

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Newsletter

September, 2007



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A Message from your Crew Chief



It was good to be back with you folks at our August 1st meeting. I'm doing pretty well, and it appears the operation was a great success. Thanks again for all your well-wishes over the past few weeks.

Our club just continues to develop. As those of you who were at the August 1 meeting hear, we've reached a level of 168 members, and we're pleased that the group consists of so many active and interested fellow racing enthusiasts. We're approaching the end of our first year (can you believe it was almost a year ago that we first started building this group?) and in the weeks ahead you'll hear more about what we have planned for the remainder of this first year. It's been a good one, and it's just going to get better and better!

Glen

August Meeting – An Introduction to Columbia Motorsports Park



Yet another track heard from! Tim Lake, General Manager of Columbia Motorsports Park in northern Florida made the trip to The Villages on August 1 to give us a first-hand description of the racing facility he oversees. In addition to discussing the specifications of Columbia's half-mile concrete track, Tim covered his background as a trucking manager and former employee at New Smyrna Speedway, as well as his relationship with Don Nerone of FASCAR. To bring it even closer to home, Tim shared some Dick Anderson stories, including his account of Dick's domination of the "high groove" at a recent Columbia event.

Tim expressed his keen interest in supporting the efforts of our club, and invited members to join the Columbia team the upcoming 100 lap Super Late Model event on August 25. He reported that Dick Anderson is expected to be running his No. 92 car in the event (we subsequently verified this with Dick...the No. 92 is indeed entered, with Jeff Choquette at the wheel, and the hood with our club logo and signatures is on the car.) Based on Tim's remarks, and hungry for another dose of good, exciting, short track racing, club members expressed tremendous interest in traveling to August 25 event. Our Special Events Committee mobilized immediately to begin assembling a package, and details were in the air almost before the checkered flag flew on the meeting (well, by the following Monday anyway...it does take some time to schedule a bus!)



Visit our website at www.villagesracingclub.com

Special Events Committee Report

Our Special Events Committee continues to produce more and more opportunities for club members to come explore racing-related venues around the area. Here's a recap of some of the upcoming items:

- **November 17** – Governor's Cup 200 Lap Event at New Smyrna Speedway. The format will be similar to the April event, with bus transportation to and from the track, hospitality tents with catered dining, signing of the No. 92's hood, meet and greet with Jeff Choquette, and reserved grandstand seating, not to mention the obligatory trip to Victory Lane! Dick Anderson will be bringing the hood to the November meeting for signatures. Cost will be \$45 per person for the complete package.
- **December Holiday Hall of Fame Celebration** – Our December end-of-year meeting will be a reflection on what has been accomplished since the club's formation. All of the speakers who've graced our monthly meetings will be invited back for a free-for-all discussion, and we have a few surprises planned also to further liven up the evening. You're not gonna want to miss this one!
- **Poker Run Plans** – Linda Turecek and Sue Gamertsfelder have agreed to organize the logistics for a club poker run later this fall. As any of you who have ever organized one of these know, they'll need quite a bit of help putting it together, so anyone willing to step up and help is asked to contact them to volunteer. Sign-up sheets for participants and helpers will be available at the September 5 meeting but, in the meantime, if you have any questions contact Linda (ldturecek@comcast.net) or Sue (susie01@comcast.net).
- **Club Logo Items** – Club polo shirts (\$24-26), hats (\$13), and logo decals (\$3) are available for sale. If you'll like to order any of these items, give Wendy Touchette a call at 430-0239.
- **Group Rates at Local Attractions** – The club has investigated two local racing-related attractions, and determined that the following rates are available to members:
 - Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing (<http://www.Gatlits.com>)
 - Regular Admission: Adults - \$15.00, Age 60+ - \$13.00, Students - \$13.00, Children Ages 5-12 - \$6.00, Children Under 5 – Free
 - Group Rate (10 or more): Adults - \$12.00, Age 60+ - \$10.00, Students - \$13.00, Children Ages 5-12 - \$3.00, Children Under 5 – Free
 - Mt. Dora Museum of Speed (<Http://www.classicdreamcars.com/THEMUSEUM.html>)
 - Regular Admission: \$9.00 (Two-person minimum)
 - Group Rate (40 or more): \$8.00 (includes guided tour)

