



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report

August/September, 2012

Next Meeting—Wednesday, September 5

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### Amanda's Return Visit



**August 1**—It was the night before finals, and a mere two days before she was scheduled to take the green flag in upstate Michigan, but Amanda Ferguson took time out of her action-packed schedule to join us at our regular monthly meeting. Leading off with a recap of her academic progress at UCF, our 2011 club scholarship winner announced that she has expanded her field of study to include a dual-major program, Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering. With a current GPA of 3.5, it looks like she'll be an honest-to-goodness "rocket scientist" to go along with her racing skills!

And, speaking of racing skills, Amanda's August 3rd trip to Michigan was an incredible success...competing in a field of 29 Super Late Model entries at Norway Speedway, she led flag-to-flag to record her first major SLM win. (Also in the field was fellow Floridian Dalton Zehr, by the way.) The event was a 100-lap race in support of Dickinson County Memorial Hospital's cancer program, and Amanda and her team elected to contribute their winnings to this cause. As we've all come to recognize, Amanda represents the best of motorsports' "young guns," and we're proud to be associated with her!

But that's not all...the following night, Amanda and her team headed to Sands Speedway in Marquette for another SLM event, and guess what? After starting 12th in a field of 16 and surviving a mid-race accident that sent her to the rear, she took the lead with five laps to go and held off all challengers to record back-to-back wins!

Amanda will be racing at Citrus County Speedway over in Inverness on August 18, and we'll be car pooling from our usual spot at Laurel Manor...watch the website for details and updates. She'll also be racing at Punta Gorda Speedway later this year, and we're tentatively planning to run a bus to this track. Dates and details will be announced later but, in the meantime, let Wendy know if you're potentially interested in this trip.



## Pit Crew Members Continue Meeting-Leading Tasks

**August 1**—Our rotation at the front of our monthly meetings is continuing to add variety to our activities, and the August meetings was no exception. Club Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette hosted a great meeting featuring a return visit from Amanda Ferguson, along with a tutorial on the club's recently-upgraded web-site.

As mentioned before, the intent of this format change is to give our talented Pit Crew members more of a voice and increased visibility in running our regular meetings. In September, we look forward to club Vice President Mike Touchette pounding the gavel, with Glen Carter coming out of "retirement" in October to host the meeting at Wayne Anderson Racing.



Wendy Touchette leads off with announcements about upcoming club activities.

## Another Successful Camp Villages R/C Event

**July 12**—A spirited group of club members showed up on July 11 to set up shop for the annual Camp Villages Radio Controlled Car Racing extravaganza, with Don Day showing the way as event coordinator. Then, when the following morning arrived, the crew was greeted by an anxious crowd of 14 eager Camp Villagers intent on showing off their "gaming" skills on the tough

oval course set up at La Hacienda Recreation Center.

If you've ever done it, you know that handling the remote controllers for these racing machines is no simple task. For that reason, Coordinator Day conducted a briefing on tips and techniques for smooth racing, and all contestants were given a practice lap to hone their skills before the actual racing

commenced. Using a double-elimination tournament format to ensure that everyone raced at least twice, the fourteen competitors displayed their skills to a cheering throng of grandparents as the program unfolded. At the end of the program, these three young people stood tall with their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies: (1) Anthony Macumbee; (2) Jacklyn Krist; (3) Cooper Easterday.

Here are some action shots from the event:



Clockwise, from top left: The track set to go; Coordinator Don Day briefing the contestants on the use of the controllers; Janine and Bob Woodsford servicing the cars between heat races; the field of contestants (two had wandered off?); the podium finishers (Easterday, Maccumbee, and Krist).



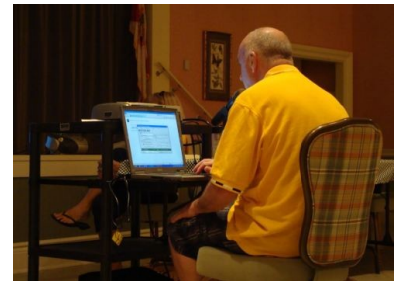


## New Club Website Launched August 1



**August 1**—Our newly-reorganized club website was launched as planned on August 1 (actually, it went live July 31 just to be sure things were in order for the August 1 club meeting...they were!) Club Webmaster Mike Anderson (pictured below, right) gave members an extensive walk-through of the new site's navigation at the August meeting, explaining many of the new features available through the site.

