



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report -

## November, 2009



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*Next Club Trip...*

*The 44th Annual Florida Governor's Cup  
Saturday, November 21*

## A Race Track Close to Home

Our October 28 meeting featured a visit from the operators of Sumter Motorsports Park (SMP), a recently-added local racing facility a mere 24 miles from our traditional car pool starting point at Laurel Manor Rec Center. Track Operators Bill and Lori Cleary (3rd & 4th from left in photo) described their efforts over the past year and a half to build a racing facility from scratch, and described the successes they've had and the challenges they face. Bill described the racing series that regularly compete at SMP, noting that their monthly events include a variety of quarter-scale classes: micro sprints, mini sprints, Gadget sprints, Slingshots, and many others.



From left, Glen Carter; Wendy Touchette; Mike Touchette, Bill, Lori, and Cindy Cleary, Evan and Ivan Page, Gerry Hafer, Harold Bedell

Bill and Lori provided a pictorial recap of some of their more notable events, including their February "Central Florida Winter Nationals", describing it as the event (cont. page 2)

## Another Sponsorship Under Our Belt

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club again demonstrated its commitment to the support of local racing with the October 17 sponsorship of Florida racer Harold Bedell of Bayonet Point at Sumter Motorsports Park (SMP). Bedell, driving the bright red no. 24 in the highly competitive Florida Slingshot Series (<http://floridaslingshots.com>), has become well-acquainted with the club, and represents a lot of what the club is all about. In the words of Wendy Touchette, club Special Events Coordinator, "Here's a man living his dream, and we're honored to have the chance to help him." Bedell is in his first full year of competition in the series, having jumped into the sport as a 68 year old rookie with "the need for speed!"



Crew Chief Carter presents sponsorship check to Bedell in pre-race ceremony

# Club to Sponsor Jessica Murphy in Gov. Cup Event

This year's club trip to the Florida Governor's Cup 200 Super Late Model Event at New Smyrna Speedway will again feature a sponsorship deal with Dick Anderson and his New Dixie Racing Team. We'll be supporting the efforts of 19 year old Jessica Murphy of Groveland, Florida. Despite her age, Jessica is a veteran racer, having started competing in the Quarter Midget ranks at age 6 and progressed through the ranks to Pro Trucks and, last year, to Super Late Models. With over 100 feature wins and a Central Florida Pro Trucks Series championship at New Smyrna in 2007, Jessica is poised and ready to advance to higher levels of accomplishment, and promises to be a tough competitor in the November 21 Governor's Cup event.

Many of you may know that Jessica is fresh off her competition in NAS-CAR's Drive for Diversity program on October 19 & 20. Competition among 29 hopefuls took place at Radford, Virginia's Motor Mile Speedway



(formerly New River Valley Speedway), and will result in 10 finalists for the diversity program, all of

whom will then participate as Revolution Racing teams in either Camping World Series (4 of the 10) under the direction of Andy Santere or the Whelen All-American Series under the direction of Blair Addis. "Jessica placed 6th in the field in the driving competition," reports Anderson, "So her chances of making the final cut look pretty good at this point."

Working with Florida racing legend Anderson also gives Jessica a good chance for success in the prestigious Governor's Cup event. Between Dick and his son, Wayne, the Anderson racing family has claimed five Governor's Cup titles, and

Dick added a sixth in 2007 with Jeff Choquette at the wheel of the famed No. 92. You'll probably recall the 2007 race...our logo was front and center on Choquette's hood as he dominated the event. It was another great night for the club!



Dick Anderson discussing race strategy with rising star Jessica Murphy

## Details on the Governor's Cup Trip

**Bus Leaves Laurel Manor Rec Center at 3:30 pm**

**Cost—\$50/per person (includes transportation, admission, sponsorship, and \$10 food voucher)**

**Seats are going fast—Email Wendy Touchette (mrswwt@comcast.net) to register**

## A Race Track Close to Home (continued from page 1)

"that put them on the map" in Florida racing circles. Preparations are underway for the 2010 edition of the Winter Nationals, Cleary reported, with the dates set as February 19 to February 21.

