



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

October/November, 2012

Next Meeting—Wednesday, November 7, 2012

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The Conkle/Clements Experience—Showcasing Indy



September 5—It was a night of facts, stories, ironies, and historical notes about the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway as Club members Jerry Conkle and Bill Clements shared a wealth of knowledge about “The Brickyard.” Jerry launched the discussion with a fascinating and amusing catalog of little-known details about the Speedway, including original construction of the track (built in 1909 as rectangle, bricked in 1910, stayed brick until 1933 when all but the front stretch was paved, etc.), first Indy 500 run in 1911 won by Ray Harroun at a

speed of 75 mph, the original field size of 42 cars being cut to 33 in 1933 based on a calculation that 33 cars 400 feet apart would encompass 2.5 miles, and a host of fascinating facts of that nature. Jerry discussed his first visit to the track in 1949 and his first attendance at the 500 in 1952, and shared some interesting anecdotes about Indy's history...like the irony of the 1911 winning speed (75 mph) being exactly one half of the qualifying speed 50 years later, and exactly one third of the qualifying speed 50 years after that. Based on that, Jerry observed, qualifying speeds should hit 300 mph by 2061! Jerry also shared his experience in attending races at the 16th Street Speedway across from the big track, noting the custom of saluting drivers with a cigarette lighter.

Following Jerry's entertaining lecture on Indy folklore, Bill took the podium to share his own personal experiences with “The Brickyard.” From his initial venture into the Indy 500 to his most recent visit this year, Bill led members through a pictorial recap of the major aspects of the event, including the Indianapolis city parade, the pre-race pit procedures, and his many encounters with Indy drivers. He also shared some anecdotes about his history at the track, including his being recruited to work at the event in lieu of buying a ticket, his experiencing the joy of having a golf cart stolen out from under him, and the alcohol-related incidents a track worker often needs to deal with during the event. In one of his more touching stories, Bill displayed a pair of the white sunglasses distributed this year to attendees in remembrance of Dan Wheldon, and displayed a photograph of the late Indy Champion signing autographs on race day.



It was another great night for the club, and it was especially great to hear these personal accounts from two of our talented members.

Touring Wayne's World

October 2—For a first time ever meeting event, it was a great experience as an estimated 45-50 club members traveled down to Wayne Anderson Racing in Wildwood for an open house tour and cookout. As you can see in these photos, the group had an opportunity to see a first-class operation close-up, and to have a variety of chats and discussions with one of Florida's current premier late model

drivers. As an added bonus, club godfather Dick Anderson shared the hosting duties for the evening, adding his perspectives on many of the hot topics surrounding motorsports at all levels today.

In addition to having a chance to see Wayne's racing fleet in varying stages of preparation, the group also had the opportunity to reflect on Wayne's many

accomplishments, and a quick scan of his trophy cases would tell you there were many!

Our hats are off to the Anderson family for their hospitality, and especially to Mary Anderson for her hard work in preparing the facility for the meeting.

Based on the success of this meeting format, it's likely that we'll repeat it in some form in the future.



The Villages Cup—2012 Edition

November 14—We're shifting gears a bit this time around, going away from go-karts and toward our rapidly-growing radio-controlled model car racing ranks for the third edition of our Villages Cup event. Race Directors Dave Allen and Mike Roemer have been hard at work laying out the structure for what promises to be a highly competitive—and equally entertaining—day of racing on November 14. With an expected starting grid of somewhere in the vicinity of 20

R/C drivers, running in two separate classes, Brushed and Modified.

Allen and Roemer report that trophies will be awarded to the winners—three trophies for each class—so we'll be celebrating traditional podium-type finishes when the smoke clears on the 14th.

On race day, a practice session will begin at 9:00 am, followed by a drivers meeting at 9:30 am. Qualifying time trials kick-off at 9:45 am,

With the first race to go green right after conclusion of qualifying. As an added feature, race organizers have planned an open novice session for anyone interested in trying their hands at R/C racing. Just see Dave or Mike race day to sign up!



