



PIT NEWS *September, 2023*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: October 4, 2023

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Greetings Fellow Yellow Shirts:

Since 2006 many Villages clubs have come and gone, but the motor racing fans continue to go to all kinds of races – some watch them at home in the comfort of their easy chair and some are still climbing in and racing. The dream of club founder Glen Carter rolls on.

On Wednesday, October 4 at the Colony Cottage Rec Center at 7PM, we will celebrate our 17th anniversary with pizza and cake (BYOB). Also, in addition to the regular 50/50 drawings, there will be a special drawing of \$100 that will be enjoyed by one lucky ticketholder. Everyone who buys a 50/50 ticket will be eligible for the special drawing.

Our speaker for the evening will be Will Cagle, a racing legend who was racing long before 2006. Come hear stories from one who knows how racing used to be!

On Saturday, September 30 at Citrus County Speedway in Inverness, 30 minutes from The Villages, the Super Late Models will go 125 laps for \$13,000 to win. Come join us at the track and wear your yellow shirt if you can.

See you soon, either at the meeting or at one of our local tracks.

Sincerely,
Gerry G
Crew Chief/President

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 4, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center 7 p.m.
Nov. 1, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center 7 p.m.
Nov. 5, Sunday	Watch Party Final NASCAR Race, Colony Cottage Rec Center 2:30 p.m.
TBD Nov 7 or 8	Michael Hinde Racing, Shop Tour
Nov. 11, Saturday	Citrus County Speedway, Sportsman Series (see details below)
Nov. 29, Wednesday	The Villages Christmas Parade (see details below)
Dec. 6, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Moyer Rec Center 7 p.m., 3000 Moyer Loop (near Walmart Neighborhood Market)
Feb. 20, Tuesday	The Hall of Fame Induction Celebration, Rohan Rec Center

Prediction Row 2023



With the race at the Texas Motor Speedway, the Playoffs have entered the second round of elimination. This race was full of crashes and failures. After a restart with six laps to go, Byron took the lead and won. Most of the drivers picked by our predictors did not finish well. At this point it is anybody's guess which drivers will survive the next two races, Talladega and the Charlotte road course, before the field of eight is determined.

Prediction Row standings after the Texas race are:

Craig Simundza – 1 win, 172 points

Brian Dillon – 0 wins, 156 points

Tim Burk – 0 wins, 133 points

Chris Dirato – 0 wins, 117 points

Rick Almeida – 0 wins, 95 points

Donna Dillon – 0 wins, 68 points

As you can see, we have had only one “winner picker.” For our competition, the predictor with the most Playoff wins is awarded the Prediction Row Trophy and bragging rights for the next race season. You can follow Prediction Row in The Villages Daily Sun on race days. For the most up to date information, however, visit our website.

Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator

Next Meeting - Oct. 4, Racing Legend Will Cagle



By Richard Golardi, Guest Columnist

Racing legend Will Cagle will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club and will be interviewed by racing journalist and author Richard Golardi on Wednesday, October 4 at 7 p.m. at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

Cagle is a master storyteller and can compete with the best of them at weaving a tale about racing. He may tell a tale about racing a late model stock car at Tampa's Golden Gate Speedway in 1962, when track owner Frank Dery spent the summer setting up phony "feuds" for Will with other legends such as Buzzie Reutimann and Cush Revette. Hyped in the Tampa newspapers, these feuds would reach their climax in a two-car match race the following Friday night. Or Will's story may be about having a Hollywood movie star show up at a dirt track, where Will was waiting with his modified for them to get in some laps. There's no passenger seat in a dirt modified, so Paul Newman was fortunate not to have his agent or the director of his current film then shooting in Central New York (Slap Shot) see him there. He was sitting in a car piloted by Will, hanging on to the roll bar, with no seat belt. There was a possibility that Newman may not still be in the car after Will threw it sideways into the turn, wide open.

Will Cagle won an astounding 1,000+ feature races in a race driving career that began in the early '50s and which for all purposes was over by the summer of '85 when the driveshaft in his dirt modified broke and tore into his leg, turning it into a twisted and broken mess. Putting a halt to driving full-time, he was back at the track and back in New York the next year. Only now he was the general manager at the same track just north of the New York/New Jersey border at which he had so much success as a driver, Middletown's Orange County Fair Speedway. This turn of fate produced a scenario in which Will was not racing past a point when he was no longer competitive. Not a career cut short, but rather a career for the record books. It was not just the sheer volume of wins, most of them in the Penn-Jersey area and later in the upper New York circuit, but also a different measurement, one of dominating performance.

