



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report - October, 2009

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Next Club Trip...
The 44th Annual Florida Governor's Cup
Saturday, November 21

"Hot Time In The Villages"



It was a sight to behold...over 50 "hot rods" descending on the Saddlebrook Sports Complex on Wednesday, September 23 for the first annual "Hot Dogs & Hot Rods" auto show, an exposition jointly sponsored by The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club and The Villages Recreation Department. Crew Chief Carter summed the field of show cars up this way: "We had everything from dirt track stock cars, to NASCAR-type cars, to Corvettes, to Classic Mustang Cobras, along with a great collection of vintage cars and trucks and classic hot rods from the 1930s era. We even had an original "Whizzer" motorized bicycle on display, and you just don't see that kind of stuff everyday!" As an added treat, event co-coordinator Peter Tetrault reported that the club provided refreshments to show participants, serving a grand total of 375 hot dogs and 400 bottles of liquid refreshment (soda and water). As one would expect, this added treat was considered one of the many day's many highlights. (continued on page 2)

The Governor's Cup Trip Is On!

As you are no doubt aware at this point, our negotiation efforts with FASCAR and New Smyrna Speedway have produced a compromise on the schedule for the 44th Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200 on November 21. Based on the commitments made by race officials, we expect that pre-race activities will be moved up to the 6:00 pm range, with the green flag to fly no later than 7:30 pm. This should eliminate the weather-related problems we experienced in previous years, and based on this compromise we have made arrangements to resume our traditional club bus trip to this prestigious event. One change that we've made in the planning is that the trip package will include a track concession food voucher in lieu of a cook-out. Wendy will recap the details at the October 28 meeting. Make sure you get your reservation in early...this trip fills up fast!



The Florida Governor's Cup Trophy

“Hot Time In The Villages” (continued from page 1)

In addition to the magnificent display of race cars and show cars, there were a number of dignitaries from the racing world on hand. Among them were perennial fan-favorite dirt track legend Emil “Buzzie” Reutimann, former Florida racing star Buddy Pearce from nearby Stonecrest, long-time stock car racing pioneer and Villages resident Arthur “Buster” Burt, Ocala Speedway co-owner and promoter Mike Peters, and world-renowned aviatrix and automotive pioneer Betty Skelton Erde, to name a few.

Based on the event’s huge success, it is expected that this will become an annual milestone event for the club. According to event co-coordinator Mike Touchette, the event was also a first in its partnering with The Villages Recreation Department. “The whole day was a huge success,” commented Touchette, “and shows what can be done when groups work together.”

Crew Chief Carter also noted that the event resulted in a large number of new contacts for the club, and produced several new members. “So many of our exhibitors have already told me they’d be back if we do this again, so I’m guessing we will.”

Pictured below & at right are a some of the event’s highlights....



News Items of Interest to the Club

Buzzie Reutimann “Figures Out” Ocala! But wait...

September 18—With a contingent of club members on hand, Buzzie Reutimann put on an impressive and thoroughly dominating display of driving Modified competition up at Ocala Speedway. As many of you will recall from last year’s trip and from Buzzie’s remarks at club meetings, his recent efforts on Ocala’s 3/8 mile tri-oval didn’t produce the result he was looking forward, but he was close to “figuring out” the track. Well, on September 18, he clearly showed that he had solved whatever problem he was having with his setup, as he led flag-to-flag at Ocala’s annual Fall Brawl 30-lap

Open Wheel Modified feature. Buzzie’s pictured at right being interviewed in the Winner’s Circle, only later to find out that he’d been disqualified as a result of a one-inch angle infraction on the roofline of his brand new Aaron’s machine! The DQ placed him last in the 25-car field. “It’s a little curious,” says Buzzie, “since the car passed tech inspection before the race?” In any event, club members on hand were treated to a down-home display of racing mastery by this racing legend and despite the post-race setback, it was clear that Buzzie had achieved at least a moral victory!



Steve Griffin Back in Competition



September 26—Steve Griffin of Inverness is continuing his progressive return to competition, turning in an impressive performance in the 100-lap Curry Roofing Mini-stock feature at Citrus County Speedway. Driving a car owned by Charles Cain, Griffin held the lead for 15 laps and was running second at lap 40 when the car began to tighten on him and he fell back in the pack. During the late stages of the event he began to recover positions and with 10 laps to go he was making a charge for

second place when a broken distributor gear put an end to his night.

As many of you recall, Steve was a featured speaker at our June, 2007 meeting, and has maintained contact with the club since that time. His plans call for a return to regular competition—in his own car—sometime around the midpoint of the 2010 racing season. Based on his most recent performance, it doesn’t appear that this hiatus has subtracted from his competitive skills. We all look forward to his return!

