



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report - October, 2010

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September Meeting Recap

September 1, 2010—Our September meeting featured two information-packed presentations—one from an up-and-coming local stock car racer, the other from a veteran photographer and racing memorabilia collector. The first segment highlighted the developing career of Ocala's Austin Kirkpatrick, a current competitor in several local racing series, including the Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour (FAST). Austin summarized his ten years of racing experience, from his early days at Speedway Park to his current competition in the Super Late Model ranks in the FAST series. In FAST, he is currently second in points to veteran Wayne Anderson, and is leading the series' Rookie-of-the-Year competition by 40 points over Wildwood's Randy Anderson. Interestingly, Austin expressed a preference for dirt track racing, especially at Ocala Speedway where he frequently competes. His long-range plans include pursuit of a mechanical engineering degree at University of Florida (he currently maintains a 4.0 gpa at Trinity Catholic), followed by relocation to North Carolina to seek out opportunities in professional racing competition. Keep your eye out for him a few short years from now when he emerges on the NASCAR scene!



Austin Kirkpatrick

Our second speaker on September 1 was Harold Frederick, also from Ocala, who brought with him an incredible collection of racing photos and memorabilia covering over 40 years of history. As an avid stock car racing fan and an accomplished photographer, Harold has covered virtually all levels of racing with the exception of Formula 1, and has traveled up and down the east coast capturing motorsports memories.



Harold Frederick

In addition to a narration of the photo displays he brought with him, Harold discussed some inter-

esting racing-related websites he's found, as well as his views on several of the race tracks he's visited. An ex-racer himself (IMSA modifieds), he provided several keen insights into the sport, and concluded his presentation with a showing of "Open Wheel Mayhem"—a compendium of major dirt racing's high flying and ground pounding flips from Sprint Cars and Midget across the country.



A portion of Harold Frederick's Photo Display

September 12 Golf Tournament

Wayne Nolan and Peter Tetrault ("Messrs. Golf") Come Through Again!

Our September 12 Golf Scramble was another one for the ages, with 36 avid golfers teeing it up at Hawkes Bay in the late summer heat (although it wasn't quite as uncomfortable as the June edition). **Wayne Nolan** and **Peter Tetrault** once again displayed an awesome set of organizational skills in planning and conducting the club's second 2010 golfing extravaganza, and post-golf outing at Churchill picnic pavilion.

The competition was fierce, with low net score honors resulting in a tie between the Silky Meegan/Jerry Conkle/Mike Touchette team and the Wendy Touchette/Dave Littleton/Bill Wilkie/Nancy Baker team. Third place went to the team of John Cleeves/Jake & Mary Loux/Peter Tetrault.

Wendy Touchette took the ladies' closest-to-the-pin honors (twice), while Mike Touchette and Jack Cease each took a men's closest-to-the-pin title. (I heard a rumor that the Touchette's are considering joining the PGA/LPGA tours?)

Highest score recognition went to the Dave & Marcia Lasher/Jack Cease/Mime Howard team.

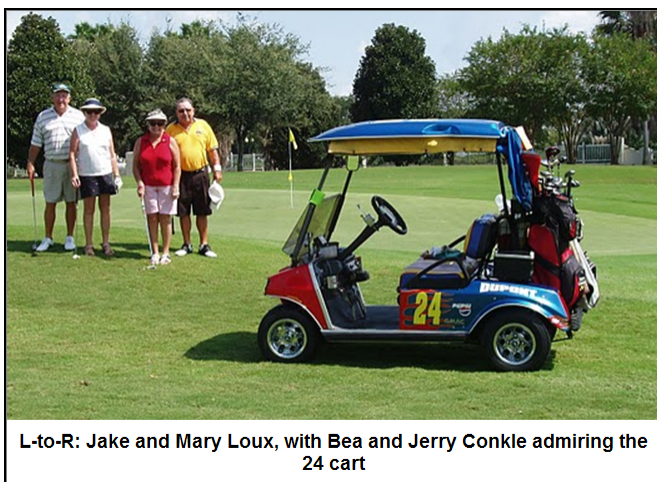
As the pundits say, a good time was had by all! Here are some action shots of our plucky golfers...



John Cleeves and Jim Boyd looking pretty jovial at the start!



L-to-R: Bill and Marlene Wilkie, Peter Tetrault posing for the media



L-to-R: Jake and Mary Loux, with Bea and Jerry Conkle admiring the 24 cart



The Bakers and the Perretts discussing short putt strategies

October 6 Meeting Preview

A New Motorsports Frontier...Autocross!