Mike reiterated that the content previously carried on the original site, built in 2006, has been retained in the new site, and that several new features have been added. For example, the new site includes a calendar of events, easier page-to-page navigation, and expanded photo and video catalogs. He also noted that, from a historical perspective, all prior editions of our club newsletter will be added to the site for those members desiring to take nostalgic trips through the club's history.



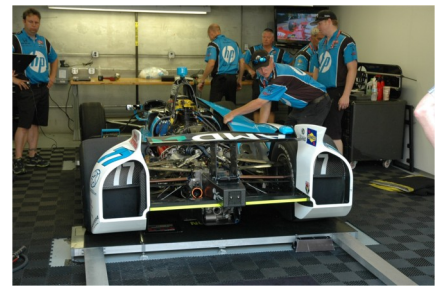
Looking ahead, we are intending to make the website the main focal point for club communications, so if you have any suggestions to improve the site, just let us know!

## September Meeting Preview

The 2013 Indianapolis 500 is only about nine months away, so now's the time to start thinking about it. And what better way to jumpstart your thinking than to hear from two of our resident Indy experts: Bill Clements and Jerry Conkle. As you may know, Clements is a professional photographer and each May spends time on the track at Indy, capturing close-up shots of the racing action. Many of you also know that Conkle is somewhat of a historian on all things Indy, from the statistics of the early years to the background on many of the modern-era competitors.

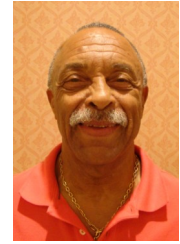
This has the promise of being one of more memorable meetings, with the collaboration of Clements and Conkle likely to produce a few laughs to go along with the serious side of open wheel racing. It's not one you're gonna want to miss!

Here are a few recent up-close photos Bill has provided to serve as a taste of things to come:



## Welcome, New Members

At our August meeting, we added more racing enthusiasts to our group! Be sure to greet them next time you see them and strike up a conversation about their interest in the wide world of motorsports!



Left-to-right: Bernie Gilbert; from Bridgeport, NJ; Steve Janssen, from Norfolk, CT; Ron Pearce, from Miami, FL; William Salisbury, from Dearborn, MI; Buzz Bowers, from Northville, MI; and Ted Goodman, from Bronx, NY.

## Local Racing Corner

Watch your email and the club website for periodic announcements of trips and car pools being formed to visit these great, relatively local racing venues. We frequently visit our "home tracks" (Original Speedway Park and Citrus County Speedway), and of course Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala whenever we hear of Buzzie Reutimann planning to make an appearance. Remember that Randy Anderson frequently races at Citrus County Speedway, and that Amanda Ferguson is also running at both CCS and Punta Gorda. Stay tuned for details on a potential bus trip down to Punta Gorda during the fall racing season.

As we've mentioned quite a few times in the past, these tracks represent the local roots of racing and they need our support! If you've been to an event at any of these tracks recently, you'll no doubt agree that attendance is down. Car counts are down as well, and it's easy to see that either of these facts represents a cause-and-effect situation. If the cars don't come, neither will the fans, and it's becoming a downward spiral that can only lead to the closing of tracks here in Central Florida. We've already lost one this year (Columbia), and most of the others are struggling. So, let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth.

Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
Volusia Raceway Park	Barberville	386-985-4402	volusiaspeedwaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	orlandospeedworld.org
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	ocalamicrospeedway.com
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	auburndaleracing.com
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	puntagordaspeedway.com
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	desotosuperspeedway.com

## Special Events Roundup



It's been a great summer so far, with plenty of good racing locally and in the NAS-CAR ranks. As reported on page one of this newsletter, our girl Amanda has been burning up the tracks in the North, and we were honored to hear from her at our August 1 meeting. She's planning to run locally later this year, so watch for car pool trips to CCS and, potentially, a bus trip to Punta Gorda Speedway in the fall. Our next few meetings promise to continue our string of informative nights, with one of the highlights being a close-up tour of Wayne Anderson Racing in Wildwood on October 3. Stay tuned for more details at our September meeting!

Some of the events and activities on tap for the next few months are shown below. As always, though, we'd love to hear your suggestions for trips and events... just give me a call!

