

# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Newsletter

November, 2007



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Well, we've got a full year under our belt now, and looking forward I can only see more excitement ahead of us. We had a very successful trip to Citrus County Speedway on October 20, and we're full steam ahead for the Governor's Cup event on November 17 at New Smyrna Speedway. In the meantime we just continue to grow as a club, and our Pit Crew continues to expand to meet the challenges that go along with this growth. I want to welcome the Sherman's—

Camille and Bob—to a leadership position in the club. They've agreed to handle the membership coordination, and with over 190 members, this added help is a blessing for the club. Al Stone, too, has stepped up to conduct a year-end review of our financial records so that we have third-party verification of the excellent work our Treasurer—Ted Cahalane—is doing. These are the types of signals we all love to see...they tell us our club is continuing to develop into a great and vibrant organization. It's going to be another great year!

*Glen*

## October Meeting – Buster Burt...What A Story!!!



Thanks to the efforts of Club Member Mike Heinke, we uncovered a treasure right here in The Villages—veteran race driver Arthur “Buster” Burt. For those of you who were unable to make our October 3 meeting, here's a quick recap:

- Buster was an active racer from 1949 to 1963
- He raced on the Daytona beach course in 1958 and 1959
- In 1959, he raced in the first race held on the 2.5 mile Daytona International Speedway
- He served in the Air Force, racing in between his military commitments

- Along with his wife, Zoe Ann (pictured at right), he worked several years for Mark Martin driving a show car transporter
- In 1994 & 1995, he drove a Legends car in Maine
- He was inducted into the Maine Motor Racing Hall of Fame in 2006

We look forward to having Buster and Zoe Ann join us at future club events and field trips. See page six for a reprint of the article by Joe VanHoose appearing in the Ocala Star Banner covering the Buster Burt story. (I apologize for the copy looking like a ransome note...it was a “cut and paste” job!)



**Visit our website at [www.villagesracingclub.com](http://www.villagesracingclub.com)**

## Special Events Committee Report

Our Special Events Committee continues to produce more and more opportunities for club members to come explore racing-related venues around the area. Here's a recap of some of the upcoming items:

- **November 17** – Governor's Cup 200 Lap Event at New Smyrna Speedway. The format will be similar to the April event, with bus transportation to and from the track, hospitality tents with catered dining, signing of the No. 92's hood, meet and greet with Jeff Choquette, and reserved grandstand seating, not to mention the obligatory trip to Victory Lane! Dick Anderson will be bringing the hood to the November meeting for signatures. Cost will be \$45 per person for the complete package.
- **December Holiday Hall of Fame Celebration** – Our December end-of-year meeting will be a reflection on what has been accomplished since the club's formation. All of the speakers who've graced our monthly meetings will be invited back for a free-for-all discussion, and we have a few surprises planned also to further liven up the evening. You're not gonna want to miss this one!
- **Potential Future Events** – Our Special Events Committee is working on several major items for 2008, including the following: (1) A Villages Day at Daytona Speedway in January to observe a Cup test session; (2) a Club Day at Daytona Speedway in February, with infield pass and Fan Zone access to observe Daytona 500 practice; (3) Bus trips to the Daytona February and July events, Talladega in October, and the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual AC Delco NHRA Gatornationals, March 15-18.

## Club Logo Items

Club polo shirts (\$24-26), hats (\$13), and logo decals (\$3) are available for sale. If you'd like to order any of these items, give Wayne Nolan (750-9082) or Wendy Touchette (430-0239) a call. Also, we've added another style of shirt—long sleeve and short sleeve denim shirts, complete with club logo. The price for these shirts is \$22.00—they can be ordered through Wayne or Wendy. Please note that Wayne has graciously agreed to assume responsibility for coordinating wearing apparel matters for the club. With a long history of working in the garment industry, Wayne brings an additional level of expertise to our club.

