



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report - September, 2010

### In This Issue:

Dave Colbert's Rt. 66 Trip	1-2
September Meeting Preview	1
Sumter Motor Sports Relocates	3
Those Yellow Shirts!	3
Welcome, New Member	4
Some Thoughts to Ponder	4
Senior Karting Circuit	4
Clyde Hart Mem./FAST 100	5
Suggestions for NASCAR?	5
Special Events Roundup	6
Long-time Car Owner	7
Local Racing Corner	7
Your Pit Crew	8
Another Christmas Shopping Idea	8
So you don't have to look it up!	8

### Gettin' His Kicks on Route 66!



Dave Colbert, Sharing his Route 66 Experience

**August 4, 2010**—Many of us in the club have probably driven parts of famed Route 66, and many of us have probably visited either the Chicago starting point or the Santa Monica ending point. But it's doubtful that many of us have made the nearly 2500 mile trip in a single, continuous excursion. Well, our own Dave Colbert has and, in his own words, "It ain't easy!"

Dave took the podium at our August meeting and gave us a lively account of his participation in the 2010 edition of the annual "Mother Road Ride/Rally," complete with amusing side stories about stops along the way. Actually,

Dave's odyssey was considerably longer than most of his fellow ride participants, since he rode his Harley from The Villages to Chicago to join the group of about 60 diehard enthusiasts, so his full trip was more like 3600 miles!

During his review of the trip, Dave recounted the highlights of the Ride, including The Dell Rhea Chicken Basket Lounge pre-ride dinner, the "Launching Pad" restaurant stop, the Gardner Illinois one-room jail (only as a visitor!), the "Turkey Tracks," the Rt. 66 Rucker, the Beckham County Courthouse ("The Grapes of Wrath"), The Mine-shaft Tavern ("Wild Hogs"), and, of course, "The Corner in Winslow Arizona." Dave also recapped the scenic wonders



Dave's Harley...Ready to go!

(Continued page 2)

### Looking Ahead to Our September 1 Meeting

Another young up-and-coming local stock car racer will join us at our September 1 meeting to discuss his racing program and his plans for the future. Austin Kirkpatrick of Ocala will discuss his accomplishments in the 2009 season, as well as his progress so far in 2010. Kirkpatrick got his start at age 7 at Speedway Park in Fruitland Park, and from there went on to compete at local, statewide, and national karting levels. He moved to the Late Model ranks in 2007, competing at a variety of Florida asphalt tracks in 2007, 2008, and 2009. In 2009, he ran in the ASA Southern division where he posted 5 top 10's in seven starts with an average finish of 8.7, finishing 4th in points.

and earning Rookie-of-the-Year honors on that circuit.

Also joining us on September 1 will be Harold Frederick, also of Ocala, who will bring with him an awesome display of racing memorabilia covering four decades. Frederick will discuss his experiences as a race car driver, as well as relationships with many of the biggest names in the racing community.

Harold, a native Floridian, is well-known for his vast collection of racing pictures, and is planning to bring a wide variety of historical photographs for review and discussion.

## Gettin' His Kicks on Route 66! (continued from page 1)

of the trip through the southwestern states, including the sights at Sandia Crest (elevation 10,678'), the Painted Desert, and the Petrified Forest National Park, as well his experiences in old, restored mining towns along the way. He also described the relief at reaching the end, including the welcomed sight of Santa Monica Pier!

Dave shared the day-to-day difficulties of a road trip of this magnitude,

including the simple logistics of being first in line to check in at the motels along the way (picture 60 motorcyclists all showing up at a one-clerk motel at the same time!), the rush to use the laundry facilities (how much can you pack for an eight-day trip?), and the hasty preparations for the next morning's departure (getting up and ready to go at 4:00 am). "There are a lot of things you don't think about beforehand," Dave commented, "Like being

prepared for heavy rain, driving through areas of poor visibility tightly packed in a line of 60 motorcycles, and so on."

All-in-all, though, Dave described the trip as a life experience and one of his major "bucket list" items. Would he do it again? Well, let's just say he was sort of noncommittal on this point. He did note that he shipped his Harley back to Florida and flew himself home!

Here are some of the highlight photos from Dave's presentation to the club...



**Believe It or Not, This is Route 66!**



**Ask Dave to Explain What's in the Circle.**



**Hint**



**Kind of Makes You Want to Sing!**



**We Made It!**



**The End!**



## Sumter Motorsports Park Moves to Ocala

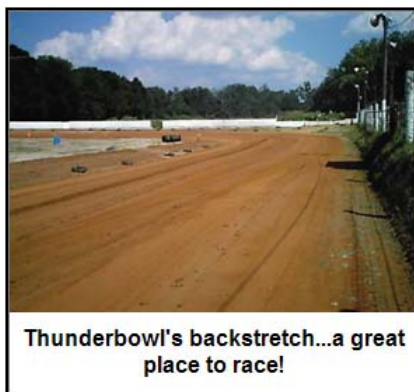
Bill and Lori Cleary, owners/operators of Sumter Motorsports Park in central Sumter County have announced plans to shift their racing program to Thunder Bowl Speedway in Ocala. The relocation is well underway, according to Bill Cleary, a longtime promoter and operator of racing programs around the state.