Joining the Clearys at the October 28 meeting were Ivan and Evan Page, regular competitors in the micro spring class at SMP, and Howard Bedell, Slingshot competitor. Speaking on behalf of their fellow competitors, both the Pages and Bedell praised the efforts of the Cleary family in building a first-class racing facility. Calling it their "home track," the Pages and Bedell all expressed confidence that the track will continue to grow and offer extraordinary racing in the future.

Bill Cleary closed the discussion with an open invitation for all club members to visit the facility on Sunday November 22 for "Family Day." He reported that anyone interested in trying out one of a variety of cars that will be on hand will be welcomed to do so. **(Yes...he meant actually drive it on the track! So, you closet racers, this is your chance!!!)** Cleary also reported that the final night of racing for 2009 will be Saturday, November 21, so mark your calendars.



Lori Cleary

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

## News Items of Interest to the Club

### Buzzie Reutimann to Close Out Year at Tampa's East Bay Raceway Park on December 11

November 3— Racing legend Buzzie Reutimann announced plans to compete in the Open Wheel Modified (OWM) season-closing event at East Bay Raceway Park on Friday, December 11. Reutimann indicated that his son, NASCAR star David Reutimann, will also likely be in the field for that event, which is run in conjunction with the Crate Late Model Championship program.

In reviewing his schedule for the remainder of 2009, Reutimann reported that he plans to compete in OWM events at East Bay on November 14, November 28, and December 5. The 11/28 event will be the pres-

event with a \$100 to win purse. David is scheduled to compete in this race as well.

With two wins and 6 top ten finishes at East Bay this year, Reutimann continues to be a force to reckon with each time he takes the track. Running a limited schedule (entering less than half the events), he's 12th in points as of this date, and always a favorite to win.

Reutimann also reported that he is considering entering an OWM event at Hendry County Speedway on Saturday, Nov. 21. This event is run in conjunction with the NASCAR season-closing event at Homestead



Buzzie at Sunshine Speedway (1960's). Photo from [www.floridastockcars.com](http://www.floridastockcars.com)

The stuff you can find on the internet is absolutely amazing, as evidenced by the photo above.

### Governor's Cup and Snowball Derby Linked



October 19— FASCAR Media and New Smyrna Speedway announced the addition of a \$10,000 bonus for any driver winning both the 44th Annual Florida



Governor's Cup 200 and the 42nd Snowball Derby 300-lap event at 5 Flags Speedway in Pensacola Sunday, December 6. Regular NSS sponsor MJS Concrete of Oviedo has posted the sponsorship award. The eyes of the stock car community will be on these two prestigious events, with only one previous dual win on the record books ( Ed Howe in 1972). On a local level, Wayne Anderson has been a frequent entry in the Snowball Derby, bringing home a win in 2001. The Derby regularly draws the biggest names in stock car racing, as evidenced by a previous winners list that includes such names as Pete Hamilton, Donnie Allison, Darrell Waltrip, Jody Ridley, and Ted Musgrave, with Rich Bickel Jr. in the record books as a five-time winner. The added bonus should add to the car count...and the suspense...at the Nov. 21 Governor's Cup event!