## Club Members Generously Support Our Troops

At the October meeting, we heard an eloquent overview of Operation Shoebox from Sandy DeCristifero, in conjunction with which the club made a \$200 contribution to help defray their expenses. Later that same evening, a club member anonymously posted a \$100 challenge contribution, and club members rallied to the match challenge, turning over an additional \$807 to Operation Shoebox!!!

## Cell Phone Contribution Highly Successful

Silky Meegan reports that the club's participation in the "Help Them Call Home Program" was a smashing success, with donated cell phones resulting in over 7,000 phone card minutes being provided to our troops overseas. This is a continuing program so, if you find any other old cell phones laying around, bring them in and give them to Silky at any meeting.

## Looking Ahead to Our November Meeting

Our November 7 meeting will feature a return visit from Dick Anderson, who will bring us up-to-date on plans for the November 17 42<sup>nd</sup> Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway. Club members planning to participate in this upcoming trip will have the opportunity to take another look at the hood, and to sign it if they haven't already done so. Dick indicated this week that he may be able to bring the entire car for us to take another look at.

We'll also recap the highlights from our October 20 sponsorship of Steve Griffin over at Citrus County Speedway. In case you missed it, a recap report on this highly successful trip is posted on our website (see [www.villagesracingclub.com](http://www.villagesracingclub.com), "News" page.)

## Member Profile

This month we're profiling Mike Heinke, the member that was instrumental in arranging for Buster Burt to join us at our last meeting. Take a look at page 5 for a rundown on Mike's background, and feel free to chat with him next time you see him about his extensive sports-related background.

## Local Racing Corner

In keeping with our objective of promoting local racing interest, here's a recap of upcoming dates at several of our closest tracks. These venues offer great car pool, tailgating opportunities to watch real exciting grassroots racing.

<b>Citrus County Speedway (<a href="http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com">http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com</a>)</b>	
Date	Event
Saturday, November 3	"Dare to Win", Super Late Model, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, 4 Cylinder Bombers
Saturday, November 10	TBARA Sprints, Sportsman, Mini Stock, Street Stock, Pure Stock, V8 Thunder Stock, Fig 8, Women Powder Puff
Saturday, December 1	"Winter Spectacular VI"
<b>Ocala Speedway (<a href="http://www.ocalaspeedway.com">http://www.ocalaspeedway.com</a>)</b>	
Date	Event
Friday, November 2	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman & Modifieds). PLUS – <i>Figure 8 cars.</i>
Friday, November 9	Regular Divisions: (4 Cylinder Stock, V-8 Pure Stock, V-8 Thunder Stock, Street Stock, Sportsman). Plus – TBARA Outlaw Winged Sprints - <i>Powder Puff</i> & (RAIN OUT MAKE UP FOR STREET STOCK)
Sunday, November 25	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual "Turkey Run" Enduro Race - 150 Lap <i>Turkey Run Enduro</i> \$10,000.00. PLUS - 20 Lap <i>School Bus Figure 8</i> .
<b>New Smyrna Speedway (<a href="http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org">http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a>)</b>	
Date	Event
Saturday, November 3	ED MERIDITH MEMORIAL MODIFIED 100, ADVANCE AUTO PARTS PRO TRUCK 50, Late Model, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
Saturday, November 10	Veteran's Day Bright House SLM Challenge 50 - Last Points Race of Season - DOUBLE POINTS, Late Model, Pro-Truck, Modified, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
<b>Saturday, November 17</b>	<b>42nd Annual Florida Governor's Cup 200 presented by Bright House Networks, FLORIDA MINI STOCK CHALLENGE 100</b>
Saturday, November 24	3rd ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE ADVANCE AUTO PARTS PRO-TRUCK CHAMPIONSHIP 100, Late Model, Modified, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock, Strictly Stock
<b>USA International Speedway - Lakeland (<a href="http://www.usaspeedway.com/Index.html">http://www.usaspeedway.com/Index.html</a> )</b>	
Date	Event
Saturday, November 3	USAR Hooters Pro Cup 250

