



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report

October-November, 2013

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, December 4, 2013

In This Issue:

The Lincoln Highway	1
A Visit from SCCA	2
Hall of Fame Gearing Up!	3
Thursday Morning Group Visits Buster	4
Our Logo Hits the News	4
Randy Anderson Takes FUPS Rookie Honors	5
December Meeting Preview	5
Crowning a New Prediction Row Champ	6
NASCAR Buys Iowa Speedway	6
Special Events Update	7
Local Racing Corner	7
Your Pit Crew	8
Conkle's Corner	8
Scholarship Program	8
New Member	8

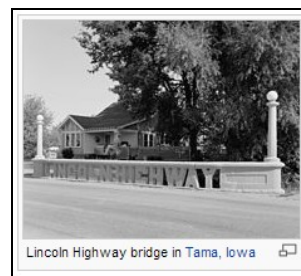
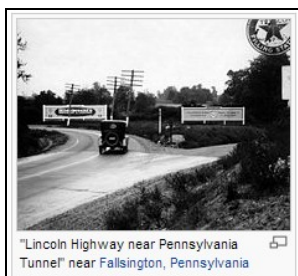
The Lincoln Highway Experience



November 6—For a brief time at our last meeting, the famed “Lincoln Highway” was routed through The Villages—right through the parlor at Colony Cottage Rec Center. And leading the procession for our group was guest speaker Villages Resident John Peters. Many of our members were aware of the Highway and its status as the first transcontinental improved highway for automobiles across the USA, but now that John has given us the grand tour, it’s safe to say we now have a few experts (or at least well-informed members.)

John gave us a thorough review of his experience driving “the Highway,” with a fantastic selection of photographs of vintage gas stations, and barns (many with fascinating murals depicting panoramas from by-gone eras.) He also provided a recap of the enlightening conversations he had with the people he encountered along the way, as well as a day-to-day account of the festivities—daily car shows, parades, etc.—at least until brake problems forced him to retire his Cadillac from the tour!

Look for John and his classic Cadillac at the next Spanish Springs Cruise In, and ask him for some tales of “the Highway”—it’s a favorite subject of his!



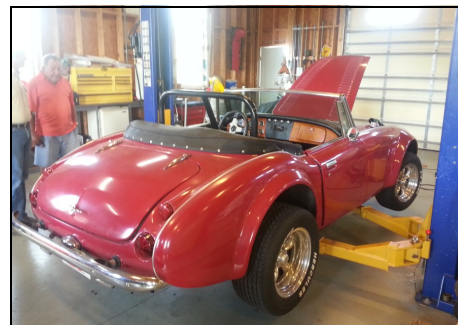
The Lincoln Highway—3389 Miles of Americana!



Visit from SCCA Personalities

November 6—You never know what's just off the reservation! Acting on a tip from club member David Vanderwall, Crew Chief Conkle and I recently made a short field trip to the home (and race shop) of Sumter County resident Hall Robertson (pictured at right) to follow-up on a rumor that he's an active competitor on the Sports Car Club of America circuit. We were not disappointed..in fact, I think startled might be a better description.

Hall's CR 102 residence is a beautiful ranch setting, but inconspicuously set next to his house is a fantastic three-bay garage housing multiple full-fledged racing machines. From a road course-ready Late Model stocker to a asphalt modified, with a Austin Healy beauty in between, the contents of Hall's garage verify the adage that "you never know what might be in those buildings!" And to prove just how small the world around us actually is, consider that the Late Model pictured below is in fact an ASA-level race car formerly owned by David Reutimann. Take a look at these shots from Hall's shop...



During his remarks, Hall discussed the possibility of our group becoming more active in SCCA events and activities, including participation in Professional Drivers Experiences, serving as volunteer corner workers and grid workers, and the like. With large events at Daytona and Sebring, he suggested, there may be ample opportunity for "hands-on" involvement for members, and promised to make a return visit and discuss specifics.



