



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report

August-September, 2013

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, November 6, 2013

In This Issue:

iRacing Comes to the Villages	1
Learning more about Indy	2
Meeting Jake Perkins	2
Buster's Big Night at CCS	3
Remembering "Big Dave"	3
Prediction Row Update	4
Our Logo in Action	4
Special Events Update	5
Local Racing Corner	5
Your Pit Crew	6
Conkle's Corner	6
Yard Sale Recap	6
From the Vault	6



Let's Go iRacing!

August 7—More than a few of us have probably spent some time with our grandkids, with a joystick in hand, playing a motorsports-oriented video game and getting the feel of being a race car driver. And we were probably amazed at the realism the game makers were able to build into the software, which unquestionably represents the most sophisticated form of computer code available. But we hadn't really seen sophistication until Mark Lutes of Fast Track Sims paid us a visit at our August 7 meeting. Mark brought with him a state-of-the-art simulated racing unit labeled the TC-R1—a custom built simulator designed to accurately replicate the experience of racing competitively.

Club member David Vanderwall orchestrated Mark's visit to The Villages, and is in fact an iRacing veteran and proud new owner of the TC-R1 unit exhibited at the August meeting. Mark and David covered the details of iRacing as a concept, including the way track profiles are developed and some of the features constantly being unveiled to enhance the experience. David also introduced race car driver and club favorite Devin McLeod, a long-time iRacer, who shared a number of personal experiences in the iRacing. Devin described the benefits he and many of his fellow competitors realize from the sport, and shared his thoughts on the sophistication present in this form of racing.



Via video, Mark Lutes demonstrates (above) the use of multiple displays to achieve the view of the track. At right, Devin McLeod illustrates the physical aspects of getting comfortable in the simulator unit.



September Meeting—Inside the Indianapolis 500 (or, why isn't it called the Speedway 500?)



September 4—No doubt many members remember the May 25 article the Daily Sun ran in advance of the May 26 Indianapolis 500, the 97th running of what many refer to as the “Greatest Spectacle in Racing.” The article posed the question “in what city is the Indianapolis 500 held?” and went on to describe the recollections of two former residents of the “500”’s host city, Speedway, Indiana.

The two former residents we’re referring to are Elaine Harold and Jane Route, both residents of The Villages, and both proud former residents of the town of Speedway. Both of these dynamic ladies made an appearance at our September 4 meeting to share the “inside story” behind the Daily Sun article, giving us a feel for what it was like to live so near the famed Speedway and to breath the rarefied air surrounding the world’s most famous racing venue.

As promised, their stories were electrifying, including their personal encounters with notables in and around the sport, as well as experiences like Elaine’s having NASCAR’s Jeff Gordon as a grade school student. Jane shared passages from her published book, “Speedway,” produced as part of Arcadia Publishing’s “Images of America” series, and even brought along a supply of her book for sale to interested members.

Meeting Another Rising Star—Ocala’s Jake Perkins

October 2—Through the years, we’ve had the opportunity to welcome quite a few of racing’s future stars to our meetings. They’ve been impressive, and our October meeting introduced us to yet another of the “young guns” that will carry the sport forward. 16-year old Ocala driver “No Brake Jake” Perkins joined us for the evening to share his racing history and his aspirations in the sport, continuing our string of appearances from racing’s future.

Jake, a junior at Bellevue High School (carrying a 4.9 GPA, by the way), is an eight-year racing veteran, having launched his career at Original Speedway Park in 2005. From a Novice Championship in his first year, he moved on to the Bandolero and Legends ranks compiling a string of local and state-level championships before making the

leap to Super Late Models in 2011 (at age 14). In his rookie year at this level, he earned “Rookie of the Year” honors in the Florida United Promoters Series, and backed that up the following year with a 4th-place finish in FUPS series points.

Recently, Jake Perkins Motorsports took a major step forward, tabbing veteran NASCAR spotter and Cup-level insider Shawn Reutimann (also a TVMRFC Hall of Famer) as Crew Chief, a move that is likely to pay enormous dividends down the road.

By the way, Jake did explain the origin of his “No Brake” nickname attributing it to a post-race go-karting incident at OSP...ask him about it!



