



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report - August, 2009

### Inside this issue:

2009 Weiner Nationals Report	1-2
August Program Preview	1
A Visit to Sumter Motorsports Park	3
Club Members in the News	4
Special Events Roundup	5
Pre-Season Football Bash	5
Local Racing Corner	6
Officer Contact List	7
So you don't have to look it up!	7
Odds and Ends	7
More Odds and Ends	8
You're Never Too Old!	9

### Next Club Trip

**Saturday, September 5  
to Speedway Park on  
Micro Racetrack Road.  
Call Wendy to  
Sign Up.**

## Man, Those Dogs Can Run!



We're getting pretty close to the day when we can say we've seen it all. About 50 of our hearty club members took a step in that direction on Saturday, August 1 with the

running of the 2nd Annual Barberville Weiner Nationals over at Volusia Speedway Park (VSP). Not knowing really what to expect, all of us on that action-packed bus trip were treated to a display of canine speed and handling as 16 highly trained dachshunds, complete with an equally highly trained "pet crew," ran the 50 foot course on VSP's front stretch. Top dog for the night was Cena (pictured at left), who faced a strong field to remain undefeated in Weinernational competition.

By the way, there was some pretty good motor racing over at VSP that night, at least until Mother Nature took over and

(continued on page 2)

## August Program Line-up...



Keith Chartrand

The lineup for our August 26 meeting features two great names in The Villages' world of sports—Keith Chartrand of The Villages Daily Sun, and Betty Skelton Erde of The Village of Amelia. Keith, as many of you know, is Associate Managing Editor of the Daily Sun, and is a well-known figure in sports reporting. Betty, of course is world-renowned in a variety of speed-related sports, and is nicknamed "The First Lady of Firsts." You really don't want to miss this meeting!



Betty Skelton Erde

# Man, Those Dogs Can Run! (continued from page 1)

brought things to a rain-drenched halt. We were treated to some great heat races in five separate divisions:

- Sportsman
- Street Stock
- Late Model
- 4-cylinder Challengers
- Mini-Stock

But, just as the Mini-Stocks took to the track for their feature, the rain came (I mean, *really* came!) and the night was over.

So, our club's inaugural visit to VSP came to an early end, but that's not to say it wasn't successful. I think we all pretty much agreed that the track is a great racing venue, and I suspect that many of us will be making a return trip (or two) later this year. We'll

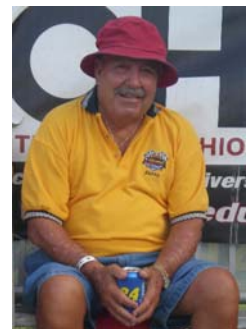
try to find out when Buzzie Reutimann might return to VSP to compete, and we'll see if we can put together a sponsorship deal for that date. Stay tuned in the weeks ahead and watch for announcements from Wendy.

We should also point out that the efforts of **Brooke Blackman** went a long way toward making the night a success. As those who were on the trip know, Brooke went out of her way to welcome us and make us feel comfortable at the speedway, even to the point of hanging a banner to designate our grandstand section! Yes, there was an issue with the bus logistics, but Brooke is aware of that and has followed up to ensure that there will not be a repeat of that problem.

As you might expect, we have some photo highlights of this fascinating night of racing....



Above, canine power replaced horsepower for some of the events at VSP. Who knew they'd move that fast? Below, a collection of shots provided by Official Club Photographer, Tom Horrmann. As you can see in the middle row, we did get wet!





## A Visit to Sumter Motorsports Park

Many of you may recall our discussion at the July club meeting about the Slingshots and their show at the Sumter Motorsports Park down in central Sumter County. About a year old, this tenth-of-a-mile clay oval is coming into its own as an entertaining racing venue and, guess what—it's right in our backyard! In fact, according to MapQuest, it's a mere 23 miles from the center of The Villages, and can be reached in about 30 minutes of driving time. A few of us made a trip down there on Saturday, July 18 to check it out. We were treated to an exciting and highly interesting night of racing, including micro sprints, mini sprints, slingshots, and a class titled "Gadgets"—basically a mixture of hobby-type racing.