New Features Added to Club Website

In case you haven't noticed, Club Webmaster Mike Anderson is continually tweaking the content of our recently-upgraded website, adding new features designed to make the site more and more useful for us. Major additions over the past few weeks have included:

- The addition of a feature unique to our site...a nearly live content blog from ESPN's Diana Hubbard. Diana updates the blog on Tuesdays before each race, and then adds tweets and re-tweets during the heat of the race. It's sort of like being there, with Diana sharing a lot of the behind-the-scenes happenings.
- An index of all of the speakers who have joined us through the years, with a cross reference to the meeting they attended so you can refresh yourself on what they discussed. Most of us can remember a particular speaker being there, but we just can't recall when and what they spoke about!
- Additional photo and video galleries Mike is continuing to add content to the video and static photo segments of the site, so be sure to browse it from time-to-time to see what's there!
- Pit Crew photographs. In case you want to put a face with a name, just take a look at the dazzling array of photographs that we've added to the "Board Members" (Pit Crew)" page. They are, of course, candid shots but then again we're a pretty candid group!
- Mike has added a separate page for the upcoming Villages Cup competition, with a link to historical documents from the 2010 and 2011 versions of this landmark event.
- And, perhaps most important, Mike has added a "You Can Help" page for your use to submit suggestions or to volunteer for specific club projects. You can find it as a navigation button on the left side of the home page.



November Meeting Preview

Our November 7 meeting promises to be another lively one, with speakers from Bubba Raceway Park agreeing to give us a rundown on what's happening up at the former Ocala Speedway. Track Manager Ken Snyder will be there, and he'll be accompanied by Track Announcer Joe Dirt...those of you have visited BRP will undoubtedly recall the excitement

that Joe puts into calling the races up there at the 1/3 mile clay-based speedway. In fact, many of you may recall our group visit to the speedway when we designated Buzzie Reutimann a "Honorary Member" of our club...Joe was the announcer who assisted us in the presentation of Buzzie's official yellow shirt!



IRL Announces 19-Race Schedule for 2013

The IZOD IndyCar series recently published its 2013 schedule, featuring 19 events over 16 weeks. Here are the details:

3/24	St. Petersburg, Fla
4/7	Barber Motorsports Park – Leeds, Ala
4/21	Long Beach, Calif.
5/5	Sao Paulo, Brazil
5/26	Indianapolis, Ind.

6/1-2	Belle Isle Park, Detroit, MI*
6/8	Fort Worth, Tex.
6/15	Milwaukee Mile – West Allis, Wis.
6/23	Iowa Speedway – Newton, Iowa
7/7	Pocono Raceway – Long Pond, PA
7/13-14	Exhibition Place – Toronto, Ont.*
8/4	Mid-Ohio – Lexington, Ohio
8/25	Sonoma, Calif.
9/1	Baltimore, Md.
10/5-6	Reliant Park – Houston, Texas*
10/19	Fontana, Calif.
* Denotes Doubleheader Weekend	



Welcome, New Members

At our September meeting, we added four more racing enthusiasts to our group! Be sure to greet them next time you see them and strike up a conversation about their interest in the wide world of motorsports!



Left-to-right: Dan Gammon, Don Snogles, Judy & Pierre Dionne

Local Racing Corner

As we've mentioned quite a few times in the past, these tracks represent the local roots of racing and they need our support! If you've been to an event at any of these tracks recently, you'll no doubt agree that attendance is down. Car counts are down as well, and it's easy to see that either of these facts represents a cause-and-effect situation. If the cars don't come, neither will the fans, and it's becoming a downward spiral that can only lead to the closing of tracks here in Central Florida. We've already lost one this year (Columbia), and most of the others are struggling. So, let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth.

Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
Volusia Raceway Park	Barberville	386-985-4402	volusiaspeedwaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	orlandospeedworld.org
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	ocalamicrospeedway.com
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	auburndaleracing.com
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	puntagordaspeedway.com
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	desotosuperspeedway.com



In Memoriam
Chris Economaki
1920—2012



Special Events Roundup



The NASCAR season is beginning to wind down, but you'd never know it from the tension that's building in the Chase! Meanwhile, here in The Villages, there's also a fair amount of tension building up as we prepare for the Citrus County Speedway debut of Jerry Conkle and Gary Seyler, and as plans for the 2012 edition of The Villages Cup get set in concrete. We've also begun to ramp up planning for the 2012 Hall of Fame event in January (***by the way, we still need a leader for this project***), and our annual Governor's Cup trip is starting to look like it's back on track. We've also got some great meeting speakers lined up for the months ahead.