Hall also introduced a rising star on the SCCA/Formula racing circuits—17 year-old Ethan Low (pictured at left). Ethan's spokesman, Troy Hansen, (pictured at right) provided a recap of Ethan's racing history to-date, covering his progress from go-karts to Formula— and SCCA-level racing. Troy conducted the PowerPoint presentation the race team is preparing as part of their capital campaign for 2014 and beyond, closing with an announcement that Ethan is scheduled to compete in the March, 2014 event at St. Petersburg, FL.



2013 Hall of Fame—Save the Date

It's that time of the year...the time when we honor the motorsports community's luminaries who have given us the pleasure of their company and the benefits of their insights during another spectacular year of club meetings and events. From grassroots to legends, these are the people who shared their stories with us in 2013...and who brought the world of motorsports, automobiles, and racing to life for us!

Watch for more details over the next few weeks as the planning for this event unfolds!



2013 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION AND AWARDS NIGHT
Saturday, January 11, 2014
COLONY COTTAGE RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

**Join us as we celebrate the induction of these
 motorsports luminaries into our Hall of Fame**

The Class of 2013

Bobby Brack	John Peters
David Gourley	Gerri Prusko
Elaine Harrold	Jane Route
Bill John	Rick Schmidt
Gary LaPlant	Dora Thorne
Mark Lutes	David Vanderwall
Devin McLeod	George Wagner
Jake Perkins	

Keynote Speaker – TBD

Doors Open at 6:30 pm

**Reception 6:30-7:00 pm, followed by the induction
 at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments, finger foods, and
 non-alcoholic drinks will be served. (BYOB for other liquid refreshment.)**

RSVP TO BARBARA NOLAN
AT 352-750-9082
BY Saturday, JANUARY 4, 2013

Breakfast With Buster

November 7—In case you aren't aware, there's a group of die-hard racing fans within our organization that gets together every Thursday morning to assess the state of motorsports, and to render opinions on announcements affecting the racing world. This isn't a new thing—the group has been in action for more than five years now, and usually involves anywhere from 10 to 15 regular attendees. There is virtually no racing-related rumor, fact, or theory that escapes the scrutiny of this well-informed panel of experts.

One of the charter members of this esteemed assemblage is none other than the legendary Arthur "Buster" Burt, one of NASCAR's finest and a member of our Hall of Fame (Class of 2007). Buster from time-to-time is unable to make the Thursday morning visit so, in honor of his place in our club's history, the group has been on several occasions traveled to his place of residence. One such visit took place on November 7

when about a dozen members of the group headed out to Sumter Place to spend the breakfast time with Buster on his home turf. Since he's the unofficial Mayor of Sumter Place, Buster is able to arrange for these visits and takes great care to see that we are treated as visiting dignitaries. On our last visit, he even made arrangements for us to have our own flag person on hand to greet us...



(The group meets every Thursday morning at Bob Evans Restaurant on Rt. 466...everyone's welcome to join us. Just show up and tell them you're with "the racing group.")

Our Club in the News (Again!)

In our seven years as an organization, we've been blessed with a substantial amount of publicity locally and nationally. For example, our logo has been prominently featured in such publications as Circle Track Magazine, National Speed Sport News, and Area Racing Digest, but what pleases us most is when our local media takes notice. The Daily Sun has done just that on many occasions, with coverage of many of our major events and activities. Among these were the reports on our Vil-

lages Cup go-cart events, our sponsorship venture with Buzzie Reutimann, and our meetings featuring such notables as Marvin Panch, Geoff Bodine, Eileen Daniels, and many others. Most recently, the Daily Sun made note of the prominence we've achieved in the racing community with this 11/9/2013 trivia insert:



Randy Anderson Takes FUPS Rookie Honors

November 24—A top ten finish in the Florida United Promoters Late Model Series finale at Auburndale Speedway enabled club Hall of Famer (Class of 2011) Randy Anderson to handily capture the series' 2013 Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors. The third-generation campaigner from Wildwood, FL finished fourth overall in points in the 11-race series, parlaying a consistent performance into the Rookie honors. Randy's average finishing position was 6.6 in the series, slightly better than his average qualifying position of 8.4.