Since this is a relatively new racing venue, it hasn't quite gotten much in the way of momentum. There appears to be a high degree of promise, though, based on the commitment that the promoters—Bill and Lori Cleary—have made to bringing racing to Sumter County. Here's a summary from their website ([sumterracing.com](http://sumterracing.com)) that puts their vision into perspective: "Sumter Motorsports Park is a place where families can come and enjoy a day full of the most exhilarating and speedy events on the West Coast of Florida. On the third Saturday of each month we hold races for short track sprint cars (micros, legends, and slingshots), go-karts, flat track Harleys, and quarter midgets. In addition, if we aren't tearing up the track with overwhelming, gut-turning, competition thriving racing, then it's time to get dirty with mud bog drags, atv mud bog drags, and freestyle mud events. Our single lane mud pit is deep, sloppy, and thrill-

giving as some of the most abominable trucks from around battle for the title of Central Florida's Best."

One of the things that attracted some of us to make the trip down to the track was the announcement that the Florida Slingshot Association would be competing that night. Those of you who joined last May over at Speedway Park will recall the Slingshots and the fascinating racing that they do, and they again proved interesting on the Sumter clay. As we typically do, we have made a connection with one of the Slingshot drivers—Harold Bedell of Bayonet Point—and have started what we hope will be a personal link between Harold and our club. See the related story on page 9 of this newsletter for a recap of Harold and his new-found career in motorsports, and stay tuned for more news as we follow Harold's Slingshot career.

Here are a few photos from our July 18 visit to this local—really local—racing venue...



The Mini Sprints getting ready to take the green in a heat race.



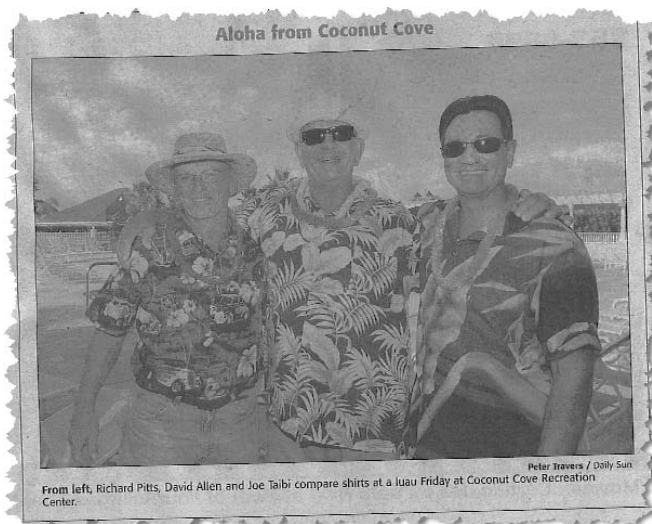
The competition was pretty intense in the Slingshot Division



If you look closely, you'll see the Reutimann Racing logo...the owner of the car (who recently bought it) had no idea how the logo got there. We'll ask Buzzie about it when we see him next time.

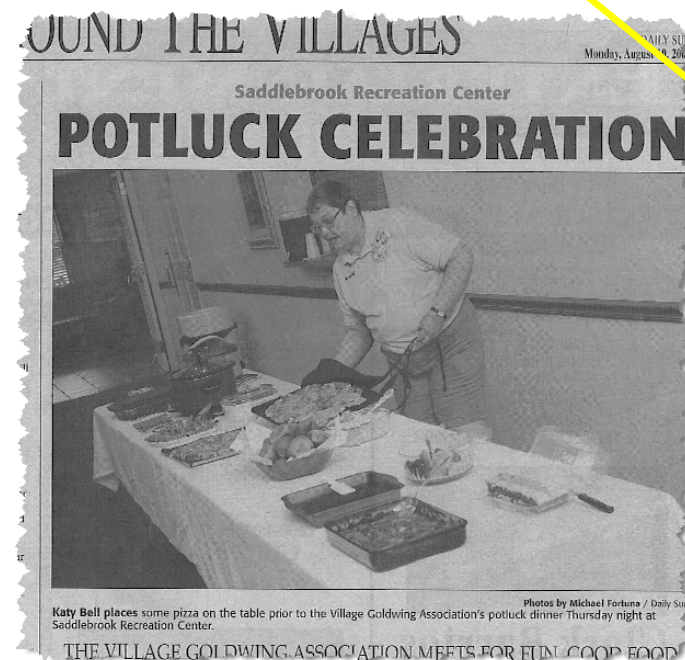
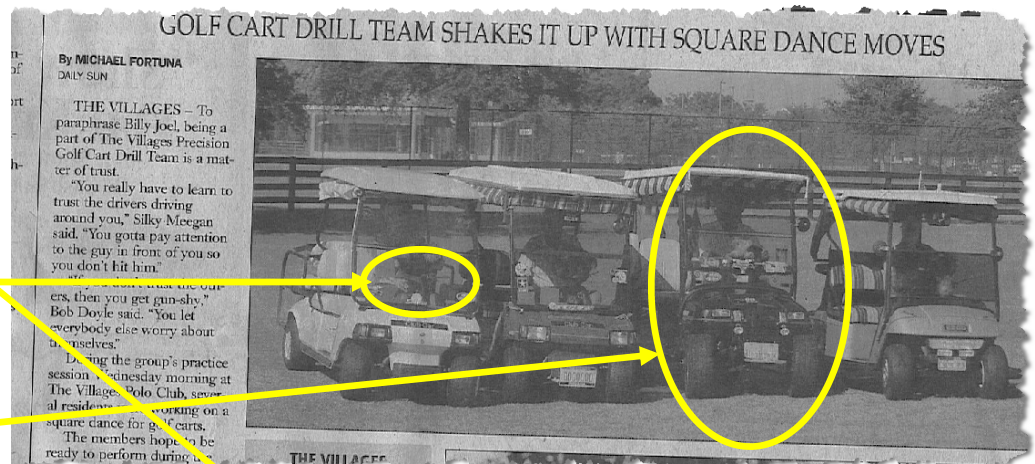
# SUMTER MOTORSPORTS PARK