*Wendy*

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, Sept. 1 Original Speedway Park, Fruitland Park	Special Event—Labor Day Racing (see track website for more information ( <a href="http://www.originalspeedwaypark.com">www.originalspeedwaypark.com</a> ))
Wednesday, Sept. 5 Colony Cottage	Our regular monthly meeting will feature an Indy 500-related presentation from Bill Clements and Jerry Conkle.
Wednesday, Sept. 12 Colony Cottage	Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!
Saturday, Sept. 22 Colony Cottage	Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!
Wednesday, Oct. 3 Wayne Anderson Racing, Wildwood	Our regular October meeting will shift to Wayne Anderson Racing's facility on Rt. 301 in Wildwood. Call Glen Carter (751-6442) for details.
Saturday, Oct. 20 Colony Cottage	Villages Tech Know-How event (Exhibition of unique club experiences in The Villages; Call Gary Civiletti (751-4030))
Sunday, Oct. 28 Colony Cottage	Bingo fund-raiser—details TBA!
Friday, Nov. 23 Daytona International Speedway	Bus trip to Annual Turkey Rod Run (Car Show) on the Speedway's grounds; Call Wendy for details (303-9734)
Saturday, December 8 Polo Grounds	2012 Villages Christmas Parade—Call Gary Civiletti (751-4030) for details



## Jeff Choquette Solid in CWTS Debut

**July 14**—If you happened to tune in to the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series' American Ethanol 200 at Iowa Speedway last month, you may have recognized one of the names in the field—Jeff Choquette. Those of you who were with us back in April of 2007 fondly remember our inaugural bus trip to New Smyrna Speedway for the April 28 Florida Sunbelt Series 100-lap Super Late Model event...after all, it was not only our first road trip, but it was our first experience at sponsoring a car! It was the first time our “yellow shirts” congregated in one place outside of The Villages, and it was the first time we met the highly-talented Choquette, who piloted Dick Anderson's famed No. 92 to an impressive win over a full field of challengers on the tough NSS half mile track. Who can forget the excitement as Anderson used his clout with track officials to hold up post-race activities until we could all gather around Choquette and the car in the Winner's Circle (remember, some of us don't move too fast), and who could forget this photo from our club archives!

But, back to the present. The 26 year old Choquette was signed to drive the Adrian Carriers No. 97 pictured below in the CWTS



event at Iowa, and proved once again that he has the skill set to compete in the big leagues. Starting a respectable 17th in the field of highly-touted regular series drivers, he stayed in contention throughout the 200-lap event, finishing in 11th place, on the lead lap. With no owner points to assist his team, Choquette was required to make the field on time, and logged a fast lap of 133.407 on the 7/8 mile oval (this was the fastest of the “go or go homers”)...not bad for the first time in a NASCAR event and the first time in a CWTS ride! From the start, he served notice on the field that he

was going to be a contender, placing fifth fastest in the first practice session against series regulars.

Choquette, from Palm Beach Florida, has been driving for the Adrian Carriers team since last year, competing in the American Speed Association (ASA) Midwest Tour. He's been successful for the team, winning four of his first five races with them.



## Military Sponsorships Likely to Continue in NASCAR

In case you haven't been following the controversy kicked off recently by Georgia Congressman Jack Kingston and Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum with a bill to end military sponsorship of sporting events, the bill was defeated in the House July 18 in a relatively close vote (216-202). As a result, you can expect to see the various branches of the

armed services continue to use sporting venues—NASCAR included—as recruiting tools.

There evidently was a fair amount of debate surrounding the bill, with discussion on the pros and cons touching on the link between recruiting and sports, as well as the work that NASCAR engineers have done to improve the design of military equipment.

Perhaps one of the most influential comments on the issue came from Rep. Larry Kissell of North Carolina: “The most popular driver in NASCAR drives the National Guard Car,” he said “...we don't need to strike that relationship. We need to build on that.” Another supporting factor was the “huge” return on investment that recruiters experience.

## Help Wanted—2012 Hall of Fame Event

As most of you know, we've been making a concerted effort to get more members involved in planning and carrying out club activities. The response has been good, with shining examples like **Don Day** taking over the Camp Villages program, **Gary Civiletti** handling contacts with The Villages' Recreation Department, and **Mike Anderson** assuming Webmaster duties and designing our new club website. This is a positive sign, and it's good to be able to bring new and fresh thinking into the leadership of our club.

