level. All in all, another great night for the club!



Another packed house intently absorbs K.P.'s remarks about the world of SCCA

Club Trip to Daytona

A spirited contingent of club members braved the July Florida heat to make the pilgrimage over to Daytona International Speedway for the July 4 Nationwide Series event and the July 5 Sprint Cup Coke 400 event. Both races produced great competition, but as most of you know the real excitement came in the closing laps of the Saturday night event. In the words of commentator Bill Weber, "A wild finish to the Coke 400!" That was a bit of an understatement, though, with Kyle Busch managing to be at exactly the right place on the track at exactly the right time when the "big wreck" took place on the final lap.

So, for the second consecutive year, our participating club members were treated to a thrilling edition of this mid-summer classic. The NASCAR guys proved once again that "it ain't over till it's over!"



The Friday, July 4 Group



The Saturday, July 5 Group



Special Events Roundup for 2008

Well, we've passed the midpoint of 2008, and so far our club has had some exciting activities, trips, and events. BUT WAIT...there's more to come! The second half of the year promises to be at least as exciting as the first half. Here are the major events planned at this point:

- **August 2**—Sunoco Sunbelt Series Race at USA International Speedway, Lakeland, FL (Sponsorship of Dick Anderson.) At press time, Wayne Anderson is slated to drive the No. 92 ("Our Car") in the 125-lap main event, and as those of you who participated in the hood signing on July 26 can attest, the car looks like its moving at 200 mph just sitting still! We'll be going for three-for-three with Dick's No. 92, with an excellent chance at a 3-peat.

- **October**—Poker Run (date and details TBD)
- **November 22**—43rd annual FL Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway (Sponsorship of Dick Anderson.) Dick will be gunning for a second straight win in this prestigious event.
- **Tuesday, December 2**—Hall of Fame Night at Colony Cottage Rec Center (details TBD)

- Our second annual raffle to win one of three Richard Petty Experience prizes is in full swing. The sooner we sell the allotted 150 tickets, the sooner we can pick the winners and GO RACING! With effective odds of 1-in-50, you can't go wrong

See **Wendy Touchette** or any Pit Crew member for details on any of these events.

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, Second Leg of Three
Saturday August 2; Main Event at 7:30 pm.
(www.usaspeedway.com)



This is a club bus trip
event...don't miss it!



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)

SPEEDWAY PARK

Visit our website: 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)

A Website Dedicated to Racing In the South

PanhandleRacing.com

This is an interesting site dedicated to racing on the southern tracks. The site contains articles (current and archived) relating to a wide variety of racing venues, including Dirt, Asphalt, Karts, Road Racing, Motorcycles, and Drag racing; news clippings about tracks, drivers, and race promoters; and schedules for events around the area. The site also provides numerous photos, as well as video clips from selected events and recaps from specific tracks. For example, there's a summary of the 3/15/08 dirt modified event at East Bay Speedway (a.k.a., "The Clay by the Bay") in which—who else?—Buzzie Reutimann dueled with Scotty Williams to what must have been a dramatic 2nd place finish. Since Buzzie frequently races at East Bay, this site's worth putting in your "favorites" list.

The site contains RSS feeds of news events around the area, so it's a good place to stay current on the stuff happening behind the scenes, so to speak. For example, there's an update currently posted about Rick Crawford's attempt to buy, and re-open, Montgomery Speedway in Birmingham, AL. There are links to websites for 31 individual tracks in Florida, so it's a good site to keep handy.

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

Since we just passed the halfway point in the 2008 NASCAR season, we thought it would be a good idea to update you on the list of all-time winners at the "Cup Level." Note that this list includes both the modern era and the years preceding it, so it really is an all-time list. The list also recaps the Championships won by each of the top 40 winners, along with the number of times they finished second in the championship race. These stats are courtesy of Jayski's@Silly Season site.

No.	Rank	Driver	Wins	Championships	Championship Years	2nds
1	1	Petty, Richard	200	7	1964, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979	6
2	2	Pearson, David	105	3	1966, 1968, 1969	
3	3	Allison, Bobby	84	1	1983	5
4		Waltrip, Darrell	84	3	1981, 1982, 1985	3
5	4	Yarborough, Cale	83	3	1976, 1977, 1978	3
6	5	Gordon, Jeff	81	4	1995, 1997, 1998, 2001	2
7	6	Earnhardt, Dale	76	7	1980, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994	3
8	7	Wallace, Rusty	55	1	1989	2
9	8	Petty, Lee	54	3	1954, 1958, 1959	3
10	9	Jarrett, Ned	50	2	1961, 1965	1
11		Johnson, Junior	50			
12	10	Thomas, Herb	48	2	1951, 1953	2
13	11	Baker, Buck	46	2	1956, 1957	2
14	12	Elliott, Bill	44	1	1988	3
15	13	Flock, Tim	40	2	1952, 1955	1
16	14	Isaac, Bobby	37	1	1970	1
17	15	Martin, Mark	35			4
18	16	Johnson, Jimmie	34	2	2006, 2007	2
19	17	Fireball Roberts	33			1
20	18	Jarrett, Dale	32	1	1999	1
21		Stewart, Tony	32	2	2002, 2005	1
22	19	White, Rex	28	1	1960	1
23	20	Lorenzen, Fred	26			
24	21	Paschal, Jim	25			
25		Weatherly, Joe	25	2	1962, 1963	
26	22	Rudd, Ricky	23			1
27	23	Labonte, Terry	22	2	1984, 1996	
28	24	Labonte, Bobby	21	1	2000	1
29		Parsons, Benny	21	1	1973	
30		Smith, Jack	21			
31	25	Burton, Jeff	20			
32		Thompson, Speedy	20			
33	26	Allison, Davey	19			
34		Baker, Buddy	19			
35		Flock, Fonty	19			
36	27	Bodine, Geoffrey	18			
37		Bonnett, Neil	18			
38		Busch, Kurt	18	1	2004	
39		Earnhardt, Dale Jr.	18			
40		Gant, Harry	18			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.