## Club Members in the News...



Richard Pitts, Dave Allen, and a friend show off their Hawaiian shirts over at a recent Coconut Cove Recreation Center luau event. They might not be club-shirt yellow, but they still make a statement!

In photo at right, Silky Meegan shows off her golf cart driving skills in practice with "The Villages Precision Golf Cart Drill Team." Here they are going four-wide into a turn. It's a bit hard to see, but Silky has both her club logo and the Matt Bowers logo on prominent display on her windshield, and rumor has it that Dave Allen is positioned 2nd from the right.



In photo at left, Katy Bell serves up some pizza at a pot luck dinner conducted by The Village Goldwing Association Club.





## Special Events Roundup



We've got a fair number of events, trips, and exciting activities planned and scheduled for the next few months. Here's a quick recap of what's ahead...watch the newsletter and website for details.

- **Thursday, August 20**—We've been alerted to an event being planned for Hacienda Hills Country Club titled "Pre-Season Football Bash '09." As we understand it, it's a benefit for local animal rights advocates, and we've made arrangements for a race car display, featuring "our driver" Matt Bowers. See information below for more details.
- **September 5**—Florida Champ Kart League event at
- **September 23**—Hot Dogs and Hot Rods at the Polo Grounds. More details to follow.
- **October 7**—Ocala Gran Prix Race Day, car pool trip for a day of "you drive it" racing.
- **November 12-15**—Zephyrhills 25th Annual Fall Auto fest, collector car auction, and more.

- **November 21**—44th Annual Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway.
- **December 1**—Third Annual Holiday Hall of Fame Night at Colony Cottage.

Planning is also underway for our fall picnic at Dick Anderson's New Dixie Racing Headquarters...more details will be announced soon. See you all 8/26!

*Wendy*

## Pre-Season Football Bash 09

**Pre-Season Football Bash 09**  
**Boomerz Magazine & 92.9 FM**  
and Publisher Frank Allen  
**Presents:**  
**"Football Players Against Animal Abuse"**  
**Charity KickOff Bash**  
**Thursday August 20, 2009 from 3pm-8pm**  
 at Hacienda Hills Country Club, 1200 Morse Blvd. The Villages  
 441 to Morse Blvd. West 1 mile.  
**Appearing LIVE in Concert**  
**Dunning Shew and his Band Shepherds Pie!!**  
**Live Broadcast By BIGI 92.9 FM Oldies**  
**Come See & Meet Az Hukien** former wide receiver St Louis Rams &  
 Detroit Lions and a lot more former football players.  
**Huge Buffet**  
**Football Themed Car/Golf Cart Show**  
Make your favorite team colors!!  
**Over 300 Quality Prizes to be given away!!**  
**Live Auction: Sports memorabilia and many other items!**  
 Donations go to All Creatures Animal Sanctuary Great and Small Inc. and other  
 rescue facilities to help care for abused, injured and abandoned animals.  
**It's the Biggest Football Party Ever Held In Central Florida!!**  
 For Additional Details call 352-347-8893  
This Event Sponsored by:  
 Boomerz Magazine, 92.9 FM, Bill Bryan Dodge, Hacienda Hills Country Club, Trikes  
 by Design, Neptune Society, Kenu Computers, Grandma Dories, Budweiser, Miller  
 Brewing Co., Sysco Foods, RV Swap Shop, Red O'Ready's, Don Nottingham & Associates  
 Insurance, Bon Jons Pizza and Mary Rich-Reardon/Coldwell Banker Ellison Realty  
 NEPTUNE SOCIETY®  
 Sysco  
 BILL BRYAN

Here's the event we discussed at the July club meeting. We've made arrangements for Matt Bowers to have his MBR display set up on the parking lot, and Matt will be there signing autographs and meeting people. Come on out and support Matt and his race team...it's a great opportunity for him to meet sports-minded people! Call Gerry (751-3643 for tickets).