So far in our history as a motorsports fan club, we've had the opportunity to explore many different types of racing, from asphalt stock cars, to dirt stock cars, to NHRA, to SCCA, to go karts, to Formula One, and even to airplane racing. At our October meeting, we'll explore yet another racing venue:

Autocross. We've made arrangements to have as our guest speaker George Bonafede, president of the Martin Sports Car Club (MSCC) of Orlando, a group that competes regularly at a facility in nearby Tavares. An autocross competitor from MSCC—Mickey Gauldin, pictured here—will also be on hand to share some of his thoughts on this hugely popular motorsports venue.

So, what is this thing called Autocross? Wikipedia defines it as:

“a form of motorsports that emphasizes safe, low-cost competition and active participation. An autocross is a timed competition where drivers navigate one at a time through a temporary course marked by traffic cones, rather than racing on a track with multiple other cars, as in road racing or oval racing. Autocross



tends to place more emphasis on car handling and driver skill than on sheer horsepower, and events typically have many classes which allow almost any vehicle, from economy sedans to purpose-built vehicles, to compete. Speeds are slower in absolute terms when compared to other forms of motorsports, usually not exceeding highway speeds, but the activity level (measured in discrete turns per minute) can be higher than even Formula One due to the large number of elements packed into each course. Autocross courses are typically 40 to 70 seconds in length. In addition to being a national-level motorsport in its own right, autocrossing is a good way to learn skills that transfer to road racing, as drivers learn vehicle control and club ethics.”

MSCC is one of the premier amateur autocross clubs in America, and is in its fiftieth year as an organization. Founded in 1960 by a group of auto enthusiasts from Martin Marietta in Orlando, the club quickly evolved into an organization that promotes competition and lively social interaction with people having a common interest. Their events were originally held at Martin Marietta facilities in Orlando, but about seven years ago the group moved to its current home at Lake County Technical Center in Tavares. They are somewhat of a “touring series” also, visiting such locations as Gainesville Raceway, Central Florida Road Course, and Sebring International Raceway. For more details on MSCC, visit their website:

www.martinsportscarclub.net

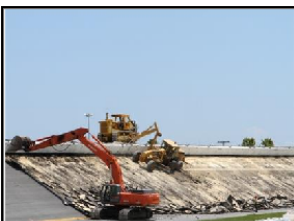
This will be a good opportunity to learn more about a racing venue that—who knows?—just might appeal to some of us!



Daytona International Speedway

The Big Repaving Project of 2010

Remember the big “pot hole” that caused major delays at this year's Daytona 500? Well, that shouldn't happen again. The track is being completely repaved for only the second time in its history. The project started July 5 and is targeted for completion New Years Day, 2011 and involves placement of 50,000 tons of asphalt on the track and 50 truckloads of concrete on pit road, with a workforce of between 30 and 100 construction people. No changes are being made to the track's configuration. Here are some action shots of the project:



Club Shines at Rec Department Function

Many of us have said over the years that this club "is a club like no other!" On Friday, September 17th we had a chance to prove it at The Villages Recreation Department's "Meet and Greet" gathering at Colony Cottage. Billed as an opportunity for Regional Recreation Council groups to showcase themselves, our hastily-formed project committee assembled a display that pretty much knocked the socks off of visitors. Silky Meegan, Tom Horrmann, and Glen Carter were the driving forces behind organizing the display, which featured a variety of photos of major club activities, our Hall of Fame trophy, our scrapbook, our newsletters, a video of 2010 The Villages Cup event, to name a few of the items.

In case you didn't have the chance to see the display for yourself, here are a few photos of the display.



Central Florida Racing Complex

Did you know that there is a major, multi-use racing facility down in Orlando? In April of this year, Orlando's Central Florida Racing Complex (CFRC) celebrated the one-year anniversary of its 1/8th mile dragstrip, a significant addition to the many racing venues already offered by this racing enterprise. The facility offers, in addition to drag racing, Auto Cross (which we'll learn more about from our October 6 meeting speakers), Drifting (a form of motorsports we hope to have on a future meeting agenda), and go-karting (something we're very familiar with) to complement an entertainment schedule that is quite aggressive. CFRC offers a weekly concert series at its 10698 Cosmonaut Boulevard complex, as well as a regular schedule of motorsports venues. Their website provides an extensive recap of their programs (<http://cfracingcomplex.com>). Here are a few action shots==>



Drifting at CFRC



Drag Racing at CFRC



An aerial view of CFRC

Our “Club Car” Takes a Hit at Columbia

September 18—It was one of those times when a last minute decisions comes back to bite you. After electing to have Jeff Scofield drive the 92 in the Sunoco FAST series event at Columbia Motorsports Park, Dick Anderson was anticipating a great run at the half-mile track up near Lake City. Then in a late practice session, it all turned around in a hurry! Carrying a lot of speed down the backstretch, the throttle hung and sent Scofield and the 92 into the third turn concrete wall. The result, pictured below, was terminal damage to what we’ve come to know as our “club car.” Scofield was uninjured, and later jumped into Randy Anderson’s no. 86 to qualify fastest in the 19-car field. He started second in the feature, and finished third after dogging winner Wayne Anderson for most of the first 80 laps of the 100-lap event. Randy, meanwhile took over the 4B of Alan Bruns (recovering from surgery) and finished a respectable 6th in the race.