### See...it wasn't only us!

October 7— NASCAR today announced a series of changes to its schedule for race starting times for next year as part of its "back to basics" approach to meeting the demands of fans. All daytime Sprint Cup races in the Eastern and Central time zones will start at 1:00 pm ET, while all west coast events will start at 3:00pm ET. Night races will have a fixed start time of 7:30 pm ET, except for the Coca Cola 600, which will retain its 5:45 pm ET start time. These changes will result in 29 Cup

events having earlier start times, offering fans both consistency and an earlier finishing time. The official press release posted on NASCAR.com noted, "It's become clear to us that traditional, early Sunday afternoon, start times are favored by NASCAR fans who both attend races and watch on television," reported the press release, "Additionally, the new start times will help track operators get fans in and out of the track earlier in the evening. "

Does any of this sound familiar to you? Note that the Sunday afternoon comment, as well as the comment about getting fans in and out of the tracks earlier, both are remarkably similar to the very points we made to FASCAR and NSS to get the earlier start time commitment for the Gov. Cup event. We couldn't quite get them to move it to Sunday, but maybe next year? Anyway, NASCAR calls it "back to basics,"...we call it steps in the right direction. Hope to see you all Nov. 21!



## Welcome, New Members!

Our club continues to grow and, at our October 28 meeting, we added 11 new members to our ranks. Unfortunately, we were only able to corner the six shown below for photographs...those of you who we missed are asked to see Tom Horrmann at the January meeting so we can grab your photo!

Renewals for 2010 are now being accepted by our Membership Chairs—Bob and Camille Sherman—so we'll soon have an updated membership count for you. In the meantime, take a few minutes at the next club function to introduce yourself to these new colleagues and help welcome them into the club!



Gail and Dave Whalen - Garden City South, NY



Linda and Rick Hearn - Schenectady, NY



Bud Koehler - Babylon, NY



Ed Bull - Mechanicville, NY

## Matt Bowers Heads to Daytona

Matt Bowers will put his Rolex GT competitor's license into play this week over at Daytona International Speedway, when he straps into a GT Camaro for his first tour around the track at Daytona. This step marks the breaking of new ground for Matt Bowers Racing, and will introduce him to the rigors of yet another dimension of motorsports...this time the 3.56 mile road course at Daytona. In a testing session scheduled for November 5, Matt will put the Camaro pictured below through its paces, while continuing to do the behind-the-scenes networking that will build additional bridges for his future.



## Special Events Roundup



Although we're moving into the final months of 2009 (I suppose "sprinting" might be a better word!), we've still got a lot of excitement happening between now and the end of the year. In fact, we're well into planning a host of events for the first half of 2010, including trips that have been requested by members. As always, your Special Events Committee is dedicated to bringing you the opportunities you're interested in, all the while covering as many of the motorsports-related bases as we can. Like we've said many times before, if you have a suggestion for an event, a trip, a speaker, or a meeting topic, just let us know and we'll do our best to bring it to you. So, here's a list of what's on tap for the next few months:

Date/Event	Event Details	Special Information
November 7, 2009 Picnic @ Colony Cottage Bocce & Shuffle Courts	Catering by Sonny's Bar-B-Q, 1-4 pm, \$8.00 per person, 2 meats, 3 sides, ice tea & lemonade (BYOB)	Club members only; This event will replace the clubs picnic at Dick & Mary Anderson's.
November 13, 2009 Zephyrhills 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual "Fall Auto Fest"	Swap meet, collectors car auction, dirt track- Vintage auto racing and car & truck show. Car pool from Laurel Manor lot, leaving @ 9:00 am	Event open to the public... non-members welcome <a href="http://www.zephyrhillsauction.com">http://www.zephyrhillsauction.com</a>
November 21, 2009 44th Florida Gov. Cup 200	Reservations first come first serve \$50 per person, includes Dick Anderson sponsorship, track admission, \$10 food voucher, bus transportation. \$20 Bus reser- vation, non-refundable unless weather can- cellation. Bus departure from Laurel Manor lot at 3 pm sharp	Event open to the public... non-members and non-Villagers Welcome <a href="http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org">http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a>
December 1, 2009 Holiday Hall of Fame Night	Colony Cottage @ 7pm, Dinner 7:30 pm Dinner \$22.50 per person Vic's Embers, Salad served at table, Carved Roast Beef, Potatoes Au Gratin, Italian Green Beans, Apple & Cherry Cobbler Reservations accepted with deposit of \$10	Club members only
<b>2010 Trips Now Being Planned</b>		
January, 2010	Fantasy of Flight Trip, Polk City, FL	Car Pool Trip, Details TBA Non-members and non-Villagers welcome
February 6, 2010	NASCAR Budweiser Shootout, Daytona International Speedway	Bus Trip, Details TBA Non-members and non-Villagers welcome
February 14, 2010	NASCAR Daytona 500 Daytona International Speedway	Bus Trip, Details TBA Non-members and non-Villagers welcome
March 12, 2010	NHRA 41 <sup>st</sup> Gaternationals Deposits accepted in January 2010, \$59 per person, 2 Busses reserved	Bus Trip, Details TBA Non-members and non-Villagers Welcome <a href="http://www.nhra.com/">http://www.nhra.com/</a>