Jessica Murphy Gets NASCAR Invitation

September 25— Dick Anderson protégé driver 19-year old Jessica Murphy of Groveland, FL has received an invitation to audition for NASCAR’s Drive for Diversity program on October 19 & 20. Competition among the 29 hopefuls will take place at Radford, Virginia’s Motor Mile Speedway (formerly New River Valley Speedway), and will result in 10 finalists for the diversity program, all of whom will then participate as Revolution Racing teams in either Camping World Series (4 of the 10) under the direction of

Andy Santere or the Whelen All-American Series under the direction of Blair Addis.

Murphy is a veteran racer, having started in the quartermidget ranks at age 6. In a recent interview in the Orlando Sentinel, she sums it all up by saying, “I just like going fast.” Dick Anderson agrees, commenting that, “Jessica has a good shot at this. She’s not afraid to race.” No doubt, working with Anderson has helped prepare Murphy for the road ahead.



Special Events Roundup



We've got a full fall and winter line-up of trips and events set. Some of the details have yet to be finalized, but here's a list of items you can use to log dates on your calendars. Watch our website for details.

- October 17**—Oval track racing at Sumter Motorsports Park. This will be a sponsorship event for Harold Bedell, and will be a car pool from Laurel Manor. Watch email and the website for more details.
- November 7 (tentative)**-Annual club picnic and open house at Dick Anderson's in Wildwood (details and pricing to TBA)
- November 12-15**—Zephyrhills 25th Annual Fall Auto fest, collector car auction, and more. (see www.zephyrhillsauction.com for details)
- November 21**—44th Annual Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway.
- December 1**—Third Annual Holiday Hall of Fame Night at Colony Cottage.
- December**—Watch for details on the club's participation in the annual Christmas parade! This is always a fun time to showcase the club.
- February**—Budweiser Shootout and Daytona 500 trips—Watch the website for more details as they are finalized
- March 10**—41st NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville. Call to reserve your place

Wendy

Website Changes Underway

If you've visited our website in the past few weeks, you've noticed that we've been making changes designed to make the site more useable. For example, the front page (the page you enter when you key the URL) is now being used to display more in the way of "breaking news," or items of more immediate interest to club members. Also, the documentation and application form for recently-implemented club scholarship program has now been posted, and the "Schedule" page is now being kept current with all events pertinent to the club, even those where the club is not necessarily sponsoring a trip.

Additional changes are under development, as well. For example, within the next few weeks, we'll be adding archives for the club newsletter, hopefully a rolling twelve months of back issues (if space will allow). The page on which the current Board/Pit Crew members are documented is also being reformatted, as is the page on links to relevant websites. Finally, we've been developing for some time a list of *all* race tracks in Florida (stock car tracks, karting tracks, road courses, drag strips, etc.), and several sequences of this information will be posted within the next several weeks. This latter item started out as a simple list of stock car tracks, but has now grown into a dictionary of about a hundred tracks of all types, and will present websites (where they exist), telephone numbers, email addresses (where they exist), and distances from The Villages. There are many lists of Florida race tracks on the web, but none of them define all venues of racing, so we're seeking to make ours the definitive "go to" list for where's-where's in Florida racing venues.

One other cosmetic change that will be made soon is a correction to the logo that appears at the top of each page on the site. We'll be putting the club logo there in place of the current incorrect title logo.

If any of you have any suggestions for content, layout, or appearance changes, always feel free to contact us at your convenience. We want to make our website as useful and member-friendly as we can.

THE VILLAGES RACING FAN CLUB

Our "Hot Dogs and Hot Rods" event was a huge success!!!
 Click [here](#) for a recap and some of the photos...we'll have a slide show of many more photos running at the October 28 meeting.

NOTE ALSO: OUR TRIP TO THE GOVERNOR'S CUP EVENT ON NOVEMBER 21, 2009 IS ON...CALL GLEN OR WENDY FOR DETAILS!!!

Next Meeting – Wednesday
 October 28
 Featured Speakers will be Bill & Lori Cleary and Matt Garbinski from Sumter Motorsports Park.

Click [here](#) for our current newsletter!

