



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report-October, 2008

October 1, 2008

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Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



I know it's hard to believe, but we're moving toward the end of our second full year as a club. As in any club, the coming start of a new year always means taking a look at our leadership and opening the door to new, fresh thinking in the way we do things. Your Pit Crew has started to do this and, as you'll recall from my remarks

at the last meeting, we'd like to form a Nominating Committee to help identify candidates for office in this incredible club. We know there are people among us who share our passion for racing, and the job of the Nominating Committee would be to help these people come forward. I'll mention it again at the October meeting but in the meantime if anyone feels they would like to become a part of this search for leadership, just give me or any of the board members a message.

Those of you who were at the September meeting also heard me talk about the need for a "Program Coordinator" to assist the Pit Crew in arranging our

monthly programs. We feel this is a critical position that we must fill in order to continue providing quality programs at our meetings. Additional detail about this position is presented later in this newsletter...please take a look at it and give it some consideration.

One final comment...How 'bout the quality of our last meeting? Since we had Angie Clifton as our speaker, we decided to have the ladies on our Pit Crew run the show, and did they ever! I think you'll all agree with me that this was certainly one of the best all-around meetings we've had. Kudos to Silky, Wendy and the rest of the ladies.

Glen

Ocala Speedway Takes Center Stage



Angie Clifton puts her spin on racing

Our September meeting featured another dynamic speaker...this time it was Angie Clifton, co-owner and co-promoter at Ocala Speedway. As many of you will recall from last year, this is our second visit from Ocala Speedway's management team, the first being last year's visit with Mike Peters. I guess you could say we now have the full story! Angie's candid remarks were

quite entertaining, and very informative about the behind-the-scenes aspects of managing a racing venue. In addition to sharing the events that led up to her and Mike assuming ownership of the Speedway, Angie recounted her experience as a race car driver in her own right, and provided an amusing story about her brief career in "Powder

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Ocala Speedway Takes Center Stage

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Puff Derby” competition. Her humorous story about learning the science behind face-screen tear-offs gave us a good perspective on what life in a dirt car is all about!

Angie’s remarks also provided some good insights into the many details that need to be attended to in order to provide a quality, fan-friendly race program. Club members who have made the pilgrimage up to Ocala Speedway have seen firsthand the excellent venue that results from the efforts of Angie, Mike, and the rest of the staff up there. Ocala is one of our closest tracks, so it is of special interest to the club.



Above—Club members listen intently as Angie Clifton shares her thoughts on racing



At left—Wendy, Silky, Glen, and Ted share a moment with Angie



Help Wanted - Program Coordinator

We’d like to appoint a Program Coordinator for the club. This would be an individual who, working with other people in the club, would develop a plan for the non-business segment of our monthly meetings. This plan would extend as far out as three to six months, and would address the scheduling of speakers for meetings, arranging special interest presentations for meetings, and generally making sure that each monthly meeting contains something that meets the wide-ranging racing interests of our membership.

This position would also seek to keep our club focus diversified so that all aspects of racing are covered, from stock cars to sports cars, from NASCAR to IRL, from oval tracks to road courses, from dragsters to airplanes, etc. The driving force in this focus would be the theme: “racing is racing.”

Qualifications for this position are simple: have a passion for racing, some organizational capabilities, and good communication capabilities. The position will need to follow-up on suggestions from members, maintain relationships with other clubs in The Villages having related interests, and regularly search for potential speakers and activities for club meetings. Naturally, this position would work closely with the club’s other officers, and would help us maintain a good program flow.

It’s been good, but it can be better.

We’d also like to form a nominating committee to seek candidates for Pit Crew positions for the coming year. Crew Chief Carter will discuss this matter again at the October 1 meeting but, in the meantime, if any of you have an interest in the being on a committee of this type,, contact any member of the Pit Crew.



Special Events Roundup for 2008



The remainder of 2008 will feature more exciting events for club members, including a poker run, another major sponsorship deal, and exciting speakers at our monthly meetings. Also, as noted below, we're moving right along with plans for our 2008 Hall of Fame event. Here are the highlights for the coming months:

- **October 24**—Reservations are now being taken for our second annual Poker Run event. The festivities will include a picnic at Lake Miona Rec Center, with a menu featuring hotdogs and hamburgers. BYOB and enjoy another exciting event. Cost to participate is \$5 per person.
- **October 24-26**—In case you're looking for something

different to do, you might consider taking in this event. See their website (www.daytonabeachdre.amcruise.com) for details.

- **November 22**—43rd annual FL Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway. The first bus is full...we've started a list for a possible second bus.
- **Tuesday, December 2**—Holiday Hall of Fame Induction and Awards

Ceremony at Colony Cottage Rec Center. This evening event will feature a dinner and lively conversation with our new inductees.

- **Saturday, December 13**—The Villages Christmas Parade at the Polo Grounds. Decorate your cart and participate in this fun event!

See **Wendy Touchette** or any Pit Crew member for details on any of these events.

Local Racing Corner

Here are the operating schedules and the contact info for our neighboring tracks:

Ocala Speedway—Friday nights, gates open at 6:00 pm.

9050 NW Gainesville Rd
Ocala, FL 34482
(352) 622-9400
(www.ocalaspeedway.com)



Citrus County Speedway— Saturday nights; Gates open at 4:00 pm, first event runs at 5:30 pm.

U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of
Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds.
(352) 726-9339
(www.citruscountyspeedway.com)



New Smyrna Speedway— Saturday nights; Gates open at 5:00 pm.