Looking Ahead to Our September Meeting

Our guest speaker for the September 5 meeting will be fellow member Dean Tilman. As some of you may be aware, Dean has accumulated thirty years of experience as an usher at Daytona International Speedway, and has agreed to share his experiences with us. People serving in these types of positions tend to see a fair amount of unique situations, so Dean's perspectives should be quite interesting. Also on tap for the night will be the start-up of the club's "Chase for the Nextel Cup" pool, so come to the meeting prepared to join in this exciting event. Finally, don't forget to bring your "Operation Shoebox" items to fill Ted's collection box.

Operation Shoebox Profile

As a follow-up to Ted Cahalane's discussion at the August 1 meeting, this month's insert features an overview of "Operation Shoebox" and its mission in support of our troops abroad. Reiterating the comment in the item above, please help us support this excellent program by bringing your items for the "big shoebox" to the September 5 meeting.

Local Racing Corner

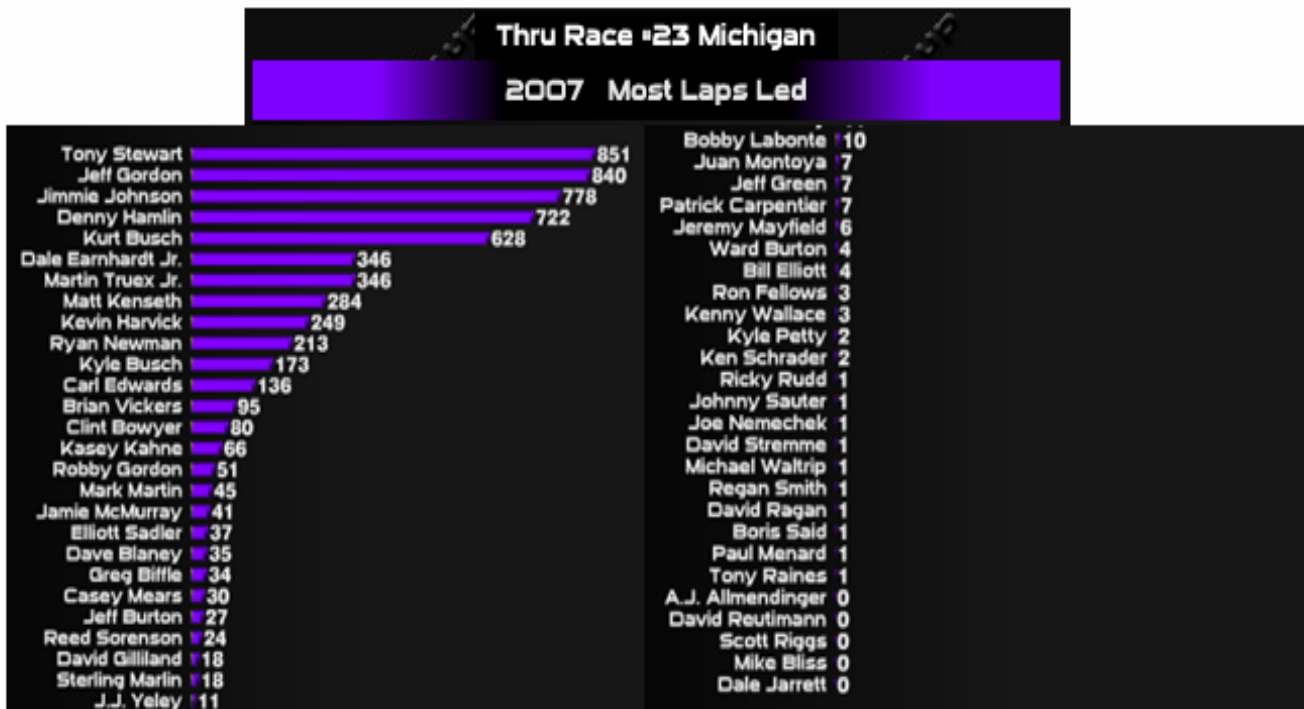
In keeping with our objective of promoting local racing interest, here's a recap of upcoming dates at several of our closest tracks. These venues offer great car pool, tailgating opportunities to watch real exciting grassroots racing.