ABOUT - NEWS - BOARD - SCHEDULE - LINKS - Hall of Fame - CONTACT -
 BREAKING NEWS - Scholarship Program Implemented

More on Looking Ahead to 2010

Last month, we reported that our officer recruitment efforts for 2010 and beyond include the creation of two “apprentice” positions—one for Special Events, and one for the Newsletter/Website production crew. These apprentice positions will serve as learning opportunities in these two critical areas for the right people, so that we have a higher degree of bench strength in these key areas. For those of you who may be considering stepping to the plate for these “apprentice” spots, here’s what we see as the fundamental tasks in which these two positions would participate:

Special Events:

- Development of detail plans for club events and trips
- Communication with vendors on event and trip logistics (bus companies, race tracks, food concessions, etc.)
- Coordinating reservations and attendance records on trips and events
- Coordinating “day of” logistics for events and trips

Newsletter/Website Production:

- Development of copy and subject matter for monthly newsletter
- Newsletter layout (photos, etc.) using publishing software (e.g., MS Publisher)
- Webpage development and maintenance using MS Word and/or HTML code
- Uploading of revised webpages via FTP software (e.g., Ipswitch)

As we discussed at the August meeting, these are key “backoffice” positions that keep the club running smoothly. Our intent with recruitment to fill these “apprentice” positions is to ensure that we have continuous succession planning to avoid the potential for disruption

Local Racing Corner

As we’ve said many times before, one of the great things about living here in central Florida is the access that we have to so many great racing venues within a reasonable driving distance. As we’ve also said many times before, we need to support these local tracks as much as we can so that they can continue to operate. It’s been said that the most expensive seats any race track has are the ones that are empty. So, let’s fill them up, and let’s wear our yellow shirts and make a statement!

Race Track	Telephone	Website	Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway	352-622-9400	www.ocalaspeedway.com	Friday Nights
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	352-726-9339	www.citruscountyspeedway.com	Saturday Nights (some special event nights)
New Smyrna Speedway	386-427-4129	www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org	Saturday Nights
Orlando Speedworld	407-568-1367	www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org	Friday Nights
Volusia Speedway Park , Barberville	386-985-4402	www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net	Saturday Nights
Auburndale Speedway	863-551-1131	www.auburndalespeedway.com	Saturday Nights
Bronson Motor Speedway	352-486-2763	www.bronsonmotorspeedway.com	Saturday Nights
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	352-308-7664	www.originalspeedwaypark.com	Check website for schedule
Sumter Motorsports Park, Bushnell	863-286-9456	www.sumterracing.com	Oval racing 3rd Saturday nights; special events on 2nd and 4th Saturdays

Visit our website: www.villagesracingclub.com

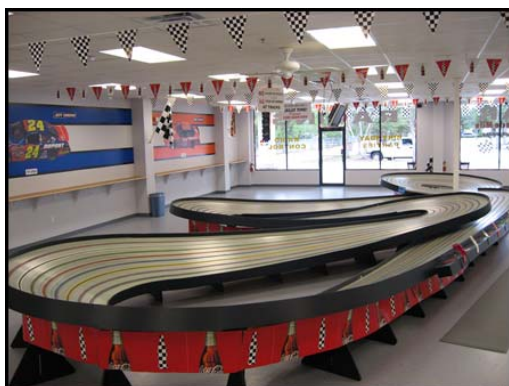
The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

- 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)
- Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)
- Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)
- Tom Horrmann, Official Photographer (430-0195)
- Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)

Preview of October 28 Meeting

Come out this month and get the inside scoop on two racing sites right in our backyards. You'll hear from the operators of Sumter Motorsports Park, Bill and Lori Cleary and Matt Garbinski, as they describe the progress they've made in building a race track from scratch and their plans for the future. Many club members have made the short trip down CR 471 to SMP, and have been favorably impressed by the racing at this start-up facility, so it will be good to learn more about where this operation is headed. It will also be interesting to learn more about the details of creating a racing operation, in case any of us would want to do it the future!

Also on tap for October 28 is a visit from Mike Haire representing Miracle Mile Raceway in Leesburg. Miracle Mile is an indoor radio-controlled slot car racing facility on Rt. 441 near the Lake Square Mall that offers drag strip and road course facilities for hobbyists. For those of you who have the need for speed, but want to do it on a more modest level than, say, a dirt modified or a Slingshot car, this just may be the ticket!



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

Most of the statistics reported in this column deal with NASCAR, and we know that's an area of interest to a lot of our members. From time-to-time, though, we change this focus to include other racing venues, and this month we decided to drop in on the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) and its ARCA RE/MAX series, where professionals, hobbyists, and NASCAR hopefuls alike rub fenders. ARCA racing is great to watch, with speeds not too distant from NASCAR and cars that generally are ex-NASCAR machines. With a history spanning 56 years, ARCA is clearly a popular part of American stock car racing. (Incidentally, ARCA was originally known as the Midwest Association for Race Cars.)

