

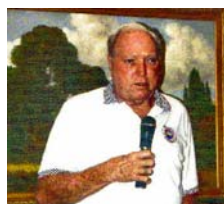
The Villages Racing Fan Club

December, 2006



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November's meeting speaker...another great one!

Our November guest speaker continued upholding the Club's mission of providing informative—and highly entertaining!—speakers to share their expertise in racing. **Buddy Pearce** certainly filled that bill, treating us to a narrative of the “real world” of short-track stock car racing.

Buddy's engaging style held our attention as he described his career in late models and modifieds on the small tracks in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area before migrating to the south (after competing in the snow a few times, Buddy recognized that a change in climates would be better for his career!)

During his highly entertaining talk, Buddy shared many fascinating accounts of his on-track and off-track experiences racing with the likes of all-time greats Tiny Lund, Tom Pistone, the Alabama Gang, including Red Farmer and Bobby and Donnie Allison, and others. One of the most entertaining tales described how his momentary lack of a \$20 Nascar driving license kept him from stepping into a quality car...and allowed Ned Jarrett to maneuver past him and grab it!

Buddy also shared his views on a variety of developments in the stock car racing world, including restrictor plate racing, tire sizes, and the “car of tomorrow”. He also shared some insights to the “old days” and the methods used by teams to “cheat” (let's say stretch the rules to their advantage).

Message from the Crew Chief/President

Our Club's membership continues to expand and, with the addition of 16 new members at our November meeting, we're approaching the 100 level! I think what pleases me most, though, is that our members are enthusiastically embracing what our Club is all about—promoting a Villages-wide interest in the fantastic sport of automobile racing.

Those of you who attended our November 1 meeting were once again treated to an opportunity to come together and discuss racing from a variety of perspectives. Our guest speaker (see recap below) was superb, and we launched our official Club newsletter and covered the slate of events and activities shaping up for the future months. Aside from all that, though, I think everyone just enjoyed being with friends who share a common interest—racing of any sort!

Thanks again to all of you for helping with the Club's highly successful launch. As all of us on your Pit Crew/Steering Committee have said, we welcome your continued input and suggestions, and we eagerly look forward to an exciting time as our plans unfold. One more thing...a special note of thanks to **Olyn Guice** for his stirring rendition of the National Anthem at the November meeting...we're looking forward to many of you stepping to the plate to continue this tradition at future meetings!

Glen

Special Events Committee Report

One of the Club's primary missions is to arrange activities and events designed to be of interest to a wide slice of our membership. Toward this end, our Special Events Committee, headed by Front Tire Carrier **Wendy Touchette**, has been busy developing a preliminary slate of items being considered for the coming year. Wendy introduced her Committee at the November meeting (**Sharon Kaminski, Leigh Davenport, Mike Howard, Terry Howard, Alan Stone, Dave and Carol Robinson, and Mike Touchette**), and previewed a few of the planned activities, including:

- Poker Run/Tailgate Party
- Nascar Race Night
- A trip to Daytona Speedway during test sessions
- A raffle for an on-track driving experience
- A show-type event at the Polo Grounds ("Horsepower at the Polo Grounds")

December Meeting Special Guest

Our special guest speaker for the December 6 meeting will be **Buzz Wilkie**, representing International Speedway Corporation. As we noted last month, ISC owns and operates 12 tracks on the NASCAR Nextel cup circuit including Daytona, Talladega, California, Phoenix, Kansas, Richmond, Martinsville, Michigan, Homestead, Darlington, Watkins Glen, and Chicagoland, as well as several other racing-related



businesses, including MRN radio, Americrown (merchandise and food and beverages), ISC publications, RacingOne.com, RaceTickets.com, Motorsports Images and Archives, Event Solutions, and ISC Travel.

Mr. Wilkie is an account manager with ISC, responsible for developing long-term business relationships and marketing programs for several key accounts including Pepsi, Dewalt, Elizabeth Arden, Wachovia, Sears Craftsman, Goodyear, Toyota, Checkers, Texas Instruments, and AAA. In addition, he is ISC's everyday contact to reach one of the 12 tracks and other ISC business units. He is a 1999 graduate of Elon University in Elon College, North Carolina, and was previously affiliated with the Birmingham Bulls (minor league Hockey Team), the Carolina Hurricanes, and the Orlando Magic.

January Meeting Preview (NOTE: DATE CHANGE)

Due to a scheduling conflict, the date for our January meeting has been moved from Wednesday, January 3 to Wednesday January 10. This is a one-time change—the February meeting will return to our regular schedule (first Wednesday of the month—February 7, 2007).



Our special guest and speaker for the January meeting will be the owner and promoter of the Ocala Speedway. Ocala is a 3/8 mile semi-banked asphalt tri-oval located at 9050 N. W. Gainesville Road (just north of Rt. 326 along Rt. 25a) northwest of Ocala). This is an excellent spectator track and an easy drive up I-75 from The Villages (Exit 358).

