



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

October, 2011

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Bronson Speedway Back on the Schedule!

September 7— They picked a rough time of the year to launch, but Ann and Chris Young took the plunge in late July with the re-opening of Bronson Speedway. This is great news for local racing fans, since it gives us yet another venue within a reasonable driving distance (just 66 miles from Laurel Manor Rec Center). Speedway Announcer John Meeks (pictured at right) joined us at the September 7 meeting to give us an overview of what's happening up at Bronson Speedway, and it's fair to say that he's generated considerable interest in the Speedway. Add to that the fact that Wildwood's Randy Anderson has joined the ranks of regular competitors in the Modified Division, and you have the makings of another racing destination for the club.



Many of you are aware that Bronson Speedway has been shut down for quite a while (our last trip there was in 2007, after all), but the track is entering a renaissance after being acquire by new owners Ann and Chris Young. Preliminary reports that the Youngs are on a mission to bring back affordable racing, hopefully reversing a trend that has led to dwindling car counts, dwindling spectators, and a progressive loss of interest in good ol' Saturday night local racing. With reasonable admission and concession pricing and competitor-friendly rules packages, their mission is to create an environment attractive to fans and race teams alike.

Bronson Speedway plans to run regular Saturday night shows well into October, so we're hoping to get a club trip together to head up there and catch the action. The Modified Division will be in action on October 8, and we understand that Randy Anderson will be in the field, so watch for email and website alerts as we put together a trip plan. Randy is doing well at Bronson, and has already established himself as a winner on Bronson's 1/3 mile high-banked track.



(L) Bronson feature winner Randy Anderson, with dad, mom, and brother Ricky)

(2) Bronson Speedway's front stretch



October Meeting Preview

Our October 5 meeting promises to be another star-studded night, with guest appearances from Cara Anderson of Camp Boggy Creek and FASCAR's Kim Brown and Robert Hart. Cara will be bringing us up to speed on what's happening at the Camp, while Kim and Robert will be giving us an overview of FASCAR and the happenings at the race tracks they operate (New Smyrna Speedway, Orlando



Left to right—Cara Anderson, Robert Hart, and Kim Brown

Speedworld, and Columbia Speedway). During Cara's portion of the agenda, we're expecting our own Buster Burt to be reporting on the progress he's made with his Camp Boggy Creek fundraiser—the sale of his racing career biography (see article below).

Kim and Robert will also be discussing the upcoming 46th annual Florida Governor's Cup 200 event on Saturday, November 19 at New Smyrna Speedway. Our Special Events Committee is now taking reservations for this event...see Wendy for details. We've reserved a bus for the night...it will be the sixth consecutive Florida Governor's Cup event that a group from our club has attended, and it always promises to be one of the highlights of our year. At this writing, we're not sure who we will be sponsoring, but rest assured someone will be flying our club colors!

Buster's Book Sales Continue at a Brisk Pace!

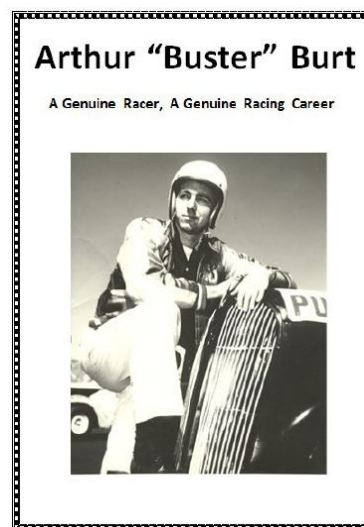


Club Board Member and Hall of Famer Arthur "Buster" Burt has seen a gratifying response to the recent publication of his biography, "A Genuine Racer, A Genuine Racing Career" in which the life and times of a northerner competing in a southern sport are chronicled. What started out as a project to simply recap his life accomplishments for his family has blossomed into a full-scale account of Buster's lifetime of achievement as

one of Maine's racing pioneers, followed by a stellar career in the United States Air Force during which he made a name for himself in the rough-and-tumble world of stock car racing in the 1950s and 1960s, then followed by a highly successful career as a Maine businessman. His return to the racing world in the 1980s and 1990s is also documented, along with his eventual return to Florida and his continual search for projects to occupy his time. The 82 year old racing veteran continues to be involved in the motorsports world,

as evidenced by his involvement in our Radio-Controlled racing program and his frequent visits to local race tracks and race shops.

Buster has turned his book project into a fundraiser for Camp Boggy Creek, with all profits from his sales going to the Camp. "I felt that this would be a good way to further support the Camp, especially since the club has adopted the camp as it's preferred charity," Buster reports.



In Memory of Betty...

On August 31, 2011, our group was saddened by the loss of our own Betty Skelton Erde. The "First Lady of Firsts" joined our Hall of Fame on December 1, 2009, and was an inspiration to all of us through her incredible list of accomplishments and achievements. We are all proud to have had the opportunity to know her and to be in her company, and we will miss her. We wish her husband Allan all the best in the years ahead.



