



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

August/September—2015

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, October 7, 2015

In This Issue

Chuck Kidwell—Old Guys Rule!	1
Tony Kennea—Another Great Show	2
2015 Scholarship Winner—Jake Perkins	3
Don Day Trending	3
IndyCar 2015 Wrap-Up	4
2016 LLOAR Announcement	5
Local Racing Corner	5
Prediction Row 2015	6
Our Logo Up North	6
"Lost Speedways" Event Preview	7
Corey Lajoie at Dover 10/2	7
Your Pit Crew	8
Conkle's Corner	8
Remembering a Founding Member	8

Chuck Kidwell—You're Never Too Old to Race!

August 5—Opening his remarks with a challenge that "You're never too old to do it," racing veteran Chuck Kidwell gave us a spirited review of a career that has spanned seven decades. At age 75, Chuck is actively racing—and winning—in the Micro Sprint ranks locally, with his most recent win occurring just a few weeks ago at the Marion County "Bullring" in Ocala.



Chuck traced his racing roots back to age nine, when he and several friends launched a soapbox derby racing circuit in Wayne, Nebraska in the late 1940s. From there, he stepped up to go-karts in the late 1950s, sharing an amusing story about himself and three buddies racing against a police pursuit through streets and yards. Eventually, they went a more civilized route and competed on a 1/10th mile track with a coffin factory behind it. (Incidentally, he did manage to crash into the factory.)

Stock car racing was next in Chuck's career development progression, running the "Hayseed" car (a roadster), and then to stock cars at South Sioux City (a 1936 Chrysler Coupe). After a brief stint in Midgets, he returned to the design and building of cage-karts for IKF, a project that turned out 438 units in 18 months for use in the Junior Sprints circuits. He also built roughly 40 Junior Dragster cars during his years as a car builder.

After achieving success in the NMMA ranks, including running at the top of the list of 940 competitors, Chuck was invited to set up a company to build mini-Cup Series 1 cars, and eventually build a prototype car that was subsequently featured in several racing magazines. He continued his car-building enterprises through 2010, and still gets calls to maintain cars he built decades ago.

As a proud family man, Chuck took a few minutes to comment on his grandson who races boats for the U.S. Navy (3rd from left in photo at right) and his other grandson (left in the photo), a West Point cadet, who's a national orienteering champion.



Continued on page 2

Chuck Kidwell—You're Never Too Old to Race! (cont'd)

Chuck concluded his remarks with a review of the many cars he drove, built, and wrenched through the years, and shared a few stories about racing with drivers like Doug Wolfgang, Roger Rager, and (of course) our own Grady Wade. He also shared some memories of racing at Bellville High Banks in Kansas, and his experiences with Dwarf Car inventor Ernie Adams.

Although his career included extensive work in the IndyCar ranks, Chuck did not touch on this area in any detail, indicating that he'd prefer to come back at a future date and cover that area in depth. All-in-all, it was another great night for the club, and another chance to hear from a veteran of the motorsports world.

A Return Visit from Tony Kennea



September 2—Our resident Formula 1 expert, Tony Kennea, returned to the podium to share his racing knowledge with the group, this time with an enlightening discussion on land speed records. Tony's remarks traced the evolution of land speed record competition from the first mark (a blazing 39 mph set in 1898), to the eclipsing of this mark in 1906 by a Stanley Steamer (127 mph), to the 147 mph three years later by another steam-driven car. The 150 mph barrier was broken in 1925 by Sir Malcolm Campbell at Bonneville with an internal combustion engine, Tony reported. Campbell went on to break the 200 mph barrier in 1932, and then the 300 mph barrier three years later.

Carrying the history through the next several decades, Tony noted that Sir Campbell's son Donald advanced the Bonneville record for wheel-driven race cars to 403 mph in 1964, competing at Lake Eyre, Australia.