## So You Don't Need to Look it up!

Who's really the best in NASCAR? Well, if you talk to Wendy, it's Tony. If you talk to the McLaughlin's, it's Dale Jr. If you talk to Silky, it's also Dale Jr. If you ask Larry Croom, it's Juan Montoya. Anyway, when I checked theinsidegroove.com to find an answer to this question, I found an interesting set of statistics called "Driver Rating", where a formula was used for the full year 2006 to compute a sort of power rating based wins, finishes, average running position while on the lead lap, average speed under green, fastest lap, most laps led, and lead-lap finishes, along with a prerequisite that the driver has run in at least 75% of the points-paying events. (I'd like to meet the guy that put that formula together!) So, here's what they came up with for 2006:

### 2006 Driver Ratings

Jimmie Johnson	101.9	Casey Mears	70.8
Matt Kenseth	101.7	Elliott Sadler	69.2
Jeff Gordon	98.5	Reed Sorenson	68.4
Kevin Harvick	97.5	Bobby Labonte	67.9
Tony Stewart	97.0	Jamie McMurray	67.4
Jeff Burton	95.5	J.J. Yeley	66.5
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	95.3	Robby Gordon	64.9
Greg Biffle	94.9	Joe Nemechek	60.5
Kasey Kahne	94.3	Jeff Green	59.2
Denny Hamlin	91.7	Dale Jarrett	57.5
Kyle Busch	91.6	Dave Blaney	57.4
Mark Martin	88.2	Ken Schrader	57.2
Carl Edwards	87.6	David Stremme	54.2
Kurt Busch	86.3	Tony Raines	53.0
Brian Vickers	76.6	Sterling Marlin	51.9
Ryan Newman	76.3	Kyle Petty	48.7
Clint Bowyer	74.9	Travis Kvapil	44.8
Martin Truex Jr.	71.3	Michael Waltrip	42.9
Scott Riggs	71.2		

You may not agree with what they've come up with this formula, but understand that there's really no way to prove them wrong (or right, for that matter).

Information and statistics provided by STATS LLC and Nascar, published by <http://www.theinsidegroove.com>.  
Visit this site and view a fantastic collection of information about NASCAR!

#### Club Contact Information:

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Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership	430-2731	bcsherman@comcast.net



## Meet your fellow Club members This Month – Mike Heinke



This month's club member profile introduces you to Mike Heinke, the man-behind-the-scenes who coordinated the October visit from Buster Burt. In fact, the next time you see Mike, ask him to share the story of how he became acquainted with Buster, and how he enticed Buster to share his racing life with all of us. It's an interesting story!

Anyway, Mike is a native of Dayton, Ohio, and resided in the Buckeye State until his 2005 discovery of The Villages. He now lives in The Village of Alhambra, where he takes advantage of many of the activities offered by our community...but we'll come back to that later. Mike is a graduate of Dayton University, where he earned a BS-Education in 1969 and from where he launched what would be a 35-year career in teaching. As an avid sports fan, he quickly immersed himself in high school sports, serving as a high school basketball, baseball, and football coach during his professional teaching tenure. Recognize, though, that this coaching was not a casual pastime for Mike...he was *really* involved, and is a Past President of the Miami Valley Baseball Coaches Association and the State Of Ohio Baseball Coaches Association (incidentally, this is the second-largest high school association in the country.) He was inducted into the Miami Valley Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame during this time and is also recognized as a former AAA (large school) baseball coach of the year. Also along the way, Mike coached two years of Junior College baseball at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio; scouted for six years for the Toronto Blue Jays professional baseball team; worked six summers at The University of Michigan summer baseball camp; played in the Over 40 Baseball World Series in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1990; and officiated seven years of high school basketball. As mentioned earlier, Mike is an avid sports fan!

