



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

September, 2011

In This Issue:

Buzzie at Ocala August 6	1 & 2
A Night With Amanda	3
Welcome, New Members	4
R/C Racing Update	4
Special Events Roundup	5
Buster's Story In Print	6
Local Racing Corner	6
Interesting Reutimann Article	7 & 8
Your Pit Crew	8
Conkle's Corner	8



He's Now One of Us!

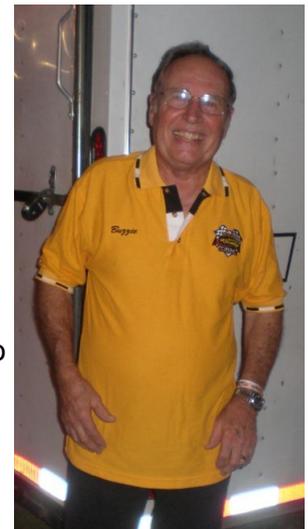


August 6— It's been said that when Buzzie Reutimann races at Ocala, The Villages empties out! While that may be a bit of an overstatement, it is true that whenever the 70 year old Florida racing legend makes the trip to Bubba Raceway Park (BRP), there is usually a block of yellow shirts in the grandstands rooting him on. That was the case on Saturday, August 6, when a contingent of about 15 from the club traveled to BRP in support of the senior-most member of

the Reutimann racing dynasty as he took on the UMP Open Wheel Modified hot shots in a \$1500 to win shootout.

In addition to providing a cheering section for the venerable Zephyrhills, Florida racing superstar, we ratcheted our support for Reutimann up a notch by bestowing on him "honorary" member status and presenting him with an official, personalized club shirt. "Buster" Burt presented the shirt to Reutimann, expressing the club's appreciation to him for his many years of contribution to the sport. The presentation was broadcast over the track's public address system, generating substantial excitement in the packed grandstands.

On the track, things were not quite as rosy for Reutimann in his famous "Double 00." In his heat race, he started sixth and finished sixth, leading to a starting spot deep in the field of 22 cars. On the first lap—in fact, in the first turn of the first lap—a tap from behind caused a flat rear tire and sent him nose first into the retaining wall. While the other 21 cars were being realigned for a restart, Reutimann returned to his pit an changed tires, and was able to rejoin the field in time to take the green on the restart (caution laps are not counted). His return to the track brought out a huge cheer, until lap two when he was forced to spin the car to avoid the stalled car of Kent Corbin. Starting again from the back row, Reutimann steadily plowed his way through the field, enduring ten caution flags and a red flag before finishing in a highly respectable fifth place in the 20-lap event.



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He's Now One of Us! (Continued)

The race was shortened from its planned 25 laps due to time constraints, with 10 cars finishing on the lead lap.

Reutimann was using the August event as a test run for the scheduled September 3 UMP Open Wheel Modified \$3000 to win event. He was also seeking to get a feel for the new track configuration, especially the 17 degree banking recently added

in the turns. Also scheduled to compete in the September 3 event is Reutimann's son, NASCAR driver David Reutimann. "David is driving the car I'm using tonight," Buzzie Reutimann commented, "so I needed to take real good care of it." And take care of it he did, bringing the Double 00 home with no major damage, but with about twenty pounds of clay stuck on it!

We are planning a trip back to BRP to support Buzzie and David on September 3. Shawn has advised us that he and David will be flying into the area in time for the race, so let's try to assemble a large block of yellow shirts to greet them! Stay tuned to our website for details on the trip...depending on the size of our group, we may reserve a bus, and maybe even a large one!

Here are a few photos of the August 6 event, including before-and-after shots of Buzzie's "Double 00"...



Clockwise, from top left: (1 & 2) Buzzie Reutimann's "Double 00" Open Wheel Modified as it looks before a race (left) and after competition on BRP's clay surface (right); (3) Buzzie greeting our contingent; (4) The "Double 00" warming up; (5) The "Yellow Shirts"

A Night With Amanda!



August 19—The yellow shirts were out in full force at Orlando Speedworld, with a contingent of 25 club members braving the threatening weather to cheer for our 2011 Scholarship winner Amanda Ferguson. The main event for the night was the 50-lap Brighthouse Challenge event for Super Late Models, pitting 18-year old Amanda against a field of Central Florida drivers that included perennial favorites Wayne Anderson and David Rogers.