Tony covered the entry of jet and rocket propulsion engines into the land speed record competition, with names like Craig Breedlove and Art Arfons taking center stage. He reported that the current world record is 763 mph for this type of car, held by British Royal Air Force Wing Commander Andy Green. The record was set at Nevada's Black Rock Desert in October, 1997 and represented a nearly 50 mph increase over the previous record set by Green a month earlier.

Tony presented a variety of thoughts and statistics about land speed record cars, including a discussion of Richard Noble's turbojet-powered car (pictured at right), designed to break the 800 mph mark. The 42-foot long vehicle weighs in at just over 14,000 lbs. (fueled), and will use a system of air brakes and disc brakes after attaining the target speed.

We're going to need Tony to keep us posted on what happens with this project!



Our 2015 Scholarship Winner—Jake Perkins

September 2—Our schedule finally meshed with Jardine "Jake" Perkins' schedule, and we were able to officially award him our 2015 Book/Tuition Scholarship.

Jake, also known in racing circles as "No Brake Jake," graduated in May from Bellevue High School with an outstanding academic record – 4.91 weighted GPA – and an equally impressive record of participation in golf and tennis.

But we know Jake as a racer, and he has distinguished himself in that field as well, from karting (where he captured multiple championships) to Legends (where he also grabbed a few championships) to Super Late Models (where he was the 2011 Rookie of the Year in the FUPS Series) to the United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series.



Jake was accepted to the University of Florida and was complimented by their review committee for his impressive and outstanding academic and personal achievements. He has enrolled in a curriculum for mechanical engineering and business.

Jake started his college program this summer at the University of Florida in Ocala while continuing to race at dirt tracks around Florida. Currently he is competing in the United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series Chase for the Championship.

Jake is our sixth scholarship recipient since launching the program in 2009. Past recipients included Matt Bowers, Scott Hensley, Amanda Ferguson, Sean Hensley, and Anthony Cataldi.

Don Day Showcases his Austin Healy on Town Square

September 19—Club member Don Day, a frequent participant in The Villages' Cruise-In events on Spanish Springs Town Square, once again put his classic Austin Healy on display this month. As is usually the case, Don was a frequent stop for visitors, and he spent a good portion of the night explaining the details of his fantastic machine. With Don's involvement in the R/C Racing Group, it wasn't surprising to see the miniature version of his car also on display, parked right there on his console. A nice addition to an already attractive stop on the Cruise-In circuit! Below are a couple of shots from the event...



2015 IndyCar Points Race Goes Down to the Wire

The 2015 Verizon IndyCar season championship run ended August 30 at Sonoma with Scott Dixon and Juan Pablo Montoya deadlocked at 556 points each. Series rules call for the number of wins during the season to be the tie breaker, so Dixon's 3 wins to Montoya's 2 wins gave him the nod. In total, 39 drivers earned points in the series, which consisted of 16 events spanning the March 29 to August 30 period.

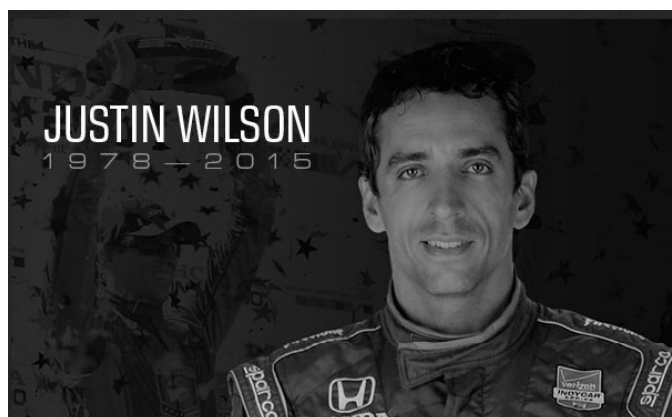
As many race fans are aware, the season ended on a tragic note, with Justin Wilson suffering fatal injuries in the August 23 event at Pocono. Wilson, a 13-year veteran of the circuit, competed in 174 events, winning 7 and capturing 8 poles.