We'd like to continue this trend, and here's another perfect example of where we need a fresh direction...*the planning and organization of our annual **Hall of Fame** event.* If you've attended this event in the past, you know that it's a great opportunity for us to re-connect with the speakers and notables who have shared their time with us, and you know it's a great night for the club. You also probably noticed that the attendance has been trending lower over the past few years...a clear sign that we need to liven things up a bit.

So, we're actively searching for a chair person to lead the planning and organization of this critical club event. We've set a date (**Sunday, January 6, 2013**) for the event, and you'll note that we've elected to move it to after the Christmas Holiday season based on feedback we've received.

Please give some thought to how your skills might be applied to the planning of this important event, and contact any member of the Pit Crew if you're willing to help (or perhaps lead).

## R/C Racing Program Continuing to Grow

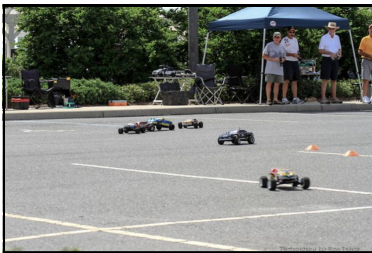
Judging from the crowds of spectators showing up at our semi-monthly R/C practice sessions at Colony Cottage, there's a fair amount of interest in this form of racing around The Villages. Current co-chairs Dave Allen and Mike Roemer report that they now have a list of more than 40 active participants on their roster, and that many of them have now taken the plunge and joined the club.

One of the most exciting recent developments in this area is the decision to re-configure the Villages Cup format (previously conducted with go karts) as a Radio Controlled Racing event to be held this October 10 at Colony Cottage. Details are being worked out right now, and will be reviewed at the September monthly meeting. If you'd like to assist in the planning for this event, give Dave a call

at 205-7985. The more the merrier when it comes to planning and organizing an event like this.

Also, some of the R/C racers have been traveling to Marion Market's new track to get in some dirt racing. Give Dave a call if you'd like to join them.

Finally, here a few photos of our group in action, care of club member Ron Pearce...



To see more of Ron's photos, go to: <http://backcountrybound.smugmug.com/TheVillagesMotorRacingFanClub>



## Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)  
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)  
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)  
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)  
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)  
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (303-9734)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)  
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)  
 Jerry Conkle, Technical Consultant (750-1185)  
 Pety Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)  
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)  
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)  
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

## An Autograph from RC

You may recall that several months ago we received a visit from Kathy and John Nolan, the proud owners of a Chevrolet Monte Carlo/Dale Earnhardt #3 lookalike car. The Nolans have been hitting the NASCAR circuit, and were on-hand at Daytona for this year's Coke Zero 400, naturally with their eye-catching car. While there, they were alerted to a sort of car show at the local Wal-Mart, and were told that Richard Childress would be making an appearance. They hustled on over there, and managed to catch RC signing autographs. On a whim, they asked him if he'd be willing to sign the car, and to their surprise, he made it happen! Check the photos below...



## Conkle's Corner...

Jerry's back at it, with a few items designed to make you think (and maybe to make you laugh, or at least chuckle a bit!).



- One afternoon a lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the road-side eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate. He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?" "We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass." "Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you," the lawyer said. "But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree." Bring them along," the lawyer replied. Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You may come with us, also." The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me!" "Bring them all as well," the lawyer answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limousine was. Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, "Sir, you are too kind." "Thank you for taking all of us with you. The lawyer replied, "Glad to do it." You'll really love my place. "The grass is almost a foot high."

- A golfer accidentally overturned his cart. Elizabeth, a "beautiful" real golfer who lived in a villa on the golf course heard the noise and yelled over to him. "Hey are you okay, what's your name?" "Willis," he replied. "Willis forget your troubles. come to my villa, rest up and I'll help you get the cart up later."

"That's mighty nice of you." Willis answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it." "Aw come on," Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty and persuasive. "Well okay," Willis finally agreed, and added, "but my wife won't like it." After a hearty drink AND sexy driving and putting lessons, Willis thanked the host.

"I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be real upset." "Don't be foolish!" Elizabeth said with a smile, she won't know anything. By the way, where is she?" "Under the cart."

## Buzzie Reutimann Sighting

Club member Shelly Young was visiting Orange County Fair Speedway in New York Saturday, 8/4 and guess who he ran into?! Shelly tells me he had a good chat with Buzzie about The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.