With the arrival of rules for the 1966 season that turned the big-block modified into the top-level class of Northeast dirt modified racing (it remains so to this day), Will's record of wins for the 1966-1986 period in this class of modifieds made him the number one most dominating big-block modified driver of all time. Here are the facts: He averaged 22.5 big-block modified wins per season, more than any other driver. Will's wife, Barbara, has documented 472 career

big-block modified wins. There were many more in super-modifieds, small-block modifieds, and others for the pre-'66 period. Some have claimed that his lifetime feature win total, maybe close to 1,100, is the best ever for any driver.

Been there, drove that (and Will Cagle has driven lots of race car types): On September 12, 1970, Will had his best Indy car race finish, ninth place in the Hoosier Hundred, at the time the second-biggest Indy car race. USAC Silver Crown racing came later in the decade. He raced on the high banks of Daytona International Speedway a few times in the '60s in the NASCAR Modified-Sportsman stock car division. When that terrifying 37-car crash happened at Daytona in 1960, Will was right in the middle of it, followed by a short hospital stay. He stacked up super-modified and modified championships in Florida and a few Northeast states. Add in races driven in a midget, sprint car, late model stock car, Trans Am sports car, Legend car, and even a five-ton Mack truck and you've got a career for the ages and an unforgettable story to tell.



On **Saturday, November 11** the Sportsman series will go 100 laps for \$10,000 to win at Citrus County Speedway. Come join us at the track and wear your yellow shirts if possible. Gates open at 5:30, qualifying starts at 6:30. General Admission is \$20, Seniors are \$17. CASH ONLY, NO ATMs on site.

If you are interested in going to Citrus County Speedway and want to know if anyone else is going, you can give the "Boys" a call: Jerry Conkle 352-750-1185 and John Angiolo 414-30-8094 and see if they are going and make plans to meet at the track.

Final NASCAR Race Watch Party

On **Sunday, November 5 at the Colony Cottage Rec Center at 2:30PM**, we will get together to watch the final NASCAR race on the big screen. The club will be contributing as the entrée, pulled pork and pulled chicken. We are asking for members who plan on attending, to bring a dish to enhance the entrée and add to the buffet table. There will be a signup sheet in the back of the room at the October 4 meeting so that we can get an estimate as to the number of people that will be attending and what they are bringing. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and root for your favorite driver, but remember, they need their Villages ID or a guest ID. **THIS IS A BYOB EVENT.**

The Villages Christmas Parade Spanish Springs Town Square Wednesday, Nov. 29



The parade begins at 3 p.m. in Spanish Springs Town Square. Club members decorate their golf carts (and maybe themselves) and drive around the square. We have been a part of this annual tradition for at least a dozen years. It is always festive and a lot of fun – a mini-party, so to speak.

At the October meeting, you will have an opportunity to sign up to participate in this event. You can also email Silky Meegan at silkyssunshine@gmail.com. We will need walkers to carry our banner, as well as golf carts.



*The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club
Hall of Fame Induction Celebration*
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Doors Open: 4:30PM Dinner: 4:45PM

ROHAN RECREATION CENTER

850 KRISTINE WAY
THE VILLAGES, FL 32163

TIGHT GENES - Singing Siblings will be performing



The ticket price has NOT increased – the cost remains at \$40 per person. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a great night. Catering by Pasta Faire.



Let's Welcome our New Members!

BOB CARLBLOM, MINNESOTA
LARRY PALERMINI, WASHINGTON
KENETH RONK, CALIFORNIA
WARREN REYNOLDS, OHIO

VillagesRacingClub.com | Facebook: VillagesRacingClub

2024 Membership Information

It's almost that time of year again. Memberships expire on December 31. You can renew your 2024 membership at the October 4 meeting if you want get it done early. Memberships will also be accepted at the November and December meetings. Renewal cost is \$20 per person. If you won't be at the meetings, please feel free to print off a renewal form from the website and mail it to me. Send it to me at: Lois Taylor, 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163

The Board of Directors has been working hard to get top-notch speakers, planning our club's 17th anniversary and a lot of other things for this year's club meetings. Get there early this month as we have a very interesting racecar driver as our speaker. See you there. Please be sure to stop at the sign-in tables and check in. We have to get an accurate count to continue to keep our meeting room at Colony.