Some of the events and activities on tap for the next few months are shown below. As always, though, we'd love to hear your suggestions for trips and events... just give me a call!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, Oct. 27 Citrus County Speedway	Club members Jerry Conkle and Gary Seyler will compete in the Hornet Class event at the Speedway. Come out and join the fun as we cheer these two brave souls on!
Sunday, Oct. 28 Colony Cottage	Bingo Fund Raiser at Colony Cottage—see separate emails for details
Saturday, Nov. 3 Citrus County Speedway	Florida United Promoters Late Model Series, 100 lap event. Check the Speedway's website for details (www.citruscountyspeedway.com)
Wednesday, Nov. 7 Colony Cottage	Regular meeting at Colony Cottage—featured speakers will be Ken Snyder, Operations Manager at Bubba Raceway Park, and Joe Dirt, the track's announcer.
Wednesday, Nov. 14 Colony Cottage	The 2012 Villages Cup event (see page 2 of this newsletter) for more of the details.
Saturday, Nov. 17 New Smyrna Speedway	47th Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200...we're probably not running a bus over, but members are encouraged to attend the event.
Sunday, Nov. 18 Colony Cottage	NASCAR finale at Homestead on the Big Screen at Colony. This is a BYOB event, and bring a snack to share with eight of your fellow race fans. Sign-ups will be taken at the November 7 meeting.
Saturday, Dec. 8 Desoto Superspeedway	Florida United Promoters Late Model Series, 100 lap event. Season finale...Check the Speedway's website for details (www.desotosuperspeedway.com)
Saturday, December 8 Polo Grounds	2012 Villages Christmas Parade—Call Gary Civiletti (751-4030) for details
February, 2013 Daytona International Speedway	Daytona events TBA...stay tuned!
Thursday, May 2 Saddlebrook	Night Golf event...details to follow, but mark your calendars!

Corey LaJoie at Dover—Grandpop Ernie Cheers Him On to Win

September 28—"I can tell you this...it's been a perk to my retirement!" That's the way jubilant Club member Ernie Battee summed up the latest chapter in his grandson's pursuit of a championship title in NASCAR's Pro Series East.

"I'm so proud of him and what he's done so far in his young life that I can't even find the words to use," the emotional grandfather explained as 21 year-old Corey LaJoie celebrated in Dover International Speedway's Victory Lane September 28 after winning the "American Real TV 150" event. NASCAR fans will recognize the name...LaJoie is the son of two-time NASCAR Busch Series Champion and former Cup-level competitor Randy LaJoie and the grandson of Northeast legendary driver Don LaJoie, a five-time Connecticut-area racing champion.

The younger LaJoie has established himself as a rising star in the NASCAR scene through his performance on the K&N East tour, widely regarded as NASCAR's top developmental series.

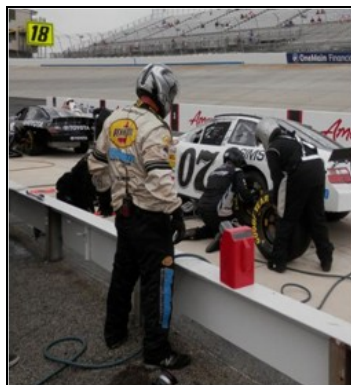
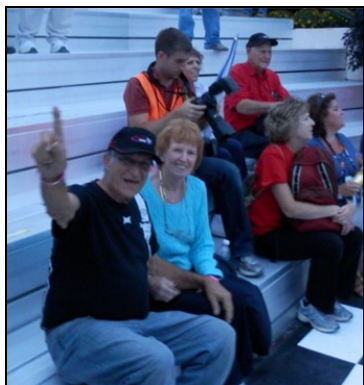
He's even acquired a nickname among fans, who dubbed him "Super Shoe," a handle that has inspired a signature move he executes after every win...he throws one of his custom-fit racing shoes into the crowd as a fan appreciation gesture.

After logging his first career tour win in the 14-race series June 2 at Winston-Salem's Bowman Gray Stadium, LaJoie has returned to Victory Circle three more times to lead the series in 2012 wins. His September 28 win at Dover moved him to within one point of series leader Kyle Larson, with two races to go.

The prospects of a championship look promising at this point, commented Battee. "With only Greenville Pickens, where he finished 2nd in March, and Rockingham, where he won a United Auto Racing Association STARS series race in April, I think the wind is with him." A championship in the K&N East series would be an incredible boost to LaJoie's racing career, and what

would make the accomplishment even more incredible is the "David vs. Goliath" nature of the race team's campaign. "Corey and his group of friends build the cars themselves." Battee explained, "They don't have any paid help in the race shop...they do everything themselves. In fact, the Dover event is the first time out with this car."

From the standpoint of resources, the "underdog" aspect is even more noticeable when one considers that Corey LaJoie Racing is competing against some of the biggest names in the business. A quick look at the race team parking area helps drive this point home, when you see the LaJoie race hauler sandwiched between much larger and much better-equipped, better-funded transport vehicles of the other competitors. "They're just a bunch of good friends that work together well, and they're really clicking," says Battee in what may be one of this year's best understatements.



From left: Club Member Ernie Battee getting set to greet grandson Corey in Winner's Circle at Dover; Corey's "volunteer" crew in action during pit stop in American Real TV 150 at Dover; Corey's team and supporters in Winner's Circle (Ernie's front left, paternal grandfather Don LaJoie is second from right, and dad Randy LaJoie is at right).

