



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report - August, 2010

### In This Issue:

2010 Scholarship Awarded	1
NASCAR Hall of Fame Review	1-2
Update on Club Favorites	3
Welcome, New Members	4
1937 Ford House-Car	4
Sunoco FAST Heads to Inverness	5
Got Any Suggestions for NASCAR?	5
Special Events Roundup	6
The Worst Cars of All Time	7
Local Racing Corner	7
Your Pit Crew	8
Another Christmas Shopping Idea	8
So you don't have to look it up!	8
David Reutimann puts it in perspective	8

### Our 2010 Scholarship Recipient



2010 Scholarship Recipient - Scott Hensley

**July 7, 2010**—The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club presented its 2010 Book/Tuition Scholarship to Wildwood High School graduate Scott Michael Hensley of Fruitland Park. The \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school student from the tri-county area meeting the program's criteria and having a connection to the world of motor racing. Hensley has been accepted into Jacksonville University, where he intends to pursue a BS degree in Business Management.

Presenting the award certificate was 2009 scholarship recipient and 2009 Club Hall of Fame inductee Matt Bowers of Mt. Dora. Bowers is entering his second year of studies at Lake-Sumter Community College in its business/finance curriculum.

In discussing the scholarship program, club president Gerry Hafer noted that community involvement is considered one of the main principles of our club. Through contributions and specific sponsorship arrangements, the club has supported three main charities—Help Our Heroes Call Home, Operation Shoebox, and Victory Junction Gang Camp—and has provided financial support to more than a dozen individual racing programs. In addition, the club has allocated funds to specific causes, such as the 2007 tornado recovery effort. "During our almost four years as an organization," Hafer reports "We've contributed over \$13,000 to the support of programs our members endorse."

### NASCAR Hall of Fame Review



Bob Sherman Recapping the Hall of Fame

It was almost like being there! Bob Sherman held club members spellbound as he recapped the May, 2010 trip he and Camille took to Charlotte, NC to experience the newly inaugurated NAS-

CAR Hall of Fame.

Using a slide set of great photos, Bob captured much of the excitement surrounding the first-ever induction ceremony, including a number of who's-who action shots of racing celebrities like Junior Johnson, Bobby Allison, Richard Childress, Humpy Wheeler, Rick Hendrick, Theresa Earnhardt, Kerry Earnhardt, and of course, The King! With respect to The King, Bob included a close-up photo

of Petty's seven NASCAR Championship rings, as well as a photo of Jimmie Johnson's four Cup Championship trophies.



## NASCAR Hall of Fame Review (continued from page 1)

Although just like a race, there's really nothing like actually being there, Bob and Camille gave us all the opportunity to experience the Hall of Fame through their eyes. Judging from the interest displayed during the presentation, Bob served NASCAR well as a "recruiter" for the Hall, whetting the appetites of many club members who just might detour to Charlotte during a future trip "up north." For those who were not able to make the 7/7 meeting, here's a sampling of the highlight photos provided by Bob and Camille:



25 - Road 5



24 - Glory Road 2



74 - Dale Earnhardt - Hall of Honor



## Updates on Club Favorites



The Car Buzzie Ran at Volusia 7-17

**Buzzie Reutimann**—In the words of the master himself, Buzzie summed up his July 17 experience at Volusia Speedway Park this way: "Buzzie was fast...the car wasn't!" Despite what appeared to be a near-perfect setup, with textbook wedge, frame angles, tire stagger, and motor capacity, he found that the shock package was not effectively allowing for weight transfer off the corners. The resulting tire spin and handling issues made it tough manage in traffic, Buzzie reports. "We finished sixth in the feature," Buzzie commented "But it was more like we hung-on for sixth place!"

Buzzie confirms that he plans to compete in the August 7 event at Volusia, although it will be with a different car. The new car he will run in that event replaces his "chrome car," but the body will be blue. "Too many people tried to hit the chrome car!" says Buzzie. He'll be on the lookout for the yellow shirts, assuming his car handles well enough for him to sneak a peak at the grandstands!

Also, as you most likely know, Buzzie continues to travel with David on the Sprint Cup tour...here he is celebrating in the Winner's Circle at Chicagoland Speedway on July 10. The team has come into its own, benefitting from Buzzie's tactical guidance!