Next Up—Lakeland Under the Lights!

Come out and watch our club car dominate the track!



Buzzie Reutimann Night at Ocala



A poet might say, “It was the best of nights, it was the worst of nights.” But, since I’m not a poet, I’ll just say it was a great night for the club, even though “our guy” had a rough time. About 40 club members and guests joined our expedition up to Ocala Speedway to support Buzzie Reutimann as he took on the “young guns” at Ocala’s 3/8 mile dirt tri-oval. Despite a pre-race downpour, the track was in good enough shape at about 8:15 when Buzzie and the rest of the Open-Wheel Modifieds took the track for their heat races.

The first 8-lap heat race turned out to be the high point of the night for Buzzie. Starting on the outside pole, he grabbed the lead coming out of turn two and held it until lap 4, when he was pinched behind a lapped car and fell back several spots. He was working his way back through the field when a caution was thrown on lap 7, grabbing second on the restart and finishing about two car lengths behind.

The feature race was a different story. Buzzie started sixth in the 18-car field and, although struggling a bit with the exit of turn two, appeared to be running strong as he moved into fourth place on lap four. An accident on the start of lap five caused massive on-track confusion, with Buzzie slipping to seventh place in the running order. On the restart, he followed eventual winner Jeff Matthews on the high side into turn one and, exiting turn two, was forced high and eventually into the outside retaining wall going into turn three. With considerable front-end suspension damage, Buzzie limped to the pits and called it a night.

Although we didn't get a trip to Ocala's Winners Circle, we did get to cheer for what was arguably the best car in the field—the “Double Nothin” as Buzzie likes to refer to his car. (Actually, we understand it was his son David's car, so I guess he has some explaining to do?) Besides that, the “00” was clearly the best looking car at Ocala on July 18. With a brand new body and a brand new power plant, the car looked and sounded awesome, and our club logo looked pretty impressive (see photo at right).



So, as most racers say in their post-race interviews, “We’ll get ‘em next time.” In fact, Buzzie has informed us that he’ll be returning to Ocala on **August 1**, with full expectations of a win. We know he can do it, and he’s more than determined to conquer the dirt at Ocala. In any event, the July 18 deal was a fun time and a great opportunity for us to spend time with a genuine racing legend. Here are some additional photos of our night at Ocala:



The yellow shirts descend on Ocala Speedway



The legend greets his fans



Ted Cahalane showing support for Buzzie

SPECIAL REPORT

CLUB PICNIC AT NEW DIXIE RACING

July 26, 2008

Our event at Dick Anderson's New Dixie Racing facility on Saturday, July 26 will be remembered as the first in what we expect will be a long line of annual club picnics. Hosts Dick and Mary Anderson were in characteristic form, sharing their history in stock car racing and making everyone comfortable.

Despite off-and-on threats of rain, the more than 150 energetic party-goers were treated to a fantastic afternoon of fine music, excellent food, and spirited discussion, much of it focused on the extraordinary selection of race cars on display at the facility. Through his contacts in the local racing community, Dick arranged a display of race cars ranging from micro sprints to midgets, from Late Models to Super Late Models, and from ASA and former Sprint Cup cars to Dirt Late Models, along with some exotics. This latter category included a Cobra and, of course, Buddy Pearce's 1934 Ford Model A. The center of attention, though, was our "club car", the No. 92 Super Late Model that sat there all afternoon just lookin' fast!

Here are a few shots of the cars on display:



Those of you familiar with Dick's New Dixie Racing Facility in Wildwood were surprised at its transformation into a picture-perfect picnic spot, with racing-themed banners lining the fences along the way from CR507 up to the shop's entrance. The photos on the next page will give you a feel for the decorations.

CLUB PICNIC AT NEW DIXIE RACING (Continued)



The best moment of the day, of course, was the “hood signing ceremony” in preparation for our sponsorship of the No. 92 at USA Speedway in Lakeland on August 2. Pictured below is the car (left...see what I mean by just lookin’ fast!) and the autographed hood held by Dick and Mary Anderson (right). The hood is gonna look great under the lights in Victory Circle...again!