The FL United Promoters Series will open the 2014 season the weekend of January 25th-26th at Auburn-dale Speedway. Additional information and the complete 2014 schedule will be released in the coming weeks.



December Meeting Preview It's Citrus County Speedway Night



On just about any Saturday night, you can find a few yellow shirts in the stands of what we affectionately call our home track—Citrus County Speedway. In fact, many of the drivers we connect with report looking for us as they pass the flag stand...most recently, Jake Perkins and Devin McLeod have reported being nearly blinded by the glare from the “yellow shirt brigade.”

In addition to enjoying what's always a great night of racing over in Inverness, you'll recall that our club has had some special events at CCS. Remember the 2007 Steve Griffin night? More recently

how about the 2012 and 2013 “Hornet Classic” events in which “Flash” Conkle, “Cyclone” Seyler, and “Mean Gene” White displayed their motorsports prowess?

We've built a solid relationship with CCS, and we're hoping to continue this under the speedway's new leadership. Gary LaPlant, the new promoter, will be with us at the December 4 meeting to review his plans for the track, and to discuss some opportunities for us to become involved with their programs.

Also on tap will be one of CCS's finest...Street Stock driver Dora Thorne. Dora will share her fascinating entry into the world of motorsports at an age where many of us wouldn't even have thought about it! And she's a serious competitor, with a feature win this year and a 2nd place finish in points...a mere four points behind champion Curtis Flanagan. You don't want to miss Dora and her incredible insights into the world of short-track racing.



Syd Baker Reigns as 2013 PR Champ!

Syd Baker proved what many motorsports enthusiasts have known for a long time—consistency earns you championships! He had to make a total of 23 predictions during the Prediction Row competition, and being the true believer he is, 21 of those predictions went to eventual Sprint Cup Champion Jimmie Johnson. Syd only strayed twice—once predicting Brad Keselowski, and once predicting Jeff Gordon.

But it wasn't only Syd who saw Johnson as the eventual Cup Champion. The twelve Prediction Row competitors collectively forecasted the No. 48 as the winner 67 times out of a possible 216, a whopping 31% of the time. So, with JJ dominating the predictions, who else got the nod? Well, as you also might expect, Championship runner-up Matt Kenseth was next in line with 22 picks (10%). Since these two drivers finished 1-2 in the final standings, it's pretty clear that all of our panelists had a solid grasp of the competitive field this year.

By the way, the 216 predictions were spread over a total of 18

different drivers, and even Danica Patrick picked up two predictions! Defending Sprint Cup Champion Keselowski was picked 13 times, while Dale Earnhardt Jr. got 12 nods and Kyle "Wild Thing" Busch picked up 19.

With regard to qualifying, you could sense the pencils being sharpened a bit when we got to the Chase segment. The average starting position for Segments one and two were 10.2 and 11.6, respectively, while in the Chase round the average starting position was 9.85. The average finishes tracked in about the same fashion (10.6 in segment one and 16.6 in segment 2, with the average finish for Chase predictors coming in at 9.2).

As an overall measure of our contenders' knowledge of racing, note that our Chase predictors came up with top five finishes more than half of the time! Here's a quick statistical recap of the three segments of this year's competition and, in case you missed it, another look at the final standings...