Buzzie with David and family in Chicago Winner's Circle

**Dick Anderson**—Dick and the No. 92 are taking a mid-season break from competition, but that doesn't necessarily mean he's taking it completely easy. On July 17, he was tapped to drive one of son Wayne's Super Late Model entries in the regular Saturday night program up at Columbia Speedway Park in Lake City, FL. The results were predictable, as the Anderson clan dominated the event, finishing 1-2-3, with Wayne bringing home the winner's trophy. Grandson Randy battled his dad, winding up second, while Dick watched with interest as he cruised to a third-place finish.

Meanwhile the number 92, still carrying our club logo on its rear deck, is poised and race-ready. Stay tuned for announcements concerning future plans for the "club car."



Florida's First Family of Stock Car Racing Sweep at Columbia

**Nic Fernandez**—Nic's crew chief (his dad, George) reports that the young driver is enjoying a relaxing summer, spending a fair amount of time watching The Speed Channel (no surprise there!) Nic and his family have also taken in a few of Ocala's Friday night events, and no doubt Nic is continuing to learn while watching the competition. During their off-season, the team is refurbishing Nic's kart, and the motor is being rebuilt and dyno tested down at TS Racing in Bushnell. George tells me they may be heading over to Volusia on 8/7, and that they'll be looking for the "yellow shirt brigade!"



Nic Fernandez in Competition at Fruitland Park

**Steve Griffin**—The comeback tour continues for Steve, with his latest venture being another commanding performance Saturday, July 17 at New Smyrna where he captured a win in the Mini-Stock Feature. Steve has been dividing his time between his own racing and working on the No. 20 Pro Truck team of Anthony Sergi.

**Matt Bowers**—Matt gave us an update on his race team at our July 7 meeting, indicating that the no. 84X will be back on the track later this year. His plans are to run at least one Late Model event before the November 20 Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna, with an objective of entering that prestigious race. Since we're planning on running a bus over to the race, that will give us possibly two favorites in the race, depending on what Dick Anderson does with the No. 92! Stay tuned on that front.

Matt also hinted that he may be traveling to North Carolina this summer to take on an internship with a NASCAR team...we'll hope to have more details on this soon.



## Welcome, New Members!

Our club is continuing to grow, and each month we welcome a few new members to our family of motor racing enthusiasts. At our July 7 meeting, we added five to our membership roles. They're pictured below...take a few minutes at the next club meeting or function and share your racing interests with them.



Phil and Judy Sahlem, Hometown - Grand Island, NY



Dave and Marcia Lasher, Hometown - Geneva, NY



Mike Roemer, Hometown - Oshkosh, WI



## Odds and Ends (Mostly Odd)

Every now and then, one of our readers sends in an automotive-related item that of interest, and we like to share those from time-to-time just for amusement. Last month, Dave Bockman forwarded this one describing what most likely passed for RVing back in the 1930s. It's called the 1937 Ford House-Car, one of only six built at the St. Paul, Minnesota Ford plant.

The version pictured here was found in a garage in northern Minnesota, where the owner had it stored as a "collectors item." It's built on a '37 Ford Pickup frame and cowl (powered by a 60-hp flathead V8 with aluminum heads), the



rear framing is all wood, with the metal skin wrapped around it. The roof structure is all wood, over which the heavy, waterproofed canvas is securely fitted. The body appears to be all oak, including the door and window frames.



All four side windows open, while the back one tilts out to three positions. The windshield also tilts open at the bottom for natural AC while driving.

Can't you just picture the infield at Daytona packed with these!!!???



## Sunoco FAST Heads Back to Inverness

The Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour (Sunoco FAST) returns to Citrus County Speedway August 6 and 7 for its seventh event of the 2010 series. This will be the third and final scheduled visit to the Inverness, FL 3/8 mile asphalt track, host to the inaugural Sunoco FAST event in February and its fourth race held May 1.

A combined field of 25-30 Super Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Crate Late Model entries is expected for the 100 lap feature event.