The 2015 IndyCar Season Points—Top 10

1. Scott Dixon (556 pts., 3 wins)
2. Juan Pablo Montoya (556 pts., 2 wins)
3. Will Power (493 pts., 1 win)
4. Graham Rahal (490 pts., 2 wins)
5. Helio Castroneves (453 pts.)
6. Ryan Hunter-Reay (436 pts., 2 wins)
7. Josef Newgarden (431 pts., 2 wins)
8. Tony Kanaan (431 pts.)
9. Marco Andretti (429 pts.)
10. Sebastien Bourdais (406 pts., 2 wins)

(Get a complete points recap at racing-reference.info)

Official Verizon IndyCar Schedule - 2015			
Date	Event	Track	2015 Winner
Sunday, March 29, 2015	Firestone Gran Prix of St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg, FL	Juan Pablo Montoya
Sunday, April 12, 2015	Indy Grand Prix of Louisiana	Avondale, LA	James Hinchcliffe
Sunday, April 19, 2015	Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	Scott Dixon
Sunday, April 26, 2015	Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama	Birmingham, AL	Josef Newgarden
Saturday, May 9, 2015	Angie's List Grand Prix Of Indianapolis	Speedway, IN	Will Power
Sunday, May 24, 2015	2015 Indianapolis 500	Speedway, IN	Juan Pablo Montoya
Saturday, May 30, 2015	Chevrolet Dual in Detroit Race 1	Detroit, MI	Carols Munoz
Sunday, May 31, 2015	Chevrolet Dual in Detroit Race 2	Detroit, MI	Sebastien Bourdais
Saturday, June 6, 2015	Firestone 600	Ft. Worth, TX	Scott Dixon
Sunday, June 14, 2015	Honda Indy Toronto	Toronto, Ontario	Josef Newgarden
Saturday, June 27, 2015	MAVTV 500	Fonda, CA	Graham Rahall
Sunday, July 12, 2015	ABC Supply Wisconsin 250	West Allis, WI	Sebastien Bourdais
Saturday, July 18, 2015	Iowa Corn 300	Newton, IA	Ryan Hunter-Reay
Sunday, August 2, 2015	Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio	Lexington, OH	Graham Rahall
Sunday, August 23, 2015	ABC Supply 500	Long Pond, PA	Ryan Hunter-Reay
Sunday, August 30, 2015	GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma	Sonoma, CA	Scott Dixon



Living Legends of Auto Racing 24th Annual Awards Banquet Set for Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Part of the annual Daytona Speedweeks festivities includes the Living Legends of Auto Racing's Annual Awards Banquet at The Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach Shores. For the past several years, a contingent of club members has attended the event, savoring the opportunity to rub elbows with many of NASCAR's elite.

You may recall the recap of the event appearing in our March, 2015 newsletter, where we described being in the "rare air" with names like Danny "Chocolate" Myers, Chip Ganassi, Ken Schrader, Buddy Parrott, Dick Berggren, Ken Squirer, Robert Yates, Donnie and Bobby Allison, and (of course) our own favorite Marvin Panch. The fact is, when you amass that many yellow shirts in a small space (there were eight of us), we tend to draw a fair amount of curiosity.

This year, we'd like to double our group, and it will be a topic of discussion at the October meeting. If eight yellow shirts gets a lot of attention, think what 16 will do!

"The Ringmaster," Jim Hedlund is our point man on this event, so he'll be providing some additional information for you to consider. It really is something you don't want to pass up!



Local Racing Corner

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. Let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth, and they need us in the stands. Remember...without these tracks, there'd be no NASCAR!