## Local Racing Corner

As we've said many times before, one of the great things about living here in central Florida is the access that we have to so many great racing venues within a reasonable driving distance. As we've also said many times before, we need to support these local tracks as much as we can so that they can continue to operate. It's been said that the most expensive seats any race track has are the ones that are empty. So, let's fill them up, and let's wear our yellow shirts and make a statement!

Here's the contact information for many of our local tracks...be sure to check their website for specific schedules.

Location	August/September Event Schedule
<b>Ocala Speedway</b> 9050 NW Gainesville Rd Ocala, FL 34482 (352) 622-9400 (www.ocalaspeedway.com)	Racing every Friday night for regular classes 
<b>Citrus County Speedway</b> U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds. (352) 726-9339 (www.citruscountyspeedway.com)	Racing every Saturday night for regular classes 
<b>New Smyrna Speedway</b> Corner of State Route 44 and 415. P.O. Box 1500 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170 (386) 427-4129 (www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)	Racing every Saturday night for regular classes 
<b>Orlando Speedworld</b> 19164 East Colonial Drive (Highway 50 just west of 520 Cocoa cut-off) Orlando, FL 32833 407-568-1367 (www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org)	Racing every Friday night for regular classes; 
<b>Volusia Speedway Park</b> 1500 E. State Rd. 40 DeLeon Springs, FL 32120 386-985-4402 (www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net)	Racing every Saturday night for regular classes 
<b>Auburndale Speedway</b> 5640 State Road 542 West Winter Haven, FL 33880 863-551-1131 www.auburndalespeedway.com	Racing every Saturday night for regular classes 
<b>Speedway Park- Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 466A near The Villages)</b> 352-326-0303 (www.speedwaypark.net)	Schedule is intermittent...see website for specific event dates 
<b>Sumter Motorsports Park</b> 7620 SR 417 Bushnell, FL 33513 863-286-9456 (www.sumterracing.com)	Oval track racing every third Saturday...call for details 

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)  
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)  
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)  
 Tom Horrmann, Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)

### Some Odds and Ends for you!



Did you know?

The Lord's Prayer is 66 words, the Gettysburg Address is 286 words, there are 1,322 words in the Declaration of Independence, but government regulations on the sale of cabbage total 26,911 words

### A BEAUTIFUL MESSAGE ABOUT GROWING OLD:



Well, crap...  
 Now I forgot what it was.



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

The "Race for the Chase" is winding down, and you can tell by the tension on the track that the teams in the bottom half of the top 12 are beginning to feel some pressure. No doubt, there will be some of the "regulars" appearing in the "Chase" like Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, and, yes, Tony Stewart. But it will be interesting to see if some totally new faces pop up in the stretch. Anyway, here's a quick historical look at the stats from the first five years of the "NASCAR Playoffs," compliments of a website titled <http://www.driversaverages.com>....

	Driver	Races	Wins	Top 5's	Top 10's	Laps Led	Avg. Finish
1	Jimmie Johnson	50	14	26	36	2204	8.70
2	Matt Kenseth	50	1	17	23	1592	15.38
3	Jeff Gordon	40	2	19	29	1005	10.78
4	Tony Stewart	40	1	9	21	839	13.25
5	Carl Edwards	30	6	17	20	1122	10.63
6	Kevin Harvick	30	2	5	17	501	12.27
7	Mark Martin	30	1	10	13	598	13.00
8	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	30	2	8	14	542	14.73
9	Jeff Burton	30	2	8	17	181	14.33
10	Denny Hamlin	30	0	9	14	267	14.87
11	Kyle Busch	30	0	8	13	508	18.77
12	Kurt Busch	28	1	8	17	757	13.64
13	Greg Biffle	20	3	9	12	411	9.55
14	Clint Bowyer	20	1	6	10	341	10.55
15	Ryan Newman	20	2	6	9	751	15.00
16	Jeremy Mayfield	20	0	1	5	76	21.05
17	Kasey Kahne	10	1	3	5	244	17.90
18	Martin Truex Jr.	10	0	2	4	231	18.10
19	Rusty Wallace	10	0	1	3	1	18.50
20	Elliott Sadler	10	0	1	3	52	22.40