Buster Burt's Career Honored at CCS

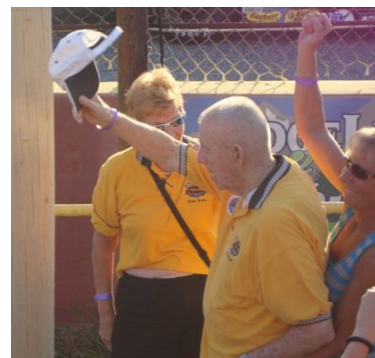
July 27-After suffering through a month and a half delay caused by a rainout on June 8, the nig event for club member and racing legend Arthur "Buster" Burt finally came to pass. It was a great night Saturday, July 27 over at Citrus County Speedway, with a contingent of about two dozen club members and friends of Buster Burt taking part in a spectacular FUPS event! Buster was honored just prior to the start of the feature events, and received a standing ovation from the crowd of more than 2,000 race fans.

When the excitement from Buster's big moment settled down, we were treated to one of he best short track racing events in recent memory, when club Hall of Famer (Class of 2010) Wayne Anderson put on a driving clinic in the 125-lap Super Late Model

Powell Memorial event. It wasn't Wayne's usual runaway, though, and he battled Brooksville's Daniel Webster over the second half of the event to capture the win with about a two-second margin. It was Wayne's sixth win in seven FUPS features in 2013 (and he was runner-up in the one he didn't win). Randy Anderson finished eighth, coming back from several skirmishes (wrecks, actually) that left the No. 4 looking like an open wheel modified by the end of the night. The third Anderson in the event, Ricky, finished 14th in the 26-car field as he compiled seat time and experience.

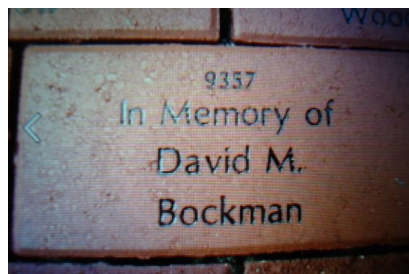
All-in-all, a great night for the club and, of course, for our own Buster Burt.

Highlights from Buster's Big Night at CCS



Remembering "Big Dave" Bockman

The long-awaited final portion of our permanent tribute to club Hall of Famer and Pit Crew member "Big Dave" Bockman is now in place. The commemorative brick in memory of Dave has been placed in The Veterans Memorial Park in Spanish Springs, just off Main Street at Paige Place and Lake Miramar. Next time you're in the area, stop by and check it out...for those of us who had the honor of knowing "Big Dave" and being in his commanding presence, just visiting it will undoubtedly bring back a flood of warm memories.



The commemorative brick is the second part of our memorial to Dave, and follows the donation of a music stand in his honor to New Covenant United Methodist Church last year.



That's why they call him "Big Dave!"

Update on Prediction Row 2013—Second Round

Wendy Touchette took a solid 24-point lead into the last race of segment two, and used a dark-horse Kurt Busch prediction to build that lead to a commanding 42 points over Jim Carter. After dominating segment two, leading nine of the 13 weeks, Carter held off hard-charging Jon Neville to hold onto second place.

Segment 2 produced three winning predictions (two by Carter), compared to five in segment 1. Top five predictions totaled 19 (24%) vs. 33 (42%) for segment 1, while their top 10s also lagged segment 1 (44% to 58%). Over the 13 segment two races, the average starting positions of the predicted drivers was 11.6 vs. 10.2 for segment 1.

Jimmie Johnson was again the most frequent pick (no surprise there!), picked 22 times (although segment two champ Touchette didn't pick him at all!) Tony Stewart was a distant 2nd with 9 picks, with Brad Keselowski, Matt Kenseth, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Kurt Busch next in line with six picks each.

So, the stage was set for the Chase round, and our Prediction Row panel was unfazed by the Richmond debacle. By the time you read this, the Chase will be nearing its end, so keep tabs on it by visiting our website (www.villagesracingclub.com).