Lois Taylor
Membership Coordinator

Editor's Corner of useful (and sometimes) useless funny tidbits....



TOO MUCH TO COVER TO LOOK UP JOKES THIS MONTH

PLEASE KEEP US POSTED!

Did you move, change your phone number or e-mail address? We need to know. Please let membership coordinator Lois Taylor, know by either checking in with her at a meeting or emailing her at ltaylr@hotmail.com or calling her at (352) 633-5624. It is important that we have updated information in the event we need to reach out to members.

Get Well and Thinking of You

We would like to send well wishes to all of our members and their families who may be recovering from or are in the midst of dealing with a medical illness.

Club Apparel Is Back

Show off your club pride with “crew uniform” apparel items featuring the club logo. To view the complete line of apparel, please go to the club’s website, VillagesRacingClub.com

These high-quality items may be seen at every club meeting. Some items without your embroidered name are “cash and carry.” Orders for embroidered items are taken at each meeting, but we need to order a minimum of six items at a time. Cash or check is required at the time of order.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please see Mike Gross at a club meeting or contact him at mikesg201@gmail.com.



Assistant Media Coordinators

We are searching for helpers to assist media coordinator Mike Anderson with activities that he handles. They are quite varied: email blasts, print member badges, PowerPoint at meetings, club website and Facebook. We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. If you would like to talk about this opportunity, please call or email Mike, 217-714-2245 or mike.mag70@gmail.com.

Recording Secretary

We need a volunteer to record minutes at our board of directors meetings. These are held at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, August - April. The minutes are then emailed to the board members. Please call or email club president Gerry Greim to talk about this opportunity, 215-630-1402 or gerryglbi@cs.com.

Sponsorship Opportunity with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club



Our club's Sponsorship Program is "revved" up. Here is the information that is given to a sponsor to show them what the club will provide in return for their sponsorship.

We are pleased to announce your sponsorship will be showcased on our website Sponsor Page. It will also be promoted at our monthly meetings and at every racing booth throughout the year. We will provide handouts and advertise your business at our racing events.

Sponsorships will go a long way toward making our goals a reality. We are striving to bring informative and diverse racing-related events to The Villages. For more information to become a sponsor, please contact club president, Gerry Greim at 215-630-1402 or gerryglbi@cs.com.



PIT CREW

**Need to get in touch with a member of the Pit Crew?
Please see the information below.**

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Gerry Greim	President	Crew Chief	215-630-1402
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Volunteer needed	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Mechanic	352-633-5624
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Coordinator	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
John Angiolo	Sponsor Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Art Fehrman	Special Tours Coordinator	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Jeff Ing	Car Shows Coordinator	Spotter	631-897-6263
Chris Dirato	Member At Large	Mechanic	917-921-9070
Chris Bleistein	Immediate Past President	Team Owner	954-729-3050
Jerry Conkle	Past President	Team Owner	352-750-1185

Don't forget to visit our website for more club information.

Thank You

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support. We ask that you please support these businesses so that they can continue to be a vital part of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.



Mammoth Machines
Leesburg, FL
407-235-5282



ASA
Midwest Tour



Bob Woodsford, Realtor
The Villages, FL
352-430-5249



Ultrax Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Choice Awards
Bellevue, FL
352-245-4496



Professional
Home
Maintenance
and Repair
Services

Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN
765-459-3877



Platinum Sponsor
Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9111



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Fox Pest Control
Orlando, FL
407-863-3592



Illinois Stock Car Hall of Fame
Roscoe, IL
708-254-5196



Historic Auto Attractions
Roscoe, IL
815-389-7917

Village Kart Aide



Village Kart Aide
The Villages, FL
352-409-5853



Village Airport Van
Lady Lake, FL
352-241-2000

Benefactors

John Angiolo
Pat Fehrman
Alan Stone

Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money and services to help support us.