Citrus County Speedway (http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com)	
Date	Event
September 1	Open Wheel Modified, Mini Cup, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, Fig 8
September 8	TBARA Sprints, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers
September 15	Open Wheel Modified, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bomber, Fig 8
September 22	50 Lap Street Stock, Super Late Model, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers
September 29	FL Pro Challenge, Open Wheel Modified, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers, Fig 8
Ocala Speedway (http://www.ocalaspeedway.com)	
September 7	Regular Divisions: (V-8 Rookies & V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock & Modifieds). PLUS - Florida Mini Stock & <i>Figure "8" cars</i> .
September 14	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock & Late Models). PLUS - 50 Lap Sportsman - \$1,000 to Win & Kids Bike Races
September 21	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock & Modifieds). PLUS - <i>Street Car Challenge</i> . & <i>Figure "8" cars</i>
September 28	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman). PLUS – FAST Trucks & Mini Cups & (Suitcase Race)
New Smyrna Speedway (http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)	
September 1	TBARA OUTLAW WINGED SPRINTS 30 , Modified, Pro-Truck, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
September 8	SUPER STOCK 50 , Late Model, Modified, Pro-Truck, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
September 15	BRIGHT HOUSE CHALLENGE SLM 50 , Modified, Pro-Truck, Sportsman, Super Stock, Strictly Stock
September 22	ADVANCE AUTO PARTS PRO TRUCK 50, STRICTLY STOCK 25 , Modified, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock
September 29	CLYDE HART MEMORIAL SUNBELT 125, SOUTHERN SPORTSMAN 50 , Modified, Super Stock, Strictly Stock
Columbia Motorsports Park (http://www.columbiamotorsportspark.com)	
September 1	Super Late Models, Sportsman, Pure Stock 50, Hornets, V-8 Bombers
September 8	PRINTS, Sportsman, Purestock, Hornets, Welter Weights, V-8 Bombers
September 15	Super Late Model, Sportsman, Purestock, Hornets, V-8 Bombers (DOUBLE POINTS)

Columbia Motorsports Park (http://www.columbiamotorsportspark.com)	
September 22	GOODYEAR CHALLENGE LATE MODEL 100, Sportsman, Hornets, Welter Weights, V-8 Bombers
September 29	Super Late Model, Pure Stock, Sportsman, Hornets, V-8 Bombers

So You Don't Need to Look it up!

The Chase is almost here, and certainly everybody is aware of how many wins each driver has this year. This is especially important due to the Chase starting format, where bonus points are awarded at the start on the basis of the number of wins. In addition to wins, though, it's sometimes good to look at who's dominating the action on a race-by-race basis. Here's a look at which drivers are leading the laps this year. Hey...even Kyle Petty grabbed two!



Statistics courtesy of our friends at <http://www.theinsidegroove.com>. Visit this site and view a fantastic collection of information about NASCAR!

Club Contact Information:		
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OPERATION SHOEBOX MISSION

"Operation Shoebox" is a non-political organization founded in 2003 by Mary Harper of Belleview, Florida to send support, snacks, and much needed personal care items to our troops deployed outside of the USA. To date, the organization has shipped over 200,000 little duffel bag-shaped care packages to our soldiers around the world. These packages contain "goodies" and little necessities that the government does not supply. For example, a simple little deck of cards can bring a lot of pleasure to a soldier posted in a faraway, remote place. Ms. Harper has been invited to the White House on a couple of occasions to receive praise from President Busch himself.