"We plan to begin racing at Thunder Bowl in late August or early September," reports Cleary. "We will have various levels of racing scheduled each month, with the second and fourth Saturdays of the month dedicated to 1/4 scale racing with the Sling Shots, Gadget Sprints & Micro Sprints. There is also interest from Mini Sprints, Legends Cars, TQ Midgets & Antique Midgets to race at Thunder Bowl as well, and they'll be worked into the program in the near future. Flat track bikes, Speedway Bikes and Pro Quads will be scheduled for the first Saturday and possibly the third."

The Clearys hope to capitalize on Thunder Bowl's proximity to Ocala Speedway, where Friday night racing takes place every week of the

racing season. "Since racers and race fans will be in the area for Ocala's Friday night program, we're hoping they'll stay over and take advantage of our facility right down the street."

Thunder Bowl Speedway is a true red clay facility measuring just under one quarter of a mile, reports Cleary. "With a little bit of work," Cleary said, "We'll be able to stretch it to a full quarter mile, making it a much more acceptable track for the larger cars."



Thunderbowl's backstretch...a great place to race!

Cleary expects to be hosting the full range of smaller race machines, including Gadget Sprint Cars, micro- and mini-sprints, ATVs, and dirt

bikes, as well as the Florida Slingshots—a rapidly growing touring series consisting of half-scale dirt modifieds—previously seen at Sumter Motorsports Park.

In the future, when the track is stretched to a full quarter mile, and after track safety issues have been resolved, Cleary anticipates that Open Wheel Modifieds may be brought to the facility to compete. "This would clearly open us up to an even greater segment of the racing fan population." Cleary also notes that plans are underway to construct additional spectator grandstands at the site, along with refreshment and concession facilities to serve the racing community.

Thunder Bowl Speedway is located at 7197 NW Gainesville Road, just northwest of downtown Ocala. Ocala Speedway is located at 9050 NW Gainesville Road, roughly 1.5 miles to the north.



## Those Yellow Shirts!

We've said it time and time again, and we discussed it in last month's newsletter...those yellow shirts really do make an impression when massed together in the grandstands at a race track. Take, for example, the photo at left. There may only be five of them in the photo, but they do kind of jump out at you! Now, just picture over a hundred of them populating an entire grandstand section, like we've done on occasion at events like the Governor's Cup at New Smyrna Speedway. It's no wonder we are often referred to as "the folks in the yellow shirts" (which is better, of course, than being called "The Village People.")

The photo at left is an excerpt from a video advertisement created by Reno Power, the makers of the "Eternal Hybrid Water Heater" and the primary sponsors of Justin Larson's No. 88 Late Model entry. While I was previewing it before posting it on the Florida All Star Tour website, I was struck by the way the



color just grabbed your attention as the car flashed by. This video, incidentally, featured Larson in the No. 88 taking his qualifying lap for the rained-out Clyde Hart Memorial race on July 1. As you know by now, this race has been re-scheduled for Saturday, September 4. Let's see if we can expand that block of yellow shirts to a full section!!

## Welcome, New Members!

Membership co-chairman Bob Sherman reported that we've reached the 230 level, and this month we welcomed one more to the group, Pat Colligan from Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. Please join me in welcoming Pat to the group...he has a lot of great stories about racing in the Garden State...



Pat Colligan - Hometown: Egg Harbor Twp., NJ



### Some Points to Ponder (Golf-related)

Since we are, after all, a golfing community here in The Villages, it's a good idea to work some golfing tips and quotes into our newsletters from time-to-time. Consider these thoughts next time you're heading out for a round:

- If you are going to throw a club, it is important to throw it ahead of you, down the fairway, so you don't have to waste energy going back to pick it up. (Tommy Bolt)
- If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt. (Dean Martin)
- If profanity had any influence on the flight of the ball, the game of golf would be played far better than it is. (Horace G. Hutchinson)

### Club Considers a "Senior Circuit" for Karting Enthusiasts

Following up on our brief discussion at the club's July meeting, Dean Tilman and Corky Eck collaborated on a proposal that would help the club get involved in a "seniors circuit" in competitive karting. It was a well-developed proposal, but the general consensus was that the roughly \$40,000 fully-loaded price tag would be beyond the reach of the club and its members. Dean readily acknowledged the difficulties in arranging the number of participants needed to defray this level of cost.

