



PIT NEWS *October, 2021*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: November 3, 2021

A Few Words from the President's Desk



I would like to welcome back many of our returning snowbirds. The future meetings will be very interesting with many guest speakers who have a wealth of information on many different aspects of racing.

Our annual Hall of Fame Induction Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at Lake Miona Recreation Center. The doors will open at 4:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 4:45 PM. This year will be a lot different than previous years. We will have a buffet dinner of Chicken Francese, Stuffed Pork Loin with apples & pecans, along with Mixed Seasonal Vegetables, Parmesan Roasted Potatoes and focaccia bread. The Duo, In Motion, will be providing the entertainment, so be sure to bring your dancing shoes. The cost is \$35 per person. Please bring your significant other and invite your friends and neighbors. Tickets are now on sale at the monthly meetings OR you can contact Donna Gross at (401) 323-1334 or email her at donnaracing27@gmail.com.

Our yearly dues of \$20 are now coming due and you can also renew at the meetings or call Lois Taylor, (352) 633-5624 or email her at ltaylr@hotmail.com. Your dues help us continue to bring in quality speakers.

Our guest speaker for the month of November will be Chris Dirato. He managed public relations efforts for the Exide Batteries Racing Team (Jeff Burton and Kurt Busch) and also NHRA top fuel racer, Tony Schumacher. He also has done public relations for IMSA teams.

Please see the rest of the newsletter for more exciting events coming up.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 PM at Colony Cottage Recreation Center.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

Next Meeting – November 3



Our next meeting is on Nov. 3 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be club member Chris Dirato. Chris is a former sportswriter turned public relations professional and has been in the PR business for 40-plus years.

While working for a New York City-based PR agency between 1993 and 2012, Dirato managed the PR efforts as connected to:

- The Exide Batteries Racing Team in NASCAR (drivers Jeff Burton, Cup; and Kurt Busch, Trucks), as well as the Don Schumacher Racing Team in NHRA (Tony Schumacher, Top Fuel).
- The U.S. Army Racing programs in NASCAR (various drivers with MB2 Motorsports and Stewart-Haas Racing), as well as in NHRA (Tony Schumacher, Top Fuel; Antron Brown, Pro Stock Motorcycles; and Angelle Sampey, Pro Stock Motorcycles) with Don Schumacher Racing.

Currently, Chris handles PR for IMSA driver Dylan Murry, who competes in the LMP3 class of the WeatherTech Sports Car Championship Series.

Important Upcoming Dates

November 3-Wednesday	Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm
December 1-Wednesday	Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm
January 30, 2022-Sunday	Hall of Fame Induction Celebration

The Governor's Cup Race at New Smyrna Speedway Sunday, November 14

For those who have signed up to attend this event or even if you didn't sign up yet but want to attend, please bring \$20 to the November 3 meeting. If you cannot make the November 3 meeting, you must get your payment to Mike Gross no later than November 3 (call him at (401) 323-1313 to make arrangements) No money will be accepted after November 3. Departure time the day of the event is 11 AM from the Eisenhower Recreation Center - we will meet near the sports pool. Feature races start at 2 PM. See Mike Gross at the back of the room at the meeting to make your payment.



Christmas Parade 2021

After a year off for COVID, The Villages will hold the annual Christmas Parade at the Polo Field on Saturday, December 11. Our club has participated for at least a dozen years. The clubs are allowed up to 10 decorated golf carts, plus walkers. It is a time of comradery as we decorate our carts and snack while we wait our turn for the noon event. It is also fun to walk around the staging area to see the other participants. Our carts are usually a decorative combination of racing and Christmas.



There will be a sign-up sheet at the November meeting. You can also contact Silky Meegan at silkyssunshine@gmail.com. We need walkers as well as carts. Two walkers carry our club banner and others will be handing out American flags as we circle the Polo Field. The crowds, especially the children, are enthusiastic and love the parade. Please join us.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

As we approach the end of the year, it is time to think about renewing your membership. The upcoming months are busy at the Club meetings, so to beat the rush at the sign in table, you can renew your membership at the November meeting. To speed up the process, you can print the renewal form from the club website and enclose it with your payment in an envelope and hand it to us at the table. We will give you the sticker (2022 blue this year) for your badge.