At the midpoint of the 2010 season, Sunoco FAST officials report that the series' car-count objective is being met, with an average of 27 cars taking the green at series feature races. Even more significant, though, is the diversity of the entry lists for the first six events. In total, 74 unique race teams have competed in FAST events. There are 21 registered FAST members, with an-

another 53 race teams choosing to compete in selected events. In fact, three of the five series features have been won by non-members, further highlighting the diversity of the series' appeal.

Going into the August 7 event, Florida stock car racing veteran Wayne Anderson of Wildwood, FL leads the points standings, with two feature wins and four top 10 finishes in the first five events. Anderson holds a 72 point lead over 2<sup>nd</sup> place Austin Kirkpatrick of Ocala, FL, while 16 year-old Randy Anderson of Wildwood, FL occupies 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 15 points behind Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick and Randy Anderson are both rookies in the series, and are holding down 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the race for Rookie of the Year honors.

Non-members competing in the series have captured three wins and set two fast times in the five

races, with Plant City, FL's Jeff Scofield winning at Auburndale Speedway and Desoto Super Speedway—both times after setting fast time. Herb Neumann of Inverness, FL took first place honors at Citrus County Speedway May 1.

Qualifying for the August 7 FAST event is scheduled for 5:15 pm, with the 100-lap feature tentatively set to go green at approximately 8:30 pm. A full night of racing is on tap in addition to the FAST Late Models, so come out and join the fun!



## Got Any Suggestions for NASCAR?

In our brief history as a club (roughly four years), The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club has established itself as a significant voice in motorsports. As noted in last month's newsletter, our logo has appeared in some of the leading racing publications, and our activities have been mentioned in several major media outlets. In fact, reporters from newspapers like the Daytona Sun Times have commented that they've seen our yellow shirts in the stands at racing events. Our newsletter, in addition to being distributed monthly to our members, also routinely goes out to over 100 contacts in the racing world, including several closely related to NASCAR and other professional racing organizations.

So what? This is all well and good, but why is it worth mentioning? The answer is that, editorially, it positions us well to submit suggestions to NASCAR (and other racing venues, as well) as they grapple with the problem of declining popularity. If you watched the

Brickyard 400 on July 25, you saw evidence of this decline, and you probably noticed it many other races this year and last year. NASCAR has been keeping an eye on this problem for some time and, two years ago, formed its 12,000+ member Fan Council to serve as a forum for opinion surveys, and so far has attributed changes like double file restarts and standard starting times to input from this group. This seems to indicate that they are willing to listen to the folks who pay for the seats.

Many of us in this club are and have been passionate stock car racing fans for quite a few years. As such, we often have logical opinions and suggestions about the way things should be. Take, for instance, the standardized starting times announced this year for NASCAR events...didn't we come up with a similar thought a year ago when we were "negotiating" with New Smyrna

Speedway for our bus trip to the Governor's Cup?

So here's the thought: If you have any suggestions that you think might make stock car racing more "fan friendly," either locally or at the NASCAR level, take a moment to document them and forward them for packaging and conveyance to the appropriate destinations. By the way, it doesn't need to be restricted to NASCAR...your thoughts on NHRA, FAST, FASCAR, and other venues would be of equal interest! **To make it even easier, you can simply email them to our club mail box at [tvmrfc@gmail.com](mailto:tvmrfc@gmail.com).**



## Special Events Roundup



In case you haven't noticed, it's pretty hot outside! I suspect most of us will be staying in our air-conditioned dens and TV rooms watching the televised races, especially during the daytime events. We fully expect the heat wave to lessen a bit before we head on over to Volusia for a night of spectacular dirt racing, and we've been in contact with Brook over there at the track to make certain that the air-conditioned grandstands are reserved for us! 😊

Anyway, here's a quick look at what's ahead for the remainder of the year. As always, we welcome any thoughts or suggestions anyone has for trips and activities!