Corner of State Route 44 and 415.
P.O. Box 1500
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
(386) 427-4129
(www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)



Orlando Speedworld- Friday nights at 8:00 pm, Saturday nights at 7:30 pm.

19164 East Colonial Drive (Highway 50 just west of 520 Cocoa cut-off)
Orlando, FL 32833
407-568-1367
(www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org)



Speedway Park—Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 466A near The Villages)

Florida's oldest 1/8th mile clay oval Go-Kart track; less than a mile from The Villages! See website for schedule
(www.speedwaypark.net)

SPEEDWAY PARK

Visit our website: www.villagesracingclub.com

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

Glen Carter, President (751-6442)
 Gerry Hafer, Vice Pres./Newsletter (751-3643)
 Ted Cahalane, Treasurer (751-2638)
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Linda Carter, Historian (751-6442)
 Mike Touchette, Member at Large (430-0239)
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)

October Meeting Preview

The world of drag racing will make an appearance at our October 1 meeting, with club member Dave Colbert taking center stage to share his experiences on the NHRA circuit. Dave has been involved in drag racing since the late 1950's and, despite several interruptions along the way, as compiled an impressive resume in this type of racing. His accomplishments include competition in the 1964 U.S. National Championships in Indianapolis, IN in his Chevy 409 in Super Super/Stock, successful piloting of Ted Hartman's "Bad Banana" 1957 Chevrolet to a class win at the U.S. Nationals, setting of the National class record in F/Stock at Connecticut Dragway, F/Stock class winner at several National events and the National Record holder in a Chevy Z-28, setting the National Record in SS/GTA class several times and winning Super Stock Eliminator at the Keystone Nationals and the Dutch Classic at Maple Grove Raceway Park in Reading, PA. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear from a racing veteran! One of Dave's competition cars is shown in photo below.

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

I gotta tell you..Jayski's Silly Season Site is one of the most fascinating places to go to for NASCAR-related trivia. During a recent visit to the site, I found another set of intriguing records that, at first blush, would seem to fall into the "Who cares?" category. But, if you give it some thought, it's kind of interesting and it does give you something to wrack your brain about. For example, the chart below shows the top 20 car numbers in terms of all time wins in Cup-level points races. Take the number 43, for instance. Most people would think that Richard Petty racked up all 198 of those wins, but not so! He only accounted for 192

Car#	Wins
43	198
11	184
3	97
21	90
6	82
24	81
28	76
42	68
88	66
2	63
17	60
12	59
22	56
27	51
9	49
4	44
71	44
92	43
15	40
48	40

of the wins. So, who won the other six? How about Lee Petty (1), Jim Paschal (2), Bobby Hamilton (2), and John Andretti (1). See what I mean...this stuff is thought provoking! Richard Petty, by the way, won his other eight races in the number 41 (6 races) and the number 42 (2 races).

Now, what you can do is see if you can recall who is responsible for the wins attributed to the other car numbers. The number 11, for example. Think Cale Yarbrough, Darrell Waltrip, Bill Elliott, and Ned Jarrett. This stuff will make you nuts if you let it!

And, here's something probably even more useless: There are 27 car numbers that have never won a Cup-level points race. They are: 00, 02, 03, 04, 05, 08, 09, 35, 36, 39, 50, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 74, 76, 79, 82, 84, 93, 94, and 95. I found this bit of information to be especially painful, since I am a long-time Bill Elliott fan. While I could identify with Awesome Bill's contribution to the 49 wins attributed to car number 9 (38), the fact that car number 94 never had a win brought back a lot of disappointments witnessed during his sad tenure as an owner/driver during the 1990's. Oh well, that's racin!

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RAFFLE SALE COMING TO A CLOSE!

We're down to just a few tickets remaining on our 2008 Raffle to win one of three **Richard Petty Experience** prizes. For just a \$10 investment, you could put yourself in position to win a "you-drive-it" experience on the high banks at Daytona, a ride-along at a track of your choice, or a Disneyworld Richard Petty Experience entry. The final tickets will be on sale at our October 1 meeting...don't miss your chance!!!



Second Chance for the Chase Pool!

The 2008 "Race for the Chase" now underway, and there are still quite a few spots available in our second annual "Chase Pool." Although we know who the 12 Chase drivers are at this point, there is still time to sign up for a spot in the pool. We hope to fill the remaining squares at the October 1 meeting, so that the blind draw can take place and the slots can be assigned. We'll be three races into the Chase at that point, so the first order of business will be to retroactively award the three winners up to that point. Just like last year, each space on the grid will cost you \$5, but you'll be in line for a great rate of return, with ten weekly winners and a grand prize going to the holder of the Cup and Runner-up grid space. Don't miss this chance to be a part of this electrifying event...the final grid spaces will be on sale again at our October 1 meeting.



Buzzie Reutimann Takes Another Run at Ocala

A robust contingent of 38 club members accompanied Buzzie Reutimann on his return trip to Ocala Speedway Friday September 26, and were treated to a grueling "Fall Brawl for Open-Wheel Modifieds" event. Although originally scheduled as a 30-lap event, an excessive number of cautions in the 24-car field forced an early end to the night. Buzzie, flying The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club colors on his "Double Nothin'" entry, ground his way to a 5th place finish, once again proving that age has nothing to do with it! Here are some photo highlights...



Left—The Double Nothin' at work

Right—Club members watching the action



Below left—Genuine Racing Legends

Below right—Blonds really do have more fun



Below center—what can I say?