This month, we'll recap the top 25 winningest drivers in ARCA history:

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Driver</u>	<u>Wins</u>
1	Iggy Katona	79
2	Frank Kimmel	74
3	Jack Bowsher	55
4	Tim Steele	41
5	Les Snow	35
6	Nelson Stacy	32
7	Ramo Stott	27
8	Bob Keselowski	24
	Harold Smith	24
10	Marvin Smith	21
11	Andy Hampton	20
	Bobby Watson	20
13	Bob Schacht	19
14	Jim Romine	18
15	Bobby Bowsher	17
	Jack Farris	17
	Bob James	17
18	Bruce Gould	16
	Benny Parsons	16
	Bob Strait	16
21	Ken Schrader	15
22	Dave Weltmeyer	13
23	Dick Freeman	12
	Ron Hutcherson	12
	Bill Venturini	12



(Statistics courtesy of RacingOne.com)

The Flyover...It's Not Just for Show.

Many of you will recall that we've tried on several occasions to add the traditional "flyover" to the start of our meetings, but with only limited success and with the risk of injury to spectators. Although we're still seeking the best way to do an indoor flyover, we've discontinued it for the time being, but wanted to share with you a little background on the flyover

NASCAR shares long history with the military

By JIM PEDLEY, The Kansas City Star (reprinted with permission)

Col. Steve Mathias of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command has done two tours of duties in Iraq. He's done two more in Afghanistan, and he has served in Korea. He has been putting his body between live ammunition and the freedom of Americans for a lot of years — and he's not done yet. Thursday afternoon, after directing a simulated aerial assault mission at Kansas Speedway that served as a rehearsal for festivities to be held before Sunday's Sprint Cup race, Mathias said something interesting. He said that it was an honor to be attending his first NASCAR race. Many would argue that it is the fans, teams, officials and drivers who should feel honored as they watch the prerace show this weekend. It is they, the vast majority will say, who owe a debt of thanks to Col. Mathias and his troops.

As NASCAR managing event director David Hoots said after watching the rehearsal, which culminated with the pace car for the race being disgorged from the belly of a massive MH-47 Chinook helicopter, "What they do allows us to do what we do." The simulated mission of securing a landing zone in the infield at Kansas Speedway will be a first for the track. But the military's connection with NASCAR is as old as the sport. It began at the insistence of NASCAR founder William France Sr.

Jim Hunter, NASCAR's vice president of corporate communications and longtime friend of the France family, said the reason for France's insistence was simple. "Bill France was one of the most patriotic people ever," Hunter said. "He and Bill Jr." Bill France Jr. served in the Navy. Jim France, his brother and a member of the NASCAR board of directors, served in the U.S. Army and fought as an infantryman in Vietnam. "Bill Sr.," Hunter said, "used to bring servicemen to the Fourth of July races (at the France-owned Daytona International Speedway). He would bring every living Congressional Medal of Honor winner." The Frances would visit military bases and would offer free or discounted tickets to the races at their tracks. That is evidenced by the large numbers of military personnel who attend NASCAR races. Hunter said that NASCAR still sends letters and packages to people in the service who are serving overseas.

The relationship between NASCAR and the military can scarcely be missed prior to NASCAR races. Flyovers featuring low flying airplanes, jets and helicopters are almost always part of prerace ceremonies. Many fans have come to regard the flyovers as an essential part of the NASCAR race-day experience. "You can watch during the national anthem and you will see people start to look upward for a flyover coming," Hunter said. "It's like the pace lap, it's come to be expected." The flyover concept got kicked up by Lowe's Motor Speedway president, H.A. "Humpty" Wheeler — often called the P.T. Barnum of racing. Wheeler used the military to stage a reenactment of the invasion of Grenada. The "invasion" came complete with helicopters, ground troops and plenty of noise from blank ammunition. "Yeah, Humpty," Hunter said. Sunday's simulated clearing of a landing zone and appearance of the pace-car toting Chinook won't quite out-Humpty Humpty, but it should get the crowd amped up for the race. It's appears that it is not just NASCAR officials who enjoy the connection with the military. Fans at races seldom boo the troops. "The folks who love our sport," Kansas Speedway president Jeff Boerger said, "are the folks who love our country. That is our base."

Drivers appear to share the fans' love. Mark Martin drives the Dale Earnhardt Inc. Sprint Cup car that is sponsored by the Army. Earlier this year he was asked what that meant to him. "Our team, myself included, we put great value on things like mental, physical and emotional toughness," Martin said. "And the values that our soldiers have and that the Army instills in our soldiers, like dignity and honesty, are values that are very important to me as well. So it has been one of the highlights of my career to be a part of the U.S. Army team."

Col. Mathias also mentioned shared values between NASCAR and the military. "Yes, I think you can draw parallels between NASCAR and the military," he said. "You certainly can't ignore that." Like Mathias, every one of the soldiers who will take part in the prerace mock assault is a veteran of action in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. All have performed the maneuver for real. Some will soon be headed back and will perform it for real again.