Our Organization is totally volunteer driven and is a 501 C (3) non profit. We currently have over 500 volunteers in our data base and have many that work in their homes sewing, knitting and writing letters to the troops. We rely solely on the generosity of the public and businesses to fund our care packages and shipping costs. Our volunteers also run fundraisers to obtain funds for these costs. Part of our mission is to support our wounded warriors by collecting and sending items that medical personnel have indicated would help them the most.

The local portion of the "Operation" meets every Monday at 1:00 PM out at Hibiscus Recreation Center. At that time there are 150 to 200 volunteers working there, preparing hygiene packets, stationary needs, and a variety items, ranging from hard candy packets to "Slim Jims", "Hot Fries", and the like. After a brief meeting to discuss upcoming fund raisers and donations made, all hell breaks loose as the assembly line starts and 700 to 800 packages are filled and shipped up to Belleview where they are packaged the most economical way and shipped directly to soldiers deployed around the world. The shipping cost alone runs \$1500 To \$2000 a week.



Our next big task is to prepare 30,000 Christmas stockings to send to our troops overseas. This is also a massive undertaking and you just would not believe the effort involved. Our close friend Sandy DeChristofaro is the director for The Villages, portion of "The Operation" and has been invited to join us at our October meeting to give us some additional firsthand information about the program.

***Here are the items needed for the troops
(List continues on reverse side)***

CANDY	PRINTED MATERIALS
Candy (heat resistant) Fruit Breezes (throat drops) Twizzlers <u>Hard Candy of any kind</u>	Books (novels, short stories paperbacks) Newspapers (local) Magazines-any kind
CORRESPONDENCE	TOILETRIES/HYGIENE
Writing Paper and Envelopes Pens	Baby Wipes <u>Deodorant-male and female</u> Femine Hygiene Products (for female soldiers) <u>Foot Powder</u> Hairbrushes <u>Hand Lotion</u> <u>Hand Sanitizers (waterless)</u> Q-Tips Razors (disposable) Shampoo Sunscreen <u>ANY FEMALE ITEMS</u>
DENTAL	
Floss Mouthwash Toothbrushes Toothpaste	

DRINK	Other
Coffee Coffee Creamer <u>Gatorade</u> <u>Powdered Drink Mixes</u> <u>Tea Mixes (sweet)</u> Pre sweetened sticks of tea mix for water bottles	American Flags (small) Baggies (with zip lock) Batteries (AA, D,) Bug Spray (must be packaged in zip-lock bag) Disposable Cameras Flashlights (mini/mag lite, extra bulbs, lots of batteries) Fans (battery powered - small - with extra batteries) Fly Strips Fly Swatters <u>Phone Cards</u> Shoe Insole Cushions <u>Socks-white calf high socks</u> Sunglasses (black)
FOOD (including dry goods, snacks)	Seasonal
Sugar packets Bars (Clif or Balance) Beef Jerky Canned Fruit Cereal (in small boxes) Girl Scout Cookies Granola Bars Gum Oatmeal (instant) Pop-Tarts <u>Ravioli</u> <u>Tuna Kits</u>	Small unbreakable holiday decorations Christmas stockings
GAMES	MUSIC
<u>Board Games</u> <u>Checkers (travel size)</u> <u>Chess (travel size)</u> <u>Crossword Puzzles</u> <u>DVD's -any kind</u> <u>PS2 and X-box-new or used</u> <u>Playing Cards</u>	CD Fanny Packs <u>CDs-Any kind</u>

Items bolded and underlined are what we are getting the most requests for, and any monetary donation can be made through our website or checks can be made out to Operation Shoebox.

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More “action” shots from Operation Shoebox in The Villages