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

## Officers for 2010

At our August 26 regular business meeting, a Nominating Committee, consisting of Wendy Touchette, Barbara McLaughlin, and Camille Sherman, was appointed to receive nominations for officer positions for the Club's Board of Directors for the 2010 term (January, 2010 through December, 2010). Based on the input received through 10/28, your Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of candidates for election at the October 28 meeting:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
President	Gerry Hafer
Vice President	Mike Touchette
Secretary	Silky Meegan
Treasurer	Tom Horrman
Special Events Coordinator	Wendy Touchette
Newsletter/Website Apprentice	Dean Vetter
Special Events Apprentice	Gerry Greims
Membership Chairpersons	Bob & Camille Sherman
Members-at-large	Dave Bockman
	Buster & Zoe Ann Burt
	Dave Colbert
	Wayne Nolan
	Peter Tetrault
	Bill Wilkie

There were no further nominations from the floor, and the slate listed above was unanimously elected to take office at the January 27, 2010 meeting.

## Local Racing Corner

As we've said many times before, one of the great things about living here in central Florida is the access that we have to so many great racing venues within a reasonable driving distance. As we've also said many times before, we need to support these local tracks as much as we can so that they can continue to operate. It's been said that the most expensive seats any race track has are the ones that are empty. So, let's fill them up, and let's wear our yellow shirts and make a statement!

Race Track	Telephone	Website	Race Schedule
Ocala Speedway	352-622-9400	<a href="http://www.ocalaspeedway.com">www.ocalaspeedway.com</a>	Friday Nights
Citrus County Speedway, Inverness	352-726-9339	<a href="http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com">www.citruscountyspeedway.com</a>	Saturday Nights (some special event nights)
New Smyrna Speedway	386-427-4129	<a href="http://www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org">www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org</a>	Saturday Nights
Orlando Speedworld	407-568-1367	<a href="http://www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org">www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org</a>	Friday Nights
Volusia Speedway Park , Barberville	386-985-4402	<a href="http://www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net">www.volusiaspeedwaypark.net</a>	Saturday Nights
Auburndale Speedway	863-551-1131	<a href="http://www.auburndalespeedway.com">www.auburndalespeedway.com</a>	Saturday Nights
Bronson Motor Speedway	352-486-2763	<a href="http://www.bronsonmotorspeedway.com">www.bronsonmotorspeedway.com</a>	Saturday Nights
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park	352-308-7664	<a href="http://www.originalspeedwaypark.com">www.originalspeedwaypark.com</a>	Check website for schedule
Sumter Motorsports Park, Bushnell	863-286-9456	<a href="http://www.sumterracing.com">www.sumterracing.com</a>	Oval racing 3rd Saturday nights; special events on 2nd and 4th Saturdays

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### The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

Glen Carter, President (751-6442)  
 Gerry Hafer, Vice Pres./Newsletter (751-3643)  
 Ted Cahalane, Treasurer (751-2638)  
 Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)  
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 Linda Carter, Historian (751-6442)  
 Mike Touchette, Member at Large (430-0239)  
 Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)  
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)  
 Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)  
 Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)  
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)  
 Tom Horrmann, Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)

### Preview of 2009 Hall of Fame Event

On December 1, 2009, The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club will induct its third Hall of Fame class. Joining previous year's inductees will be another all-star lineup of luminaries from the world of motorsports, bringing our total HOF membership roster to xx.