Honoring A Fallen HOF Member

September 18—A somber contingent of about 18 club members participated in a memorial service for Stephen M. Stutzman, a member of our Hall of Fame, Class of 2009. Twenty-two year old Stephen passed away on August 14 and was fondly eulogized by his family and fiends at the service at Savannah Center.



Many club members recall Stephen and his parents, Karl and Jeanne Stutzman (see photo below, left) and their visit with us at our May 27, 2009 meeting. Also, many members who were not able to be on hand for the Stutzmans' 2009 visit recall meeting Stephen as a lead technician for their family's business, All About Karts, and remember him as an outgoing, friendly, and personable young man, not to mention a pretty good golf kart mechanic, as well. Stephen had grown up with the business, and was involved in one way or another with the mechanical aspects of golf kart maintenance for most of his life.



*Stephen M. Stutzman
1990—2012*

All of us express our sincere condolences to the Stutzman family.

2012 Hall of Fame Rapidly Approaching, And We Need Your Help!!!

As we reported in the preceding issue, we've been making a concerted effort to get more members involved in planning and carrying out club activities. The response has been good, with shining examples like **Don Day** taking over the Camp Villages program, **Gary Civiletti** handling contacts with The Villages' Recreation Department, and **Mike Anderson** assuming Webmaster duties and designing our new club website. This is a positive sign, and it's good to be able to bring new and fresh thinking into the leadership of our club.

We'd like to continue this trend, and here's another perfect example of where we need a fresh direction...*the planning and organization of our annual Hall of Fame event*. If you've attended this event in the past, you know that it's a great opportunity for us to re-connect with the speakers and notables who have shared their time with us, and you know it's a great night for the club. You also probably noticed that the attendance has been trending lower over the past few years...a clear sign that we need to liven things up a bit.

So, we're actively searching for a chair person to lead the planning and organization of this critical club event. We've set a date (**Sunday, January 6, 2013**) for the event, and you'll note that we've elected to move it to after the Christmas Holiday season based on feedback we've received.

Please give some thought to how your skills might be applied to the planning of this important event, and contact any member of the Pit Crew if you're willing to help (or perhaps lead).

Here are a few snapshots from last year's event to serve as a refresher on how great this event has been...



Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (303-9734)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Jerry Conkle, Technical Consultant (750-1185)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

Geoff Bodine at Oswego

BINGHAMTON, NY...Two-time Sunoco Race of Champions winner Geoff Bodine returned to Oswego Speedway as the Grand Marshall of the RoC on Saturday, July 21st. Bodine met with race fans and signed autographs on Saturday of the big weekend. Bodine, a two time winner of the Sunoco Race of Champions returned to his roots for the 62nd edition of the RoC. His victories in the 1972 RoC at Trenton Speedway and the 1978 edition at Pocono solidified his standing as one of the greatest open wheel Modified drivers of all time. His victory in the 1986 Daytona 500 came as no surprise to the northern race fans that saw him in action behind the wheel. Bodine also had three International Race of Champions victories which pitted the best names in the world auto racing scene during the 1980's and 1990's.

(Source: <http://www.raceofchampions.net>)



Grand Marshall Bodine driving a parade lap at Oswego in a restored version of his former Valiant-bodied modified car.



Conkle's Corner...

Jerry just keeps rolling along, amazing us with his wit and wisdom. If you were at the September meeting, you were treated to a whole plateful of Indy tales and tips, and here's another dose just to prove he's not running dry!



Jerry's Perspectives On:

- The Chase for the Cup

Most of the favorites made the chase. They say cream comes to the top, in some cases they didn't say how long it would take. Some of the drivers are looking forward to next year, some are not. New rides for some, no rides for some.

- World History

Who's Mr. Gorsky? In case you didn't know this little tidbit of trivia.

On July 20, 1969, as Commander of the Apollo 11 module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to step foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, "THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND," were televised to earth and heard by millions. But just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark, "GOOD LUCK, MR. GORSKY."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some Soviet cosmonaut; however, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "GOOD LUCK, MR. GORSKY" meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering question's following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question to Armstrong, and this time he responded. Mr. Gorsky had died, so Armstrong felt he could now answer the question.

"In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the back yard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by their bedroom window. His neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky. "SEX! YOU WANT SEX?! YOU'LL GET SEX WHEN THE KID NEXT DOOR WALKS ON THE MOON!"

- On Internet Security

During a recent password audit by a fortune 500 company, it was found that an employee was using the following password: "MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"

When asked why she chose such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said: "Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital"

On reflection, that almost makes perfect sense.

- On Adult Education

You're never to old to learn something stupid.