By way of reflection, here's the original line-up for the Chase:

Predictor	Bonus Points	Pos. in Prev. Segment
Baker, Syd	20	1
Carter, Jim	20	2
Stone, Al	10	3
Touchette, Wendy	0	1
Civiletti, Gary	0	2
Neville, Jon	0	3

And here's how they stand going into the final two races:

Predictor	Current Points
Baker, Syd	350
Stone, Al	335
Neville, Jon	313
Carter, Jim	296
Civiletti, Gary	288
Touchette, Wendy	221

Our Logo Rides Again (at CCS)!



If you've been part of our regular Saturday night contingent of race fans making the short trip over to Citrus County Speedway in Inverness, you've no doubt taken notice of our club logo taking laps affixed to Devin McLeod's bright yellow No. 01 Legends entry. The Zephyrhills racing star followed up his June visit with us by becoming the 24th driver to sport our logo, putting him in a group of club affiliates that have helped spread our fame across an ever-expanding range of racing venues. By the way, since Devin, we've added two more names to this list...Jake Perkins and Dora Thorne (although Dora's Street Stock will not actually carry the logo until it's re-skinned later this year.)

Special Events Roundup—A More Current Approach

As most of you know, our list of upcoming events is pretty dynamic, with new items and updates occurring frequently. Special Events Coordinator Gary Civiletti has been sending periodic updates to members at regular intervals, so that you are always aware of changes as they occur. In addition, Webmaster Mike Anderson and Civiletti have collaborated on an on-line club calendar through which members can always keep abreast of future events. Navigating to the “Calendar of Events” page on the website is easy! Simply enter the club’s site address (www.villagesracingclub.com) in your browser and, when the site’s homepage loads, click on the “Calendar of Events” item in the panel on the left side of the page. This will open the calendar window on the site, where you will see all of the upcoming club events, along with other notable events in the racing world. When you see the item you’re interested in, click on the calendar entry and you’ll be provided additional information and reference sources that will give you a more complete rundown on the event.



Local Racing Corner

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 two this year (Columbia and Putnam County), 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. Without local tracks, there’d be no NASCAR!

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
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
Bronson Motor Speedway	Bronson	352-486-2763	facebook.com/bronson.speedway

Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)
 Dave Allen, Vice President (205-7985)
 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)
 Gary Civiletti, Special Events (751-4030)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Syd and Nancy Baker, Hospitality Coordinators (750-2126)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President (751-3643)
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

Yard Sale...A Huge Success!!!

The club's October 5 Yard Sale was a tremendous success...not only as a fund-raiser, but also as a mechanism for many folks to clean out their garages and spare rooms. Our hats are off to the members who pitched in to help out on this project, and especially to the club members and residents of Millwood Way in Winifred for arranging and hosting the multi-location extravaganza.

The funds raised through this project will serve as the basis for our community support and charitable contribution allocations in the coming year.



Conkle's Corner...

I would like to let you know, that for \$9 you can't get more for your money than the racing at nearby Citrus County Speedway. It was a great honor to get to see Buster Burt honored at the Speedway. We had many members there to support him.

And here are a few other, random bits of thought-provoking comments for you to ponder while you're waiting for the next club meeting...



TIPS FROM THE REDNECK BOOK OF MANNERS

1. Never take a beer to a job interview.
2. Always identify people in your yard before shooting at them.
3. It's considered poor taste to take a cooler to church.
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you're certain that you are included in the will, it is still considered tacky to drive a U-Haul to the funeral.
6. If drinking directly from the bottle, always hold it with your fingers covering the label.
7. Avoid throwing bones and food scraps on the restaurant floor as the restaurant may not have dogs.
8. A centerpiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.
9. Do not allow the dog to eat at the table no matter how good his manners are.
10. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys.
11. Proper use of toiletries can forestall bathing for several days. However, if you live alone, deodorant is a waste of good money.
12. Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a social no-no, as they tend to detract from a woman's jewelry and alter the taste of finger foods.
13. Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if the gun is loaded, and the deer is in sight.
14. When approaching a four-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires always has the right of way.
15. Never tow another car using panty hose and duct tape.
16. When sending your wife/girlfriend down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back beer.

From the vault