When interviewed after the race, and after assessing the damaged 92, Dick commented, “It’s as bad as bad can be.” But, in the words of a true racing professional, Dick’s parting comment was “Well, in this business you have to be tough.” We’ll update you in the next edition regarding Dick’s plans for the future.



Suggestions for Florida Stock Car Racing?

Last month, we called for suggestions that our club could forward to NASCAR’s fan council as part of the racing body’s grassroots movement to enhance the sport’s “fan friendliness.” We’re still looking for suggestions, so send them in as they come to mind (tvmrfc@gmail.com).

In the meantime, a similar effort is being launched to address the problems evident in local racing venues, where a cycle of dwindling car counts has produced dwindling spectators, which has produced dwindling revenue for the tracks. In short, local asphalt stock car racing in Florida is in jeopardy, and its questionable how long some of the tracks can survive. We’ve already lost a few, and several more appear to be teetering on the brink.

With that in mind, a coalition of track owners in central Florida is making an attempt to get a handle on the situation, and an open discussion is set to take place October 4 at Aub-

burndale Speedway to hopefully lay out a course of action for 2011 and beyond. Although this meeting is for track owners and promoters only, the FAST series and other sanctioning bodies will be brought into the loop shortly after this first step is taken.

Many of us in the club are ardent supporters of local racing, and view this step as positive. We also see this as yet another opportunity to “put in our two cents,” so to speak, since we are recognized as one of the premier racing fan clubs in the state of Florida, and since our “yellow shirts” have given us a lot of recognition. So, we’ve begun to compile a position paper that will be forwarded to the track owners either immediately before the October 4 meeting or shortly thereafter. In this paper we plan to outline what we see as areas that need to be addressed, and where we can we’ll offer specific suggestions to address these areas.

Here’s, in summary, a list of some of the items we’ll include:

- Media interaction—there needs to be more coverage, and more advertising, in print, radio, and TV media
- General Marketing—promoters need to pay more attention to making racing a family event, with support activities to make attendance more attractive.
- Specific Marketing—promoters need to consider targeted marketing to bring in large groups (like our club).
- Facilities—the tracks need to recognize the importance of a working leaderboard, clean restrooms, etc.

This is just a sampling of the list we have so far...please send us any suggestions you have so we can make this a comprehensive list! (tvmrfc@gmail.com)

Special Events Roundup



It's hard to believe, I know, but we're heading into another Fall season. Of course, that doesn't mean we're slacking off! We have a lot of racing and race-related activities still planned for the remainder of 2010...things like the Governor's Cup trip, the Christmas Parade, and the Hall of Fame Dinner. Also (and here's a special plug) we'd like to see a number of our members make the trip down to Zephyrhills in late November to support the Reutimanns at their annual charity event. We know Buzzie would appreciate a visit from his friends in The Villages!

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, October 9 FAST Event, Desoto Super-speedway, Bradenton	This will be the final event in the Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour's 2010 schedule. This will be a car pool event.
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 two meetings. This will be a bus trip, leaving Laurel Manor at 4:00 pm on the 20th. 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.
Wednesday, January 26 Charity Bingo	Our annual fund-raiser will be held at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, with proceeds to benefit the charities our club supports. Pricing and details to be announced.
Future 2011 Events	Hot Rods & Hot Dogs Auto Show—Date TDB (need committee to organize) Poker Run/Picnic—Date TBD (need committee to organize) Fantasy of Flight Bus Trip—Date TBD Food Drive Collection—(need Volunteer to coordinate)

Update on Club Favorites

Nic Fernandez—Nic and Jorge have returned to competition at Speedway Park with new tires and a rebuilt motor, complements in part to the sponsorship the club provided this spring. Running on the Jr. Purple Class for 8-10 yr. olds, Crew Chief/Dad Jorge reports that Nic has finished in second place in both features so far in the second half of the season, and has finished either first or second in each of his heat races. The remaining competition dates for Nic this year are October 2 & 16, November 6 & 20, with December 4 reserved as a make-up date in the event of rainouts. Let's all make it a point to get over to

Speedway Park and cheer NIC Racing on!