Local Racing Corner

As we mentioned at the November meeting, one our objectives is to organize “tailgating” trips to local race tracks. Two such trips took place in November, and those who participated were treated to some excellent racing:

- **The 41st annual Governor’s Cup 200 late model event at New Smyrna Speedway (11/18/06)**

A group of our Club members braved the cold weather (it was about 46 degrees at race time) at New Smyrna Speedway to see an excellent race. Thirty-two “Super Lates” took the green in the Governor’s Cup event, including our local favorites **B. J. McLeod** (driving Dick Anderson’s car) and Wayne Anderson. Unfortunately, McLeod crashed during his qualifying run and was not able to compete. **Wayne Anderson** (Dick’s son) qualified third, but after leading most of the early and mid-race laps, was involved in a three-car accident on lap 159 and received heavy damage. He finished 15th in the event, which was won by **Jeff Scofield** of Plant City. For a more detailed account of the race, see www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org.

Here are a few of your fellow Club members enjoying the balmy weather over at new Smyrna:



- **R. H. Brooks Memorial (Hooter’s Pro Cup) 300 event at USA Speedway (11/25/06)**

Our Club’s tailgaters were treated to more cooperative weather for this event, with temperatures in the 60’s at race time. Those who made the trip to Lakeland were treated to a first-rate event, with 36 cars taking the green on this spectator-friendly ¾ mile facility. Although **Bobby Gill** dominated the late stages of the race and built a winning margin of almost 8 seconds over second place finisher (and series champion) **Clay Rogers**, there was plenty of good, side-by-side racing. For a complete recap of the event, visit USAR site at www.usarprocup.com (click on the “News” link for the race details).



Shelby Howard, driving Tony Stewart’s entry, ponders the night ahead (left photo)

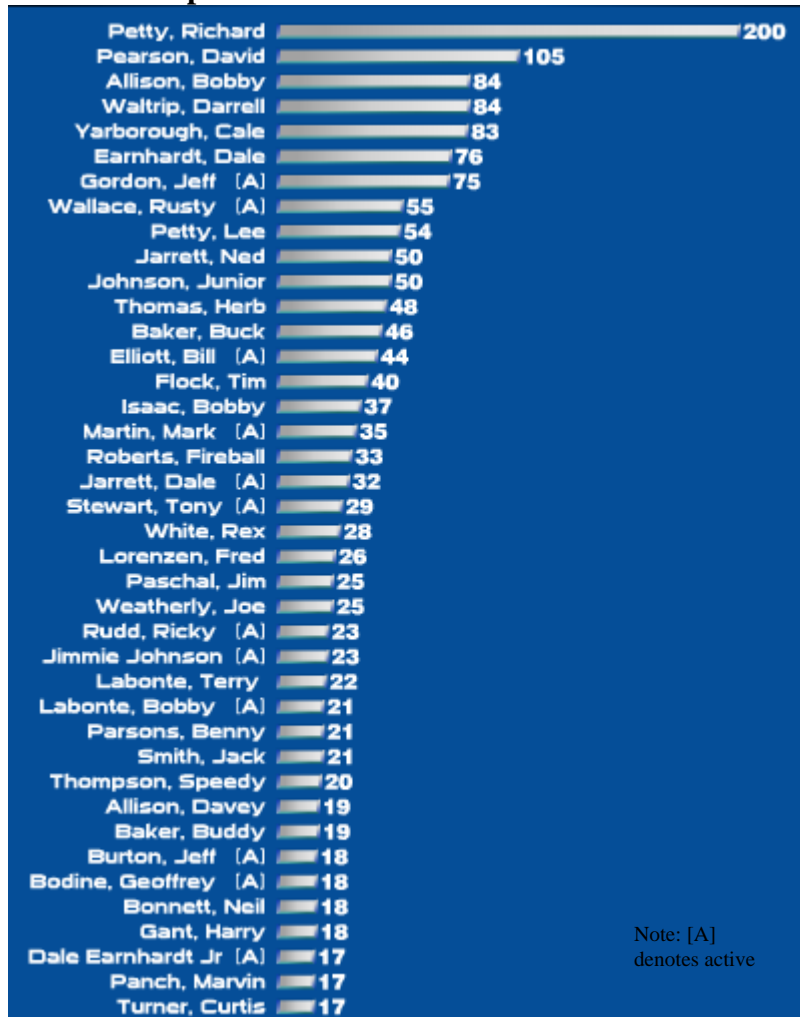
Joe Gibbs Racing’s developmental driver **Joey Lagano** greets fans before racing begins (right photo)



So You Don't Need to Look it up!

Last month we included the statistics on the top 25 Cup-level winners in the “modern era” (1971 to present). That generated a bit of concern on the part of some serious **Richard Petty** fans, since The King was shown as being in fifth place with “only” 60 modern-era wins. To set the record straight, then, this month’s statistical page will show the all-time Nascar winner list, with The King in his rightful place at the head of the class. This information is used with permission from *theinsidegroove.com*.

Top 40 All-time Nascar Race Winners



Courtesy www.theinsidegroove.com

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