*Wendy*

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, August 7 Wiener Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park	We've now taking reservations this one. The bus will leave from Laurel Manor at 4:30 pm; cost is \$35 pp. Sign up at the meeting or email Wendy (mrswmt@comcast.net). Rumor has it that Buzzie Reutimann might be running that night with the modifieds (he's almost certain!), so that would clearly add to the excitement!
Monday, September 13 Golf Scramble	Golf event at Hawkes Bay Executive course; post-golf picnic at Churchill Pavilion 3-6 pm. See Wayne Nolan for sign-ups and details.
November 11-14, 2010 DAARA Event	This will probably be a car pool to the November 11-14 U.S. Vintage Oval Track Nationals at Orlando Speedworld, featuring the cars of Daytona Antique Auto Racing Association (DAARA). (This event replaces the Zephyrhills 26th Annual Fall Autofest.)
Saturday, November 20 45th Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200, New Smyrna Speedway	Save the date; reservations will be opened at the club's August meeting; Sponsorship TBD. At this point, there's a developing possibility that two-time Gov. Cup winner Dick Anderson may be driving his famed No. 92 in the event, challenging his son (three-time winner Wayne) for the Cup.
November 26-28, 2010 David Reutimann Charity Event	The Sixth Annual David Reutimann Charity Cookout, Auction, and Golf Tournament will be held at the Silverado Golf and Country Club in Zephyrhills. We're hopeful of organizing a group to attend this event...details to follow.
Sunday, December 12 4th Annual Holiday Hall of Fame and Awards Night	Save the date; Details will be announced in mid-summer
December Christmas Parade	Joan Rybecki and Zoe Ann and Buster Burt have signed on as coordinators for the club's participation in this event. Stay tuned for more details and sign-up information later in the year.
Saturday, January 8 Annual Speedway Park Awards Banquet	We've been invited to join the fine Speedway Park folks at their 2010 Awards banquet. The event will be held at La Hacienda in The Villages, and club members will be participating in the program for the evening. Further details will be announced later in the year.
Future Events...at least some of them...more to come!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poker Run/Picnic (Need committee)</li> <li>• 2nd Annual Hot Rods and Hot Dogs Show—date TBD</li> </ul>

## The Worst Cars of All Time

### (At least in the opinion of Time Magazine)

Time Magazine recently published its thoughts on "the worst cars of all time," breaking their nominations into groups of years (for example, 1990-present, 1975-1989, and so forth.) There are some you'd expect to find, like the 1971 Ford Pinto and the 1958 Ford Edsel (although I personally disagree with the Edsel's nomination to the list!), and there are a few surprises, like the 1970 AMC Gremlin (I loved that car!) and the 1981 De Lorean (I still think it's an exotic car!). And the 1997 Plymouth Prowler...what's up with that! Seriously...how can you say

this should be on the all-time worst car list?



Well, Time Magazine and Dan Neil of the Los Angeles Times collaborated on their overall list, which you

can access by copying and pasting the address shown below in your web browser. In addition to the various groupings by years, you'll be able to click to a full explanation of the logic behind their various selections. Some, of course, are no-brainers, while others are merely editorial opinions. You don't need to agree with them! In fact, you may have your own list of the worst cars of all time. If you do, send it to us and we'll publish a Villages version!

#### Here's the web address

<http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/completelist/0,,1658545,00.html>

## Local Racing Corner

Here's a quick rundown of what's going on at the tracks close to The Villages...let's get out there and support them!

Race Track	Website & Telephone	Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway, Zuber	<a href="http://www.ocalaspeedway.com">www.ocalaspeedway.com</a> 352-622-9400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track closed 8/13, 8/20, &amp; 8/27 for summer break</li> <li>Late models, V8 Thunderstocks, Mini-stock, and Gladiators to run 8/6</li> </ul>
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	<a href="http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com">www.citruscountyspeedway.com</a> 352-726-9339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Saturday night programs in August</li> <li>Sunoco FAST 100 August 7</li> <li>Open Wheel Modifieds to run 8/14 &amp; 8/21</li> </ul>
New Smyrna Speedway, Samsula	<a href="http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org">www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a> 386-427-4129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Saturday night programs in August</li> <li>Super Late Models 8/14 (Brighthouse Challenge)</li> <li>Pro Trucks 75—8/28</li> </ul>
Orlando Speedworld, Bithlo	<a href="http://www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org">www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org</a> 407-568-1367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Friday night racing in August</li> <li>Super Late Models—8/6 &amp; 8/20</li> <li>Pro Trucks 8/6 &amp; 8/13</li> </ul>
Volusia Speedway Park, Barberville	<a href="http://www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net">www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net</a> 386-985-4402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Saturday night racing in August</li> <li>Weinernationals 8/7</li> <li>Late Models 8/14 &amp; 8/28, Modifieds 8/14</li> <li>Track closed 8/21</li> </ul>
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	<a href="http://www.originalspeedwaypark.com">www.originalspeedwaypark.com</a> 352-308-7664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer break July-August; check website for special events</li> </ul>

### Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)  
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)  
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)  
 Tom Horrman, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 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 (408-3712)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)  
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)  
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

### More Christmas Shopping Idea

Since it's lately been too hot to do much else, I've been spending a lot of time catching up on old magazines and reviewing racing-themed websites, looking for strange items to put on my Christmas list. Last month, I included an item on the reasonably-priced desktop tool box, but this month I'm including a much more exotic (and much more expensive) item...a replica Formula One race car steering wheel! Here's the description directly from the web-site (<http://www.amalgamcollection.com>):

*"An exceptionally detailed, full-sized replica of the 2010 Ferrari F10 Steering Wheel as used by Fernando Alonso and Felippi Massa in the 2010 F1 Championship. The fantastic replica Model comes with its own display base and cover and is completely handmade and produced and using the same data as supplied and used by Ferrari SpA to make the real thing."*

Priced at £1450 (\$2100), it would make quite a conversation piece here in The Villages, don't you think?



The item is available for on-line order via Amalgam's website, along with their extensive collection of scale model F1 cars, yachts, and Lewis Hamilton memorabilia.

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

We like to periodically update you on the accomplishments of NASCAR drivers in the Modern Era (1972 to present), so here is a recap of the top 25 pole winners and top 25 race winners in Sprint Cup events through the 2010 Brickyard 400.

Note that there are 56 drivers with less than 18 wins, and 22 with a single win. With respect to poles, there are 78 with less than 16, 23 of which have won just one pole in their career.

Cup-level Race Winners Modern Era			Cup-level Pole Winners Modern Era		
1	Darrell Waltrip	84	1	Jeff Gordon	68
2	Jeff Gordon	82	2	Darrell Waltrip	59
3	Dale Earnhardt	76	3	David Pearson	55
4	Cale Yarborough	69	4	Bill Elliott	54
5	Richard Petty	60	5	Cale Yarborough	51
6	Rusty Wallace	55	6	Mark Martin	49
7	Bobby Allison	55	7	Ryan Newman	46
8	Jimmie Johnson	52	8	Geoffrey Bodine	37
9	David Pearson	45	9	Rusty Wallace	36
10	Bill Elliott	44	10	Bobby Allison	36
11	Mark Martin	40	11	Buddy Baker	30
12	Tony Stewart	37	12	Ricky Rudd	29
13	Dale Jarrett	32	13	Terry Labonte	27
14	Ricky Rudd	23	14	Bobby Labonte	26
15	Kurt Busch	22	15	Alan Kulwicki	24
16	Terry Labonte	22	16	Dale Earnhardt	23
17	Bobby Labonte	21	17	Jimmie Johnson	23
18	Jeff Burton	21	18	Ken Schrader	23
19	Benny Parsons	20	19	Richard Petty	23
20	Davey Allison	19	20	Ernie Ivan	22
21	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	18	21	Neil Bonnett	20
22	Geoffrey Bodine	18	22	Benny Parsons	19
23	Matt Kenseth	18	23	Harry Gant	17
24	Harry Gant	18	24	Kasey Kahne	17
25	Neil Bonnett	18	25	Dale Jarrett	16
26	Kyle Busch	18			

**Putting it in perspective...interview comments from David Reutimann on his July 17 Sprint Cup win at Chicagoland Speedway (excerpted from USA Today.com):**

"When I got to victory lane in the TUMS Toyota and my Dad stuck his head in the window and talked to me for a second — it was a special moment! Something I'll never forget. It was a great feeling to know where we have both been and that we've made this journey together. Without my Dad and his love and support over all the years, I don't know if a moment like that would have ever been possible."