### More Trivia for you...

**Last Daytona 500 winner to win the Cup:** The winner of the Daytona 500 has gone on to win the Sprint Cup championship in the same season just eight times, last in 2006 when Jimmie Johnson did so. Four others who won both in the same year are Lee Petty (1959), Richard Petty (1964, '71, '74 and '79), Cale Yarborough (1977) and Jeff Gordon (1997)

**Championship and no poles? ever happen?** Yep, six times, most recently, in 1999 when Dale Jarrett won the Sprint Cup Championship with four wins and NO poles. It also happened in 1991-Dale Earnhardt; 1983-Bobby Allison; 1980-Earnhardt; 1973-Benny Parsons; and 1950-Bill Rexford.(The Stock Car Racing Encyclopedia) (11-10-2002)

(The mind-bending statistical information shown above is provided by <http://www.jayski.com/>)



## Odds and Ends...

### The Smart Car

This is what we will all be forced to drive quite soon.



But look at all of the “great new choices” we will have from “The SMART Car”:



The Smorvette



The Smaudi A3 AWD



The Smamborghini



The Smorsche



The Smerrari



And, last but not leaset,  
the Smustang!

*Special thanks to Mike Touchette for  
forwarding this interesting email!*



## You're Never Too Old!

His calling card says "Retired...and loving it!" Sixty-eight year old Harold Bedell of Bayonet Point, Florida (Pasco County) has no qualms about sharing his thoughts on life as a retiree, especially after leaving a 30-year career as a Deputy Sheriff in New Your state some ten years ago. But his story is not what you'd expect...he's not a golfer, he doesn't spend weekends lounging by the pool, and his "happy hours" do not involve fancy drinks. You see, Harold's retirement is, as of about a year ago, dominated by his new life as a competitive motorsports participant. Or, in simpler terms, a racer.

Like so many armchair racing enthusiasts, Harold has had an interest in motorsports since childhood. The pressures of life, though, and the unavailability of the small fortune required to get into auto racing, kept him on the sidelines enjoying the thrills from afar. When he retired in 1999 and made his way to Florida, however, he found an article in a racing magazine that caught his attention. The article described a new class of race car—called "Slingshots"—that offered an opportunity to get into the sport with a modest investment. With the blessings of his wife of 23 years, Terri, he began to do some serious research. After studying the market, and watching "Youtube" video footage of Slingshots in action at nearby Sumter Motorsports Park, he was hooked!



Perhaps the most attractive aspect of the Slingshot class is its price. A complete car—frame, body, engine, tires—can be purchased race-ready for under \$8,000. Add a trailer and safety equipment at a cost of about \$2,500, and you're ready to step into regular competition. The cars are surprisingly fast, with a 40 horsepower Briggs & Stratton motor capable of speeds up to 70 mph using alcohol fuel. In terms of competition, Slingshots offer an ideal situation for the hobbyist-racer, in that all cars are equal in terms of specifications, and all motors are sealed to avoid the "tweaking" that more open leagues allow. As Harold notes, "The cars are basically equal, so it's a driver's race."

Since joining the Florida Slingshot league in late 2008, Harold has been having the time of his life. Accompanied by his "pit crew" (his brother, Al), he travels the circuit all around the state of Florida, running an average of three events each month with an annual budget of less than \$3,000, doing his own mechanical work, pre-race tuning, and post-race repairs. Not a mechanic by trade, Harold reports, "You learn by watching and doing, and you rely on the help and camaraderie of your fellow racers." As an example, he tells a story of breaking a front axel during a heat race, and then watching his "competitors" go to work and get him back on the track in time for the feature event, in which he scored a fourth-place finish.

Harold plans to continue developing his driving skills well into the future. At age 68, he's not considered old for the sport, since there are several drivers well into their 70's competing on a regular basis. He sums it up this way, "This is a dream come true for me. When I reached my later 60's, I never thought I would or could do something like this. I was wrong."

Watch for Harold and his fellow Slingshot racers later this year when they return to Sumter Motorsports Park ([www.sumterracing.com](http://www.sumterracing.com)) and Fruitland Park's Speedway Park ([www.speedwaypark.net](http://www.speedwaypark.net)). These local events are well worth the time.



Getting in the race car offers an excellent exercise program for seniors!



The driver/owner is also the mechanic



In on-track competition at Sumter Motorsports Park