Track	Location	Telephone	Web Contact
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	Auburndaleracing.com
Bronson Speedway	Archer	352-486-4998	Bronsonspeedway.net
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	Bubbaracewaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	Citruscountyspeedway.com
Desoto Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	Desotospeedway.com
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	Eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	Marioncountyspeedway.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	Newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	Speedwaypark.biz
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	Orlandospeedworld.org
Putnam County Speedway	Satsuma	386-649-6969	Putnamcountyspeedway.org
Showtime Speedway	Pinellas Park	727-561-9646	Showtimespeedway.us
Three Palms Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-444-9461	Threepalmsspeedway.com
Volusia Speedway Park	De Leon Springs	386-985-4402	Sportsvolusia.com

Prediction Row—2015 Edition



Well, we're just about at the cut-off point in the 2015 Chase for the Sprint Cup's Challenger Round and, with two drivers locked in, Dover looks to be a mad scramble for either the win or a better finishing position than the other Chase drivers. Dover's the kind of track that lends itself to bold moves, so this ought to be exciting (at least more exciting than the first two Challenger events).

Meanwhile, back here in The Villages, our panel of motorsports experts is now 0-for-2 in their Chase picks, with a 52 point spread between Bob Woodsford at the top and Tina Ivey at the bottom. The way the Chase drivers are clustered during the races, it becomes difficult to recover ground, although it could happen. At one point at New Hampshire last week, you may recall, all 12 Chase drivers were briefly in the top 13, so that has a tendency to compact the points quite a bit. So, on to Dover, and from there to Charlotte, Kansas, and Talladega. Stay tuned!

Chase Segment Current Standings		
Predictor	Points	Wins
Bob Woodsford	68	0
Jim Pappas	61	0
Lois Taylor	56	0
Darren Ivey	40	0
Don Day	34	0
Tina Ivey	16	0

Our Logo Hits the Track Up North!

We've found out through the years that there is virtually no end to the reach that our club has in racing circles. In fact, our logo has once again graced the winner's circle at a track far removed from Florida, when Late Model driver Michael Bilderback piloted his No. 2 ride to a win at Rockford (IL) Speedway in a Big 8 Series Race. The backstory here is that Bilderback drives the car sponsored by Co-Lin Metal Fabricating owned by Stephen Hedlund (grandson of our affiliated "Ringmaster" and club Hall of Famer Jim Hedlund) and, through Jim's efforts, they've been flying our club logo in 2015 Series competition. And they've been flying it well, with a win and four top 5s this year and a twenty point lead in the championship standings as of 9/29. The Big 8 Series has a participant roster featuring 68 drivers this year, and runs in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa, so our logo is getting plenty of exposure!



Upper photo: L-to-R—Jim and Stephen Hedlund, Michael Bilderback. Bottom photos: (L-to-R) Bilderback behind the wheel; Marc and Stephen Hedlund (grandsons), Liz Bilderback (Grandmother), Zayla (cousin), and Brandon (nephew); The car!

Slate Set For Popular “LOST SPEEDWAYS” Program In November (By Ron Hedger, Special to the TVMRFC)

With Labor Day in the books and a hint of fall in the air, it's time to set the slate of topics and presenters for the Saratoga Automobile Museum's most popular event, Lost Speedways.

“We'll welcome racers and fans on our traditional ‘Saturday after Thanksgiving’ date once again, which this year falls on November 28th,” said event organizer Ron Hedger. “And like always, we'll have memorabilia on display along with a great slate of presentations as we look back at speedways and racers no longer with us.”

Mark Supley, Lost Speedway's motorcycle expert, will discuss board track racing, a topic he addressed a few years ago but has since expanded. Vermont racing historian Bill Ladabouche will cover the old Otter Creek Speedway in Vergennes, where many New Yorkers raced back in the day, while Ken Parrotte will take the audience back to the early days of the Fulton Speedway, when Millard “Bub” Benway and his brother first opened it under the name Mil-Ray Speedway.

For sports car and road racing fans, Lime Rock Park announcer and racing historian Greg Rickes has researched the famed street race through Alexandria Bay and will share his findings. And for dirt track fans, racing columnist John Snyder, who made his Lost Speedways debut last fall, will return to talk about Victory Speedway, the original name of the track now known as the Orange County Fairgrounds Speedway. “The final segment will be our now traditional interview session,” added Hedger. “Each year I invite one or two star drivers to talk about their careers and this year I'm hoping to have a pair from different backgrounds to answer both my questions and queries from the audience. As the event gets closer and possible conflicts are resolved, we'll be able to announce their names.”