Now back to The Villages. When he moved here, Mike elected to continue his active participation in sports, now playing pickleball five days each week and golf twice a week. He's become a certified pickleball instructor, and teaches beginners' lessons on Mondays at Coconut Cove Recreation Center. With this level of sports commitment in mind, it was only natural that Mike took an interest in The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club. He's been a NASCAR fan since 1995, and counted himself among the legions of dedicated Dale Earnhardt Sr. enthusiasts until his 2001 death. Since then, he's been a Tony Stewart fan. Similar to the way he immersed himself in the Ohio sports scene, Mike has become an active racing aficionado, having attended events at nine different NASCAR tracks (one summer alone he made it to five races!), and has done four ride-along ventures at four tracks. As is the case for many of us, Mike's favorite race is the "Night Race at Bristol."

So, now you know the background on Mike. The next time you see him, be sure to thank him for the role he played in bringing Buster Burt into our fold!

## STAR-BANNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007

**RUNNING  
WIDE OPEN**  
JOE  
VANHOOSE



## Buster's story

Arthur "Buster" Burt watches NASCAR races on television almost every Sunday. He sees the cars draped in colors of Fortune 500 companies thunder by grandstands packed with 100,000 fans. He can't believe this is the same sport he got into in 1949.

"It was so different then. We were just farm boys who did it as a hobby," he said. "Now, it's this big corporate business. I would have never thought it would go this far."

The races he watches now are a far cry from a small dirt track in Maine where he got his start. Sitting in the grandstand with a couple of friends, Burt heard the announcer call for anyone who had a car in the parking lot who wanted to race. Burt stood up and grabbed his keys.

"I knew I shouldn't do it, and my buddies thought I was crazy," he said. "But I finished fifth, and I didn't hurt the car."

"From that point on, I had the bug."

Burt raced regularly from 1950 to 1963 and has stayed close to the racing business for more than 50 years. Earlier this year, he was inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame. Last Wednesday, he spoke as an honorary guest at a meeting of the Villages Motor Racing Club.

"It's so great to have a guy like Buster who was there when this sport began," said club president Glen Carter. "We are losing a lot of these people these days, so we need to celebrate them and learn from them."

Burt's career stands out, begging the question of what might have been. After racing at Oxford Plains Speedway in Maine, he joined the Air Force and transferred to Orlando. He quickly became a favorite at tracks in Orlando, Lakeland and Melbourne.

"The first time I raced down here, I rolled a car over the fence," Burt said. "But I learned quickly how to make the car stick in the corners."

"We figured out that handling was more important than speed, and we got our car handling great."

Burt also raced in two of the last races held on Daytona Beach in 1957 and 1958, and at the first race at Daytona International Speedway in 1959. He competed in the sportsman division and ran nine laps before his engine expired. Still, the high-banked 2.5-mile super-speedway - the only track of its kind in 1959 - left an impression on the dirt-track driver.

"I remember we were going through inspection, about to go out on the track for the first time, and my leg was shaking so bad I couldn't stand," Burt said. "I never raced on a track where you could mash the accelerator the whole way around, and that's probably what blew the engine."

Burt got an offer to run the NASCAR series in 1958 but couldn't because of his military commitments. The Air Force took him away for 90 days at a time, meaning he could never race for a track championship.

"If the Air Force would've known I was racing, they wouldn't have let me do it," he said. "I would've loved to go race with the big boys, but it never worked out."

Burt married in 1979 and stayed away from the sport until 1992, when he got a chance to drive a transport hauler with his wife for NASCAR driver Mark Martin. Burt's wife, ZoeAnn, needed some convincing to go through with it.

"I had a problem with the whole thing because I wasn't that big of a race fan," she said. "But it turned out being a great time, and the race fans loved us."

ZoeAnn had more reservations when her husband got back behind the wheel of a racecar. He raced legends racecars in Maine in 1994 and 1995.

"I always worried about him, but I knew it was in his blood," she said. "In the end, I had to let him do it."

Burt hasn't raced since 1995, but the 78-year-old Villages resident says racing is still in his blood.

"It's one of those things where the bug will always be there," he said. "I'd race today if I could find something to race."

"I didn't really do anything before racing. That's what I do."