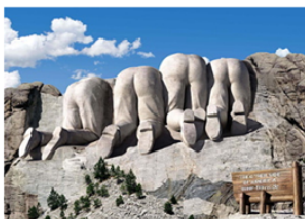
Here's a quick recap of the personalities slated for induction this year:

- Debra and Ned Bowers—Matt Bowers Racing
- Duncan Paterson—Formula One's "Hot Doc"
- Joe Lewandoski—Florida Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (FASCAR)
- Karl, Stephen, & Jean Stutzman—All About Karts
- Jim Hedlund—"The Ringmaster"
- Betty Erde—"The First Lady of Firsts"
- Keith Chartrand—The Villages Daily Sun
- Bill & Lori Cleary—Sumter Motorsports Park
- Harold Bedell—Living a Dream

This promises to be another great opportunity to spend time with these folks and to once again share their thoughts and experiences on the world of motorsports.

#### Thought for the day

You know, there are some things that you just never think of.....like, Mt. Rushmore from the Canadian side.



### So you don't need to look it up...

Continuing the thought from last month on the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) statistics, we're providing a recap of the history of champions in this racing organization. This month, we'll recap the drivers who have won ARCA titles during the series' 56 year history:

Driver	Titles
Frank Kimmel	9
Iggy Katona	6
Bob Dotter	3
Dave Dayton	3
Jack Bowsher	3
Nelson Stacy	3
Ron Hutcherson	3
Tim Steele	3
Benny Parsons	2
Bill Venturini	2
Bobby Bowsher	2
Lee Raymond	2
Marvin Smith	2
Ramo Stott	2
Andy Hillenburg	1
Bill Baird	1
Bob Brevak	1
Bob Keselowski	1
Buckie Sager	1
Harold Smith	1
Jim Romine	1
Justin Allgaier	1
Larry Moyer	1
Moose Myers	1
Scott Stovall	1
Tracy Leslie	1

(Statistics courtesy of RacingOne.com)

And, in case you're not aware, one of the top performers on the ARCA circuit this year is 21 year old Alli Owens of nearby Daytona Beach. Alli, a 13-year racing veteran, drives the No. 19 ElectrifyingCareers.com Toyota. In 2009, she placed in the top 10 twice (6th at Talladega and 10th at Pocono), racing against the likes of Joey Logano, Bobby Gerhart, Ken Schrader, and Frank Kimmel, to name just a few. She's poised for tremendous success.



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



## Special Event Announcement

### An evening with NASCAR driver

***David Reutimann***



Join us for the 2009 David Reutimann Foundation annual auction and dinner. Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Silverado Golf and Country Club 36841 Clubhouse Dr. Zephyrhills FL 33541

Meet David Reutimann of the #00 Aaron's Dream Machine NASCAR Sprint Cup Toyota. Winner of the 2009 50<sup>th</sup> Coca Cola 600

We will have a delicious dinner provided by Sonny's, live music, activities, and fun for the whole family. The auction will begin after dinner at 7pm, with exclusive professional sports memorabilia (many items are autographed by NASCAR drivers and other professional athletes. Some of the many items up for auction this year include autographed drivers uniforms by Tony Stewart, Kasey Kahne, and David Reutimann. We will also have a lot of sheetmetal panels from NASCAR Sprint Cup cars (some of which are signed by the respective drivers of the cars). Other sports items from MLB, Professional Tennis, Golf, etc. will be up for auction as well.

All proceeds to benefit local charities via the David Reutimann Foundation.  
Call today (813)788-1225 (or just show up on the 27<sup>th</sup> for the fun)

Adults \$20 children under 12 free