Another Lost Speedways tradition is that the event closely follows the opening of the museum's winter exhibit, which will be “Real Steel: Stories of Automotive Archaeology from Kevin Biebel.” While Biebel's collection runs from a 1907 Success that looks like a buckboard with an engine to modern vehicles, racers will likely be most interested in his Kent Fuller built dragster, complete with Ford flathead engine and Hilborn fuel injection, which remains just as it came off the drag strip decades ago.

And for those who have enjoyed viewing the #2x modified coupe driven by the legendary Eddie Flemke, the car's owner, Long island collector Phil Elliston, has agreed to replace it with another historic treasure, the #888 wheeled by four-time national champion Rene Charland. The ‘triple 8’ will arrive in early October to allow time for items from SAM's extensive collection of Charland memorabilia to be displayed with it at Lost Speedways.

Lost Speedways 2015 will commence with memorabilia sharing from 11:30 am on, followed by the presentations at 12:45 pm. The Saratoga Automobile Museum is located on the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park, just off Exit 13N of I-87, the Adirondack Northway. More information on SAM is available online at www.saratogaautomuseum.org.

Breaking News—Corey Lajoie to Compete at Dover

Precision Performance Motorsports has announced the addition of Corey LaJoie to the PPM driver stable in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East. LaJoie will be behind the wheel of the No. 12 Fronius and ComServe Wireless, TCC Verizon Wireless Agent, Toyota Camry in the Drive Sober 125 at Dover Int'l Speedway on Oct. 2. LaJoie has 25 K&N starts and has earned five wins, 17 top-5 finishes, 20 top-10 finishes and one pole win. With four previous starts at Dover, the North Carolina native is looking to capture his second win at Dover this weekend. (Source—nationalspeedsportnews.com)

(Editorial Note—Corey's previous Dover win (September 28, 2012) was featured on page 6 of our October/November club newsletter. You can read it in the Newsletters (Pit Reports) page of our website.

Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)
 Wendy Touchette, Vice President (303-9734)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Hormann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Darren Ivey, Special Events Coordinator (552-1977)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership Coordinators (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 John Angiolo, Member at Large (414-305-8094)
 Mike Touchette, Member at Large (603-5077)
 Syd and Nancy Baker, Hospitality Coordinators (750-2126)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President/Newsletter (396-9961)
 Glen Carter, Past President (874-8152)

Remembering One of Our Founding Members



Olyn T. Guice

February 26, 1941–August 2, 2015



Conkle's Corner...



NASCAR's Chase has started. It makes us look at races a little different, if your driver gets put out of the Chase. Some people may lose interest, some may not. It is what it is.

As reported on page 4, the Indy Racing League has ended its season already. Scott Dixon won the tie breaker over Juan Montoya. In the next to the last race of the season driver Justin Wilson lost his life in a freak accident. By being struck in the head with a nose cone off of another car. Let's hope they have a safer season next year.

Do you think Petty, Earnhardt, et al., would have won as many races as they did if the cars were all alike, like they have to be today? Right now it's either single file or pack racing. The most exiting parts of the race are restarts.

Now for the lighter side. Only one more restrictor plate race this year.

Now for more on the lighter side:

During his Physical, the doctor asked the patient about his daily activity level. He described a typical day this way: "Well, yesterday afternoon, I waded along the edge of the lake, drank eight beers, escaped from wild dogs in the heavy brush, jumped away from an aggressive rattle snake, and marched up and down several rocky hills, stood in a patch poison ivy, crawled out of quicksand, and took four leaks behind big trees."

Inspired by the story, the doctor said, "You must be one hell of an outdoor's man!"

"Nah," he replied, "I'm just a shitty golfer."

**My kids will never
 know the joy of
 finding a quarter
 in the coin return**



www.yesemails.com