Amanda proved up to the challenge, qualifying a respectable 10th, while Rogers and Anderson qualified 1st and 2nd. Through the first 50 laps, Amanda maintained her place in the

top 10, and was running 8th on lap 40 when the field was shuffled as a result of a major incident at the front of the field. Up until lap 40, it was Rogers and Anderson running 1-2, with Anderson evidently biding his time. Then, on lap 41, Anderson made his bid, overtaking Rogers on the backstretch. It appeared that Anderson had clearly taken the lead, but going into turn 3, he and Rogers collided setting off a multi-car wreck. Amanda's quick reaction enabled her to navigate through the wreck, putting her solidly in 3rd place for the restart.

After a lengthy clean-up, the field went green for lap 41, and Amanda held third place until lap 49, when Anthony Sergi edged by to grab the spot. Palm Bay's Rich Clouser won the race, followed by Keith Lilley, Sergi, and Amanda. Her 4th place finish matched her season best finish. Anderson and Rogers recovered to finish the race, placing 6th and 7th, respectively.



Amanda was fresh off her trip to Dells Raceway in Wisconsin Dells, where she participated in the Alive for Five SLM event, where she finished 11th. Her next trip to Wisconsin will be September 10, with several local stops in between.

Here are some more action shots from the event...



Welcome, New Members



At our June meeting we welcomed these four new members to our group: (Left to right) Al Ballard—Chattanooga, TN; Tom St. Mary—Cicero, NY; Ted Tierney—Massapequa, NY; Joyce Tierney—Massapequa, NY. Be sure to look them up at a future meeting and engage them in a chat about racing!

R/C Racing Program Continues to Build Momentum

August 20—Saturday morning practice sessions are continuing to promote driving prowess among our growing ranks of Radio/Controlled drivers. The most recent session featured a split group of racers, one group actually racing, the other continuing to practice the basic handling of the tricky machines.

There were about a half a dozen drivers in the “actual racing” group, with a similar number participating in the practice group. R/C Race Director Bob Giles reports continuing progress within the group, although he acknowledges that “We still need a lot of work to keep the races from becoming destruction derbies!”

The group of registered R/C drivers now numbers 30 members, with over half of them owning cars and raring to go racing.



Some photos from a previous Saturday morning session: (Top) Three frontrunners head into turn three; (Right) A car where it should not be!

Practice sessions are being held the third Saturday of each month at Colony, starting at 9:00 am, and before each regular meeting.



Special Events Roundup



We're continuing to realize the advantages of using the smaller busses, as evidenced by our August 19 trip to Orlando Speedworld. We were able to quickly fill the 25-seat bus, and based on the success of our first two trips like this, we expect that there will be many more like it in our future. Take a look at the list below, and you'll see that there are quite a few things coming up in the next few months. Also, just a reminder, our website usually contains "day of" announcements on trips, so always remember to check it for weather reports, departure time changes, etc.

On behalf of your Special Events staff, I also want to thank all of you who gave us feedback and suggestions at the August 3 meeting. We collected at least 15 separate significant planning items that we're now exploring, so look for some unique trip announcements in the coming months!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, September 3 Speedway Park	Racing resumes for the fall at Fruitland Park's Speedway Park. Club Hall of Famer Nic Fernandez is firmly on top of the Jr. Purple Points Race...make it a point to get over to cheer him on!
Saturday, September 3 Bubba Raceway Park, Ocala	Buzzie and David Reutimann will be racing at Bubba Raceway Park. Watch the website and your email for details on this.
Saturday, September 10 & Friday, October 9 Camp Boggy Creek	Volunteers are needed for two events at Camp Boggy Creek. The September 10 event is the Camp Boggy Creek Challenge Ride, and the October 9 event is the Bruce Rossmeyer Ride for Children. Call Pennie Whitt at 350-6211 to sign up or to get additional information.
Friday, October 14 Colony Cottage Rec Center	We're planning another fantastic night of bingo in support of the club and its many community support efforts. "Big Dave" Bockman is once again at the helm...watch the newsletters, websites, and email for details!
November 10-13 March 1-4 Orlando Speedworld	The Daytona Antique Auto Racing Association (DAARA) will conduct their 2011 & 2012 U.S. Vintage Oval Track Nationals at Orlando Speedworld, Bithlo. Contact DAARA at 321-439-3813 for details.
Saturday, November 19 New Smyrna Speedway	46th Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200. Save the date...we'll be running a bus to catch the action. Our 2011 Scholarship Winner Amanda Ferguson plans to enter, and it is expected that our club car will be in the field as well.
December 10-11, 2011 Zephyrhills	Annual David Reutimann Foundation Golf Tournament, Charity Auction, and Bar-B-Que. Details to follow.
Sunday, December 11 Colony Cottage	Save the date...Fifth Annual Club Holiday Hall of Fame and Awards Night at Colony Cottage Rec Center
February, 2012 Daytona International Speedway	Lake Limo will be running busses to the Bud Shootout (Feb.18), the Gatorade Duel (Feb. 23), the Camping World Truck Series event (Feb . 24), and the Daytona 500 (Feb. 26). Call Lake Limo at 352-742-2808 for details.