Betty Skelton Erde—1926-2011



Syd Baker Captures Round 2 of Prediction Row 2011



September 10— By picking his personal favorite—Jimmie Johnson—13 times in 16 races, Syd Baker turned consistency into a winning run in the second round of Prediction Row 2011. While the second round was not as close at the top as the first round, it did go down to the wire with Jim Dunaway and Glen Carter tied after 13 races with 56 points each. Since Prediction Row rules call for a tie-breaker based on number of winning predictions during the round, Dunaway's two winning calls over Carter's one gave

him the transfer spot in the Chase Round. So, heading to the ten-race playoff round, our field of race forecasters has been narrowed to these experts:



Jim Dunaway



Al Stone



Jerry Conkle



Jim Carter



Syd Baker



Gary Civiletti

The Prediction Row rules also call for seeding of the starting order for the Chase Round on the basis of winning predictions, with each winning call earning two bonus points. Based on the bonus points, then, the starting order for the Chase Round looked like this:

4-Dunaway

4-Stone

2-Conkle

0-Carter

0-Baker

0-Civiletti

By the time you read this newsletter, we'll be two races in to the Chase. You can follow the progress of Prediction Row on our website (www.villagesracingclub.com).

Welcome, New Member



We welcomed Mike Bryant to our membership at the September meeting. Mike hails from So. Coffeyville, Oklahoma. Be sure to look him up at a future meeting and engage him in a chat about racing!

Special Events Roundup



Fall is here, and temperatures are beginning to moderate (well, at least a little bit!). As we all know, those cooler evening temperatures equate to better racing conditions for both drivers and fans, and we're looking forward to some upcoming trips to take advantage of the weather. With Bronson back on the grid (see page one article), and with Randy Anderson showing signs of dominating in the Open Wheel Modified ranks up there, we're planning to take a run up there in October and check it out! Watch for emails as the details are developed.

Also, we're a mere two months away from the 46th Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200, so be sure to sign up at the October meeting. Take a look at the other items listed below and on the schedule page of our website and, as always, just give me a call if you have any questions.

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Wednesday, October 5 Colony Cottage	Come out and learn more about Camp Boggy Creek, and get an update on what's happening at FASCAR and its three local race tracks!
Sunday, October 9 Camp Boggy Creek	Volunteers are needed for 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	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! Also, we'll need plenty of help that night...call Dave or sign-up at the October meeting.
Saturday, October 15 Bronson Speedway	We're planning a trip to Bronson Speedway to take in the weekly racing card, and to support Randy Anderson in his emergence as an accomplished Open Wheel Modified driver. Watch 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.
Sunday, November 20 Colony Cottage	NASCAR Sprint Cup finale on the big screen at Colony Cottage! Come on out and join the group as we watch the season ender. BYOB and a dish to share...action starts at 2:00 pm.
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. Flyers for all these events can be downloaded from our website's homepage.

This is *Not* Necessarily News to Many of US!

September 1, 2011—For many of us who make regular visits to the northeastern United States, the thought of fighting our way up Interstate 95 through the Washington/Baltimore maze is enough to make us think about not going. And there's a reason for it, since the area is overly congested and fraught with very curious driving styles.

We've all seen the aftermath of accidents on I-95, I-495, and I-695, probably wondering what the likelihood might be of becoming involved in an accident as we move through the area.

Allstate Insurance, in a quest to keep people focused on safe driving habits, each year analyses its claim statistics to determine this likelihood and—surprise!—ranks Washington, D.C. and Baltimore as two of the areas where drivers are most likely to be involved in an accident. Allstate reports, in its "America's Best Drivers Report" that, Washington drivers statistically were involved in an accident every 4.8 years, compared to the national average of every 10 years. Baltimore was next with a 5.3 year average, and

Arlington, VA (also a part of the I-95 corridor congestion scenario) was close behind at 6.8. In Florida, it's only a bit better, with Miami coming in at 7.0, Tampa at 7.1, and Orlando at 8.0. Tallahassee was close to the national average, with a 9.8 rating. Out West, Fort Collins, CO was rated highest, with drivers expected to encounter an accident only every 14.0 years, 28.6% less likely than the national average. In case you're interested the full study can be found at <http://www.allstatenewsroom.com>.

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>



Bronson Speedway's website is currently under development. For updates on events at the Speedway, visit karnac.com or floridaflag-stand.com

NASCAR Vet to Participate in SAM Event

Many of you know Ron Hedger from his work with National Speed Sport News, as well as his frequent visits at club meetings. Ron is also a member of the Board of Trustees at Saratoga Automobile Museum in New York, and has provided reprint permission for the article appearing below. Saratoga Automobile Museum (SAM) is an organization with a mission to “preserve, interpret and exhibit automobiles and automotive artifacts. (SAM) celebrate(s) the automobile and educate(s) the general public, students and enthusiasts regarding the role of the automobile in New York State and in the wider world. In addition to technical and design aspects, (SAM’s) educational focus is on the past, present and future social and economic impact of the automobile.”