Marty Ruser and Terry Turman, Speedway Park officials, joined the discussion at this point to help consider alternatives and approaches,

And Dave Colbert offered a suggestion that might offer considerable potential for the club.

Dave's suggestion is that a smaller group of interested people, even as few as 2 or 3 members, could partner



Speedway Park official Terry Turman explains the workings of modern karts

on the purchase of 1 or 2 used karts. Ruser and Turman suggested that used karts in the price range of \$1,500 could possibly be found, and pledged the support of Speedway Park members and officials in reconditioning used karts for competition. They noted that this would be enough to get the club started on a competitive level, and other area racers would probably join in as the "senior circuit" evolved.

Watch for continuing development of this concept over the next few months! If you think you might have an interest, give Dave a call (408-3712).

## Clyde Hart Memorial/FAST 100 Set for 9/4

The 12th annual Clyde Hart Memorial event at New Smyrna Speedway, rained out on July 1, is scheduled to take place Saturday, September 4, 2010. With a full field of more than 30 Super Late Model, Limited Late Model, and ASA Crate Late Model cars expected, FAST officials are expecting a record number of entries for the event. New Smyrna offers a full schedule of competition for the day, with the Sunoco FAST 100 being the main event.

Racing is scheduled to get underway at 7:00 pm, with qualifying for starting spots in the 100-lap feature scheduled for approximately 5:00 pm.

"There was a heightened sense of excitement in the air for the July 1 race," comments FAST co-founder Dick Anderson. "We anticipate that this level of excitement has grown over the weeks since the July postponement, so it should be a wild night of racing!"

The Sunoco FAST series, now nearing the end of its inaugural season, has proven to be a success. With an average car count of 27 entries per event, the goal of bringing more competitive racing to central Florida tracks is being achieved. Further, FAST officials report that, in the first 7 races in 2010, 76 individual teams have competed. "This is evidence that the series is appealing to a diverse population of Late Model racers," notes co-founder Alan Bruns. "We were seeking an approach that encouraged these cars to come out and compete, and it appears we've been able to do that."

Former NASCAR competitor Wayne Anderson leads the series points standings after seven events, with an 88-point lead over Austin Kirkpatrick.

Kirkpatrick leads the hotly contested "Rookie of the Year" competition by 18 points over Randy Anderson.

After the 9/4 New Smyrna event, the series moves to Lake City's Columbia Motorsports Park on September 17-18, and wraps up the 2010 season October 15-16 in Bradenton at Desoto Superspeedway's Seafest annual event.

**(Ed. Note: Our "club car," Dick Anderson's No. 92, is scheduled to run in the 9/4 event, with B. J. McLeod behind the wheel.)**



## Suggestions for NASCAR?

As discussed in last month's newsletter, we've begun to compile suggestions for raising the interest and excitement level at NASCAR events and other major racing venues. Our plan is to periodically forward these suggestions and ideas to NASCAR's Fan Council for consideration. Now's the time to do this, since NASCAR (and most other racing series) are actively engaged in their fine tuning for next season and, if you listen at all to NASCAR Radio, you know that several major changes have already been announced for 2011. So the next few weeks should be a great time to get our thoughts on the table, so to speak.

Since announcing this quest in our August newsletter, we've received a few suggestions. Here they are:

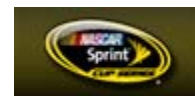
- If you structured the CHASE to be composed only of those drivers who have won a race, that would make the entire season more exciting. No more racing for points; it would

be all out. Drivers who won more than one race would have a point advantage in the CHASE. This would mean that there would be an uncontrollable number of drivers in the CHASE, but so what? Teams would be very motivated to win to get there.

- One change they could make would be to give more coverage to the lesser known drivers during the races. There are many good drivers but if you don't drive for the big teams you don't get the coverage. They always talk about Jr, Jimmy, Tony, Jeff how about Elliot Sadler, Jamie Mac, Biffle. Just because they don't win all the time doesn't mean they shouldn't get coverage.
- Shorten some of the races at the small tracks. Getting boring. Don't need to go 500 times around a track.

- Do a better job of pricing the tickets for races. Too high at some tracks.
- Reduce the Fan Zone price for the fans at tracks.
- To help save the small tracks like Lakeland and New Smyrna, have races at the small tracks with big names. Have it be part of the race weekend when they are in the area. Win/win for fans and small track owners.

You can see we're off to a pretty good start. Let's keep them coming so we can send in a big list that shows we're on top of the sport!





## Special Events Roundup



Well, we ducked a “rain-out bullet” on August 7 with the bus trip over to the “Wiernationals” at Volusia Speedway Park. As you know, just about any trips here in the “Sunshine State” (especially during the rainy season!) present an element of risk, and it’s always a difficult “go/no-go” decision when rain is in the forecast. We appreciate your understanding when we make the “no-go” decision, and we appreciate your forgiveness when we make the “go” decision and it backfires! Our next trip (the November Governor’s Cup) is outside the rainy season, so the decision should be easier (although we’ll keep an eye out for frost warnings!!!