Buster In Print!

Arthur "Buster" Burt

A Genuine Racer, A Genuine Racing Career



August, 2011—Many of you know our colleague and long-time member Buster Burt, and many of you were probably with us in the fall of 2007 when he gave us a memory-packed tour of his racing exploits. But how many of you can say that

you really know him? Well, here's your chance to get a glimpse into the life of one of racing's true veterans...a "foundation-builder" as he was called in his 2007 induction into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Buster has for some time been toying with the idea of documenting his life and his racing exploits, and earlier this year finally decided to begin what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable project. He enlisted Gerry Hafer to assist with the project, and he and Buster, along with wife Zoe Ann, spent many long hours poring over scrapbooks and internet downloads to piece the story together.

And, what a story it is! It begins with Buster's youth in Maine, progresses through his early days of racing and into his military years.

His military years, in fact, provided many of the stories of his racing experiences in Central Florida, as well as his foray into NASCAR events in the 1950s.

The story weaves it's way back and forth from Florida to Maine, covering his years as a member of the Roush Racing organization, his career in the Legends series, and his finding his way to The Villages.

As a further example of the type of person Buster really is, he's offering copies of the book for sale at a price of (\$15). The price is designed to cover printing costs, with the excess being donated to **Camp Boggy Creek**. Buster will be on-hand at the next few meetings with a supply of books that he plans to autograph...don't miss this chance grab this limited-time opportunity!

Local Racing Corner

Here are the web addresses for these local (and relatively local) tracks. Within each website, you can browse to a "Schedule" page to see what shows they have planned for the month.



<http://originalspeedwaypark.com>



<http://www.ocalaspeedway.com>



<http://www.ocalamicrospeedway.com>



<http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com>



<http://newsmyrnaspeedway.org>



<http://orlandospeedworld.org>



<http://thevolusiaspeedway.com>



<http://auburndaleracing.com>



<http://www.eastbayracewaypark.com>

An Interesting Reutimann Article!

The article below was carried in a blog published by lehighvalleylive.com on August 7, 2011, the day of the Good Sam RV Insurance 500 at Pocono. Based on our ever-developing relationship with the Reutimann family, your editorial staff thought it might be of interest to you. Permission to reprint the article has been provided by the Lehigh Valley Media Group on behalf of the author, Chuck Givler.

A native of Zephyrhills, Fla., and the son of dirt track stock car legend Emil "Buzzie" Reutimann Jr., David Reutimann is looking to break out of a slump and drive the No.00 Michael Waltrip Racing Aaron's Dream Machine Toyota to victory. He qualified 33rd on Saturday. In his fifth full season on the Sprint Cup circuit, Reutimann is hardly a slouch at the wheel. Shirley and Ron Sigler Sr. of Asbury recall the days when David tooled a pretty mean Big Wheel, too.

"He was three years old and we were at the races at the old Nazareth Raceway, where they had the Joie Chitwood Hell Drivers thrill show," said Shirley, who along with her husband, operates a five-generation family farm in Asbury. "David saw a man drive a car around the track on two wheels and wanted to do it, too," Shirley Sigler said. "By the next week David was driving all around the farm on his Big Wheel on two wheels."

The reason a tyke from Florida was at a farm in rural Warren County was all about racing. David's father, Buzzie, was one of the group of Florida stock car drivers dubbed Sunbirds. They migrated north in April to race in the tri-state area. With tracks such as the Nazareth half-mile, Flemington, Orange County, Middletown, N.Y., Harmony Township, Reading and others, there was plenty of dirt modified stock car action from spring through fall. For David Reutimann, it started in 1970. That was when Buzzie rented a second-story apartment above a two-car garage on the Sigler farm for his family and his No. 00 modifieds. The arrangement worked. The Reutimanns, including David, who was barely more than a month old when he came north for the first time, found a spring-to-fall home in New Jersey for nearly 10 years.