We thought this article might be of interest to you, especially to those members hailing from the great state of New York!

NASCAR LEGEND ADDED TO LOST SPEEDWAYS LINEUP

Saratoga Springs, NY For longtime auto racing fans and participants, the Saratoga Automobile Museum’s **Lost Speedways** program has long been a must-see event. Set once again for its traditional “Saturday after Thanksgiving” date, the program’s impressive list of participants was bolstered this week by the addition of NASCAR legend Jim Reed of Peekskill, NY.

“Longtime audience member Ken Parrotte of West Monroe, a racing historian whose focus is the old NASCAR Late Model Short Track Division, had offered to do a presentation for 2011,” said event organizer Ron Hedger. “We were looking forward to that when Ken had an opportunity to meet with Reed to further his research, a meeting that led to Reed agreeing to join us on November 26th. We’re absolutely thrilled to welcome the five-time national champion and 1959 Darlington Southern 500 winner to the Saratoga Automobile Museum.

“We’re well into the planning of a huge main-gallery exhibit exploring the growth of NASCAR from its southern base to today’s coast-to-coast Sprint Cup series. It will run from June through November 2012 and Jim’s visit will preview our largest racing event ever. In fact, some of the cars I have lined up for the exhibit come from the era when Jim ranked among NASCAR’s most successful racers and we hope he will come back to participate in the events we’re planning in conjunction with the NASCAR exhibit.”

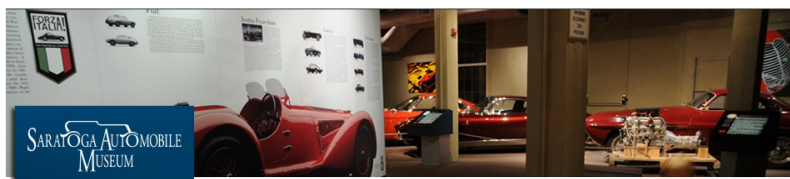
Besides Parrotte, other presenters confirmed for Lost Speedways 2011 include our motorcycle racing expert Mark Supley, famed announcer Jim King, who will recall the short-lived Cairo Speedway and historian Bill Ladabouche, who will chronicle the history of Plattsburgh’s famed Airborne Park Speedway.

“I have some other presenters in the works and if they can attend, the program will only get better,” summed up Hedger. “And, of course, we encourage everyone to bring their memorabilia to share before we start the program. Jim Reed will be bringing some of his treasures, providing a rare opportunity to relive the early days of NASCAR through the eyes of a true legend.”

Lost Speedways 2011 will commence with memorabilia on display at 11:30 am with the formal presentations set for 1 pm. Regular museum admission prices will prevail, with museum members, as always, admitted free.

“Porsche: 60 Years of Speed and Style in North America” will be newly opened in the museum’s Golub Gallery at that time while the Racing in New York gallery will feature “NASCAR in New York.”

The Saratoga Automobile Museum is located on the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park.



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)

The Bus that Wes Ran

Many of you have been wondering whatever happened to the bus service that served us so well on so many club trips. Earlier this year, Wes (our regular driver on many trips) had a problem on a trip, as evidenced by this photo:



Wes is back in business at this point, working for Florida Dolphin Tours.

Conkle's Corner...

Jerry's at it again...coming up with some of the most mind-bending commentary about motorsports and life in general. Here's another installment of "Conkle's Corner", complete with some stuff you need to think about:



- When we were kids, we didn't hear of road rage. It was there, we just didn't realize it. I remember riding with my dad and I knew when he was mad...he'd say, "Here, hold my beer!"
- There have only been two Daytona 500 winners in the Indy 500...Cale Yarbrough and Bobby Allison.
- Indy 500 winners who raced in the Daytona 500 are A.J. Foyt, Jr., Mario Andretti, Al Unser Jr., Johnny Rutherford, Sam Hornish Jr., and Juan Pablo Montoya.
- The oldest Daytona 500 winner is Bobby Allison (age 49); the youngest was Trevor Bayne (age 19)
- The oldest Indy 500 winner was Al Unser Sr. (age 47); the youngest was Troy Ruttman (age 22)
- When I was young, I would travel to local nursing homes in my hometown and tell jokes to the elderly. When I left, there wouldn't be a dry seat in the house!



Just a man and his car!

Our Club Hits the Local News!

Local Auto News



Submitted photos

Left: Members of two local regions of the Antique Automobile Club of America — The Villages Region and the Kingdom of the Sun Region in Ocala — toured the Florida Carriage Museum together Aug. 24. The club is open to Villages residents with an interest in vehicles more than 25 years old. Activities include programs on various aspects of the auto hobby, social cruises and tours of local auto-related attractions. For information, contact Alan Stone at 750-1169 or astone1947@embarqmail.com. Right: Members of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club recently went to Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis. Club president Gerry Hafer, back row, second from right, and past president Glen Carter, back row third from right, presented a check to the camp for \$1,000. Members of the club spent the afternoon touring the camp for children with medical conditions.