Category	Segment 1	Segment 2	Chase
Winning Predictions	5	3	8
Poles	8	8	3
Average Start	10.2	11.6	9.85
Average Finish	10.6	16.6	9.15
% in Top 5	42.3	24.4	51.7

Final Standings-Segment 1			
Predictor	Points	Behind	Rank
Baker, Syd	416		1
Stone, Al	412	4	2
Neville, Jon	371	45	3
Civiletti, Gary	361	55	4
Carter, Jim	354	62	5
Touchette, Wendy	293	123	6

NASCAR Buys Iowa Speedway

Many of you will remember the in-depth presentation we had at last January's club meeting, when Villages resident JC Miller took us behind the scenes with a recap of the construction phases of Iowa Speedway. This insider's view gives us all a much greater appreciation for the announcement earlier this month that NASCAR has purchased the Speedway from the founders (the Featherlite family), the details of which are

scheduled to be released at a special event Dec. 12 in Des Moines.

NASCAR issued the following statement regarding the purchase: "NASCAR ownership will allow us to draw on the entire resources of our company. It also provides us with the opportunity to execute first-hand a number of entertainment ideas and engagement opportunities with fans — much of which we have outlined repeatedly as the core of our Industry Action Plan." Watch the news media for further developments on this story.



J.C. Miller sharing the Iowa Speedway story last January.

Reminder—Special Events Calendar Now Online

As most of you know, our list of upcoming events is pretty dynamic, with new items and updates occurring frequently. Special Events Coordinator Gary Civiletti has been sending periodic updates to members at regular intervals, so that you are always aware of changes as they occur. In addition, Webmaster Mike Anderson and Civiletti have collaborated on an on-line club calendar through which members can always keep abreast of future events. Navigating to the “Calendar of Events” page on the website is easy! Simply enter the club’s site address (www.villagesracingclub.com) in your browser and, when the site’s homepage loads, click on the “Calendar of Events” item in the panel on the left side of the page. This will open the calendar window on the site, where you will see all of the upcoming club events, along with other notable events in the racing world. When you see the item you’re interested in, click on the calendar entry and you’ll be provided additional information and reference sources that will give you a more complete rundown on the event.



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 two this year (Columbia and Putnam County), 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. Without local tracks, there’d be no NASCAR!

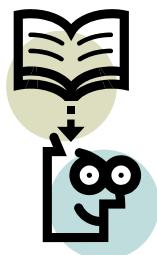
Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
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
Bronson Motor Speedway	Bronson	352-486-2763	facebook.com/bronson.speedway

Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)
 Dave Allen, Vice President (205-7985)
 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)
 Gary Civiletti, Special Events (751-4030)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Syd and Nancy Baker, Hospitality Coordinators (750-2126)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President (751-3643)
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

Scholarship Program to be Reactivated for 2013-14

As you know, our Scholarship Program was suspended last academic year as a result of what we determined to be a general lack of participation, and partly on what we perceive to be a general lack of interest in the high school community. At our November Pit Crew meeting, the matter was discussed at length, and we've decided to reinstate the program for academic year 2013-2014. We will begin accepting applications after January 1, 2014, and will continue accepting applications through March 31, 2014. The rules and specifications presented on the "[Scholarship Program](#)" page of our website will be in effect. If you have any questions about the program, or about the decision to reactivate it, contact any Pit Crew Member.



Conkle's Corner...

Well fans, we have new racing season coming up...drivers with new rides, new drivers to Sprint Cup, and so on. Our local track over in Inverness is under new leadership also, and we'll hear more about that at our December 4 meeting.

Things should be interesting. Maybe Santa will bring them a safe year of racing, let's hope so. Anyway, during the off-season here's some nuggets of wisdom to chew on...



- We had a power outage Sunday and my PC,TV and games console shut down immediately. It was raining (pouring actually). I couldn't go play golf, go sailing or nothing. So I talked to my wife for about an hour and a half. She seems like a nice person.
- The light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection...dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple hours, a policeman approached the cell opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the "what Would Jesus Do" bumper sticker. the ' Choose Life' License plate holder, the ' Follow Me To Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally....I assumed you had stolen the car

New Member

At our November meeting, we added another motorsports fan to our group. His name is George Wyman, and he hails from the Great State of North Carolina (Wilmington, to be specific). Living in North Carolina kind of makes you a natural race fan, considering the racing venues spread throughout the state!