Buzzie Reutimann—Buzzie finished 6th in the Budweiser Modifieds event at Volusia on September 18. Running the former "chrome car" (it's now the blue car), he had a good second place run going with 5 laps to go but got turned around while navigating lap traffic, Buzzie commented that he was highly satisfied with the 00's handling, since it was only the fourth time that car has seen competition. He was able to run with the leaders, despite being somewhat underpowered (he was running a 355 cu. In. block while others were running 400+ engines.)

Buzzie's next outing is planned for Saturday October 2 when he returns to Volusia for the "Fabulous 50s" final points race for the season. There's a possibility, though, that he may elect to run at Ocala the night before, if Modifieds are added to the card for that night. We'll keep you posted.

Steve Griffin—Steve returns to action either October 2 or October 9, depending on the class schedule, at New Smyrna Speedway. After that he plans to finish the season out running at Citrus County Speedway. We'll stay in touch with him and, as soon as plans are definite, we'll get the word out.

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	www.ocalaspeedway.com 352-622-9400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Models Oct. 1 Open Wheel Mods (\$1000 to win) Oct. 15 United Dirt Late Models (\$3000 to win) Oct. 15
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	www.citruscountyspeedway.com 352-726-9339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Saturday night programs in October Super Late Models Oct. 2 Open Wheel Mods Oct. 9 & 16 Winged Sprints Oct. 23 Green Mamba Jet Car Oct. 30
New Smyrna Speedway, Samsula	www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org 386-427-4129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBARA Winged Sprints Oct. 2 Fan Appreciation—\$5 admission Oct. 16 Super Late Models (Brighthouse) - Oct. 23
Orlando Speedworld, Bithlo	www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org 407-568-1367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Friday night racing in October TBARA Winged Sprints Oct. 1 Super Late Models—10/8 Closed 10/29
Volusia Speedway Park, Barberville	www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net 386-985-4402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Saturday night racing in October UDMLC Late Models Fall Nationals Oct. 16 Closed Oct. 23
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	www.originalspeedwaypark.com 352-308-7664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racing first and third Saturdays in October and November

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)

Truths for Seasoned Adults

Growing older generally means growing wiser, and with age comes a pretty constant stream of Ahas! Well, here are a few that I've picked up from emails that have been forwarded to me recently, and they certainly have the ring of truth to them.

- Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
- I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
- Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
- You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment, when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
- I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front.
- Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.



Yellow Shirts in the Stands at Volusia - 9/18/2010

(Photo courtesy of Jake Loux)

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

One of the most significant challenges facing race teams and especially aspiring young drivers is the constant pressure to secure sponsorships to fund their competition. With estimates of \$20 million and up quoted to operate a team for a season, it's no wonder that some drivers wind up frequently "sitting out" a season due to financial shortfall. It kind of makes you wonder whether the standards for "iron man" status in NASCAR competition will be challenged in the future. Anyway, this month's statistic will give you a refresher on who's run the most Cup races, and how many they've won.

All Time Cup Series Starts [wins]:

- 1) Richard Petty, 1184 [200 wins]
- 2) Ricky Rudd, 906 [23]
- 3) Dave Marcis, 883 [5]
- 4) Terry Labonte, 867 [22]
- 5) Kyle Petty, 829 [8]
- 6) Bill Elliott, 815* [44]
- 7) Darrell Waltrip, 809 [84]
- 8) Mark Martin, 779* [40]
- 9) Michael Waltrip, 760 [4]
- 10) Sterling Marlin, 748 [10]
- 11) Ken Schrader, 732 [4]
- 12) Bobby Allison, 718 [84]
- 13) Rusty Wallace, 706 [55]
- 14) Buddy Baker, 699 [19]
- 15) Dale Earnhardt, 676 [76]
- 16) Dale Jarrett, 668 [32]
- 17) JD McDuffie, 653 [0]
- 18) Buck Baker, 636 [46]
- 19) Bobby Labonte, 604* [21]
- 20) Jeff Gordon, 603* [82]
- 21) James Hylton, 601 [2]
- 22) David Pearson, 574 [105]
- 23) Geoff Bodine, 570 [19]
- 24) Jeff Burton, 560* [20]
- 24) Buddy Arrington, 560 [0]
- 24) Cale Yarborough, 560 [83]
- 27) Joe Nemechek, 541* [4]
- 28) Elmo Langley, 536 [2]
- 29) Benny Parsons, 526 [21]
- 30) Morgan Shepherd, 513 [4]
- 31) Neil Castles, 498 [0]
- 32) Wendell Scott, 495 [1]
- 33) Brett Bodine, 480 [1]
- 34) Jimmy Spencer, 478 [2]
- 35) Harry Gant, 474 [18]

* Denotes active drivers

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