Please do not throw you membership card away so we do not have to get a new one made for you. Your name badge will be updated by just putting your 2022 blue sticker on it. Renewal fee is \$20 again this year. This amount helps us to bring some quality and very interesting speakers to the meetings.

If you have any questions about your membership, please let me know either by email or phone. Anyone who is out of town can just mail a check to me at THE VILLAGES MOTOR RACING FAN CLUB and send it to 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163.

If you are looking for some exciting racing in the next few weeks, go to our website as New Symrna, Volusia and Citrus County all have some exciting events coming up.

Lois Taylor, Membership Coordinator

A Few Pictures from our Oct. 6 Anniversary Celebration

A fun time was had by all that attended. Members enjoyed pizza and cake while they enjoyed a video from the television series, Dale Jr. Download. The video was an interview with Larry McReynolds, who was Dale Earnhardt Sr.'s crew chief. The video was quite interesting.



Prediction Row 2021



With two races to go, NASCAR is preparing to crown its 2021 Champion. Four of the remaining eight drivers will be eliminated after the Martinsville race on Halloween. It will be trick or treat for sure. With two straight wins, Kyle Larson is the only driver guaranteed a spot in the final race, which will be held

at Phoenix on November 7.

For our Prediction Row competitors, it is possible for any of the six to be crowned champion. Melanie Scott, who has been in first place since the beginning of The Playoffs, was unseated this week by Doug Baker. They both have two wins but Doug has a commanding lead in points. Art Staus scored his first win this past week and that moved him from last place to third. The last two races will be exciting for our predictors.

Standings After Kansas

Doug Baker - 2 wins (368 points)
Melanie Scott - 2 wins (275 points)
Art Staus - 1 win (291 points)
Steve Poplarski - 1 win (288 points)
Jim Dropp - 0 wins (331 points)
Alan Sneider - 0 wins (310 points)

Our Prediction Row champion will be announced on our website after the final race at Phoenix. He/She will be honored at the Hall of Fame Celebration in January and will be presented with the Prediction Row trophy. This trophy guarantees bragging rights for at least a year and a spot in the 2022 Prediction Row competition.

For the latest weekly predictions, follow Prediction Row in the Daily Sun on NASCAR Cup race day and look for the most recent updates on our website.

Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator

Save the Date for our Annual Hall of Fame Induction Celebration

*The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club
Hall of Fame Induction Celebration*

Sunday, January 30, 2022



Doors Open: 4:30 PM Dinner: 4:45 PM

LAKE MIONA RECREATION CENTER

1526 BUENA VISTA BLVD
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162

The Board of Directors have been hard at work planning the Hall of Fame Induction Celebration Extravaganza. This year there is a new format that we are excited about. There will be entertainment provided by the duo "In Motion" so wear your dancing shoes. This event is not limited to members only, it is open to members, spouses, significant others and friends. So please feel free to invite your friends. The meal is being provided by Pasta Faire followed by cake for dessert.

Tickets are \$35 per person and are on sale now. If you are unable to make a meeting, but you want to purchase tickets, you can mail a check made payable to TVMRFC in the amount of the number of tickets you will need directly to Donna Gross, 3871 View Path, The Villages, FL 32163. Should you have any questions about the tickets, you can call Donna at (401) 323-1334 or email Donna at donnaracing27@gmail.com.

Hoping all can attend and make this a memorable event. **Business casual attire is appreciated.**

DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SPEEDWAYS!



Just a reminder:

JERRY CONKLE AND JOHN ANGIOLO ATTEND THE RACES AT CITRUS COUNTY SPEEDWAY ON A REGULAR BASIS AND WELCOME FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS TO JOIN THEM. JOHN'S NUMBER IS 414-305-8094, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT HIM. THEY ALWAYS SIT AND TRY TO RESERVE A SECTION BEHIND THE FLAG STAND RIGHT BELOW THE ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH. JUST LOOK FOR THE YELLOW SHIRTS AND HATS. (WEAR YOUR CLUB SHIRTS PROUDLY).

The website where you can find the 2021 schedule is www.citruscountyspeedwayandtrack.com



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED, READ BELOW

BREAKING NEWS: RPM ACT REINTRODUCED FOR 2021—ACT NOW!

Our voices have been heard! After receiving more than one million letters from enthusiasts like you, the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act (RPM Act) has been reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2021-2022 session of Congress!