So it's not much of a stretch to say Asbury and Franklin Township Elementary school where David attended several months a year have a favorite son at Pocono today. At the farm, Buzzie Reutimann built and worked on stock cars and won lots of races. Meanwhile, David won the love and affection of the Siglers and developed a fondness for the farm and the Siglers.

"It seems like I always knew Aunt Shirley and Ron," David Reutimann said. "I was very close to them. The farm was as much my home as we had in Florida." "He was like our grandchild," Shirley said. "On the farm, everybody works. From that first year we had David with us almost all the time." Shirley said that first year the now 41-year-old racing veteran would be in his carriage at places such as the cow herd's milking room.

What a wonderful and exciting place the farm was for a little boy. There were tractors, trucks, other farm equipment, wild life, dogs, not to mention an extended family to look out for him. And Reutimann essentially lived under a roof with two stock cars. David loved the cows. His favorite was Pearl. "One year when they got here, he right away went looking for Pearl," Shirley said. "He couldn't find her with the herd. Ron told him she went to McDonald's. He cried and cried and kept looking." "I was kidding," Ron Sr. said. "He found her up in the pasture where we had the cows that were dry and had to be freshened up."

David developed a bond with her husband. "Where Ron was, David was," Shirley said. "He rode on tractors with him. In the pickup, he rode in the well of the truck." Ron Sigler and Ron Jr. both were on the pit crew for Buzzie's No. 00 modified and the rest of the Siglers were involved: Shirley, Ron Jr.'s wife Linda and daughter Shirleen Oldham. "We did the farm work all day," said Shirley Sigler, who with her husband fielded a stock car in the 1960s. "Then after dinner we all went down to the garage to work on the car."

Continued on next page

Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 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)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consulting (751-4643)
 Bob Giles-R/C Race Director (750-5117)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)

Reutimann Article (cont'd)

A highlight for everyone came when Buzzie needed to give his car a little workout. He'd fire it up, roar up the driveway and down the road and back. "The neighbors never complained," Sigler Sr. said. A recent visit to the Sigler Farm was a trip down Memory Lane. The whole family, which is celebrating the fifth generation operating the farm, gathered around the kitchen table armed with pictures -- dozens of David -- and memorabilia. There were yellowing newspaper race reports, a like-new Buzzie Reutimann Fan Club jacket and other Reutimann items. And all chipped in with stories -- most about their favorite NASCAR driver: David Reutimann.

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Red jackets must have been the "Team Reutimann" thing back in the day. The Sigler's hold one version (photo at left, used with permission), while our own Joyce Varrone displays her version...the one that Buzzie auto-graphed in his first (June, 2008) visit with us.



Conkle's Corner...

As many of you know, club member Jerry Conkle is a constant treasure trove of interesting race knowledge, from open-wheel to fender cars and everything in between. In addition to his tremendous motorsports insights, Jerry brackets many of his comments with a hefty dose of humor, to the point that you never what he's going to say next!



So, the "Thursday Morning Breakfast Crew" has successfully pressured Jerry into writing a column for the newsletter titled, appropriately enough, "Conkle's Corner." In this space, you will see examples of Jerry's wit and wisdom, although we're not sure if it will be a regular monthly item or just an "on occasion" entry. In other words, is he going to run for the title, or is he a "start and park?" Time will tell, but all of you can help by encouraging him to keep up the good work!

Anyway, here's the first installment for "Conkle's Corner":

- RACING IS THE ONLY SPORT MEN AND WOMEN COMPETE ON EQUAL TERMS.
- IF YOU CAN REMEMBER WHEN WOMEN DIDN'T DRIVE RACE CARS YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK BEER.
- IF YOU CAN REMEMBER WHEN WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED IN THE PITS, YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH FOR SOCIAL SECURITY.
- THE FIRST WOMAN TO RACE AT THE INDIANAPOLIS FIVE-HUNDRED IN 1977 WAS ALSO THE FIRST WOMAN TO RACE IN THE DAYTONA FIVE-HUNDRED, THAT WAS JANET GUTHRIE.
- THE YOUNGEST DRIVER TO RACE IN THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 WAS A.J. FOYT IV, AT 18 YEARS OF AGE, THE OLDEST DRIVER TO RACE IN THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 WAS A.J. FOYT JR. AT THE AGE OF 58.
- OUR CLUB HAS AN OLD RACE DRIVER WHO WAS VERY FAST IN THE PAST, BUT NOW HE'S SO SLOW TO GO, IT TAKES HIM 2 HOURS TO WATCH 60 MINUTES.