Anyway, here’s a quick look at what’s ahead for the remainder of the year. As always, we appreciate your input, thoughts, and suggestions for trips and/or activities. Just give us a call!

*Wendy*

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, September 4 Clyde Hart Memorial/FAST 100	The rained-out event from July 1 has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 4. This will be a car pool event only. Check the FAST website ( <a href="http://floridaallstarstour.com">floridaallstarstour.com</a> ) for scheduling details.
Sunday, September 12 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 taken at the next three meetings. At this point, our club car (Dick Anderson’s No. 92) is scheduled to run, and there’s a possibility Matt Bowers will enter with his 84x Super Late Model.
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.
Saturday, December 11 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.
Sunday, December 12 4th Annual Holiday Hall of Fame and Awards Night	Save the date; Details are being developed now, and will be announced soon.
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> <li>• 2nd Annual Charity Bingo—January 26, 2011</li> </ul>

## A Long-Term Car Owner

Club member Jim Boyd recently sent in an email that fascinated me, since it gave me a new perspective on loyalty to a specific car. Since moving to The Villages in 2003, I've gone through four cars, so this story kind of stopped me in my tracks! It goes like this:

- Mr. Allen Swift ( Springfield, MA.) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Picadilly P1 Roadster from his father, brand new - as a graduation gift in 1928.
- He drove it up until his death last year... *at the age of 102 !!!*

- He was the oldest living owner of a car from new.
- It was donated to a Springfield museum after his death.
- It has 170,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed.

- The car is in perfect cosmetic condition after 82 years.
- The Springfield Museum confirms this urban legend story as being authentic (see their website at [springfieldmuseums.org](http://springfieldmuseums.org))



## 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>• Reopens September 3</li> <li>• Open Wheel Modifieds September 3 &amp; 17</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 September</li> <li>• Super Late Models and 100-lap Ministock feature 9/25; Open Wheel Modifieds to run 9/11</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>• Clyde Hart Memorial/Sunoco FAST 100 9/4</li> <li>• Fan appreciation night (5\$ admission) - 9/11</li> <li>• Super Late Models (Brighthouse) - 9/25</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 September</li> <li>• Super Late Models—9/17</li> <li>• Pro Trucks 9/10 &amp; 9/17</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 September</li> <li>• DAARA Vintage cars—9/11</li> <li>• Weinernationals rescheduled for 9/18</li> <li>• Top Gun Sprints 9/18</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>• Second half of 2010 season kicks off 9/4</li> </ul>

### Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)  
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)  
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)  
 Tom Horrmann, 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)

### Another Christmas Shopping Idea

Mercedes Benz recently unveiled a wild "car of the future" (the XCL 600) that has some pretty dramatic design features, like "gull wing" doors:



and a vertically-articulating trunk lid:



but the interior's the most intriguing design element. It has no pedals and no steering wheel! You drive it with a joystick, just like your grandkids use every day to beat you at computer games!



I don't know about you, but I put this one on my wish list for this time around!

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

In the past, you'll recall that we periodically update you on the list of NASCAR winners, all-time and in the "modern era." Well, this month we're going to turn that upside down and share with you the all-time list of last-place finishers in NASCAR Cup events, from 1949 to present. There's no real reason for doing this...we just want to do something different. For those of us who have followed NASCAR for a long time, you'll remember a few of these old-time drivers. You'll recall also that even though they were frequently in the back, they were respected for their resolve as they filled out the field in the days when there often weren't 43 cars on the grid. By the way, most of these appear to be legitimate last place finishes, and not part of the "start and park" syndrome that seems to have developed in the economic climate of today's NASCAR. Anyway, here they are:

Rank	Lasts	Driver
1	36	J. D. McDuffie
2	26	Derrick Cope
3	22	Joe Nemechek
4	19	G.C. Spencer
5	17	Buddy Baker
	17	Jimmy Means
	17	Morgan Shepherd
	17	Cale Yarborough
	17	Dave Blaney
10	16	Todd Bodine
	16	Neil Castles
	16	Junior Johnson
	16	Kyle Petty
	16	Darrell Waltrip
15	15	Buddy Arrington
	15	Ward Burton
	15	Richard Petty
	15	Roy Tyner
19	13	Buck Baker
	13	Henley Gray
	13	Dick May
	13	Joe Ruttman
	13	Rusty Wallace

And here's another little tidbit...there are a total of 404 drivers who have led a lap in Cup competition. The top 5 are pretty much as you; expect:

1. Richard Petty (52,193 laps led)
2. Cale Yarborough (31,659)
3. Bobby Allison (27,541)
4. Dale Earnhardt (25,707)
5. David Pearson (25,419)

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