The RPM Act must be enacted into law to guarantee your right to modify street cars, trucks, and motorcycles into dedicated race vehicles, and ensure that industry can offer parts that enable racers to compete.

Now is not the time to take our feet off the gas. Even if you've previously contacted your lawmakers about the RPM Act, we need your voice once again now that the bill has officially returned for consideration in 2021! Tell your U.S. Representative to do their part to finally save racing from government threat by supporting and passing the RPM Act into law this year.

The website is www.semasan.com where you can select to contact the lawmakers.

PLEASE KEEP US POSTED!

Did you move, change your phone number or e-mail address? We need to know.

Please let membership coordinator Lois Taylor know by either checking in with her at a meeting or emailing her at ltaylr@hotmail.com or calling her at (352) 633-5624. It is important that we have updated information in the event we need to reach out to you.

Editor's Corner of useful (and sometimes) useless funny tidbits....



Did you know.....

- The feeling of getting lost inside a mall is known as the Gruen transfer...
- We've all heard how casinos are designed to deliberately disorient visitors, causing them to lose track of time and where exactly they are. But did you know that there's a similar strategy behind the design of shopping malls as well?
- DO YOU THINK THE GRUEN TRANSFER WAS USED IN THE VILLAGES CAUSING ALL OF US GETTING LOST IN THE VILLAGES??? Ha ha ha



Let's Welcome our New Members!

Steve Crouse from Pennsylvania

Chris Six from Pennsylvania

SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 25-28, 2021 AND GET OUT YOUR STURDY WALKING SHOES



Thursday-Saturday \$15 per day, gates open 8am-4pm
Sunday \$10, gates open 8am-2pm

Scooter Rentals are available for \$75 per day if needed.

Go to <https://turkeyrun.com> for more details and also to inquire about scooter rentals and handicap parking and other FAQ's.

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Announces a New Sponsorship Opportunity



The club's Sponsorship Program is "revving" up. Here is the information that is given to a sponsor to show them what the club will provide in return for their sponsorship.

We are pleased to announce your sponsorship will be showcased on our website Sponsor Page. It will also be promoted at our monthly meetings and at every racing booth throughout the year. We will provide handouts and advertise your business at our racing events.

Sponsorships will go a long way toward making our goals a reality. We are striving to bring informative and diverse racing-related events to The Villages. For more information to become a sponsor, please contact club president, Chris Bleistein, 954-729-3050 or cbfla13@bellsouth.net.

CLUB APPAREL



We are searching for helpers to assist media coordinator Mike Anderson with activities that he handles. They are quite varied: email blasts, print member badges, PowerPoint at meetings, Word, club website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. This is about sustainability and continuity. About half of these things are done online, each requiring a user name and password at a specific website. If Mike were to become unavailable, the club could experience immense difficulty.

If you would like to talk about this opportunity, please call or email Mike, 217-714-2245 or mike.mag70@gmail.com. If you have experience in any of these areas, great – he wants to talk to you! If you are interested in learning how to handle any of these areas, he is a willing and patient teacher.

Get Well and Thinking of You

We would like to send well wishes and positive healing thoughts to our members and their families who may be recovering from or are in the midst of dealing with a medical illness.



PIT CREW

**Need to get in touch with a member of the Pit Crew?
Please see the information below!**

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Chris Bleistein	President	Crew Chief	954-729-3050
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Gerry Greim	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	215-630-1402
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
Mike Gross	Special Events Coordinator	Jack Man	401-323-1313
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Mechanic	352-633-5624
John Angiolo	Hospitality Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Manager	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Tom Horrmann	Member At large	Mechanic	352-430-0195
Janine Woodsford	Member At Large	Mechanic	352-430-5804
Jerry Conkle	Past President	Team Owner	352-750-1185

Don't forget to visit our website for more club information.

Thank You

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support. We ask that you please support these businesses so that they can continue to be a vital part of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.



Mammoth Machines
Leesburg, FL
407-235-5282



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Lefthander Chassis
Roscoe, IL
815-389-9999



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN



Bob Woodsford, Realtor
The Villages, FL
352-430-5249



ARCA Midwest Tour



Ultrix Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9111

Benefactor

Pat Fehrman
The Villages, FL

Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money to help support us.