



## *PIT NEWS* *December, 2022*

*Editor: Donna Gross*

**Next Meeting: January 4, 2023**

### *A Few Words from the President's Desk*



I'm hoping everyone had an enjoyable Holiday. As we get ready to say goodbye to 2022 and usher in 2023, I can assure you that we have a great line-up of speakers ready to tell their stories to our membership. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 4, 2023 back at our usual meeting place, Colony Recreation Center, going green at 7:00pm. Our speaker will be Joe Gerardi. Joe is the owner of a 1957 Ford dragster. The name of the dragster is "The Brothers Two."

We had a great turnout of almost 60 people for our last monthly meeting at Laurel Manor Rec Center. Thanks for all who were able to attend.

Tickets are now available for our annual Hall of Fame Induction Celebration. It will be held at the Eisenhower Recreation Center on Saturday, February 4. Tickets are \$40 per person. Please see the details in this newsletter and don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to a great night out.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on January 4. Until then, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Regards,  
Chris Bleistein

## Next Meeting - January 4



Our next meeting is on Wednesday, January 4 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker is long-time drag racer, Joe Gerardi. Originally from New Rochelle, NY, Joe now resides in Vero Beach, FL.

Over the years Joe and his brother, Ronnie, have campaigned a beautiful and fast 1957 Ford, which sports "The Brothers Two" moniker. They have captured many event wins, as well as achievements such as best reaction time, low ET and top speed.

Joe lost his brother last year, so now he travels around drag racing and showing their car in memory of his brother.

## December 9 Meeting Pictures



Club president Chris Bleistein and guest speaker Blackie Wangerin



*This year's Hall of Fame Induction Celebration is expected to be an awesome event. The Board has worked hard to make it enjoyable for not just "race fans," but for spouses and friends. It is a night of not only honored inductees, but also to be entertained by the very talented entertainer Suzie Casta.*

*Tickets can be purchased at the January 4 meeting for Hall of Fame Induction Celebration or by calling Donna Gross at (352) 399-6072.*

**TICKETS NEED TO BE PURCHASED AND PAID FOR  
BY JANUARY 15, 2023**

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

**Saturday, February 4, 2023**

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

**EISENHOWER RECREATION CENTER**

3560 BUENA VISTA BLVD  
THE VILLAGES, FL 32163

Suzie Casta will be performing

COST \$40 per person

You can also purchase tickets by mailing a check payable to TVMRFC to  
Donna Gross, 3871 View Path, The Villages, FL 32163

## Important Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 4, Wednesday     Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 1, Wednesday     Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 4, Saturday       Hall of Fame Induction Celebration, Eisenhower Rec Center 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19, Sunday        Daytona 500 Watch Party, Rohan Regional Rec Center 2:30 p.m.
- Mar. 1, Wednesday     Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.

## Pictures from the Christmas Parade - December 2, 2022



*We had 8 golf carts and 4 walkers to carry the banner.  
A good time was had by all on a sunny December day.  
Thanks, Silky, for organizing this event.*

## UPDATE FOR GATORNATIONALS TRIP ON MARCH 10, 2023

A reservation had been made for a bus for the 2023 racing qualifications at Gainesville. NHRA will be sending new tickets and instructions in early February. There will be no increase in the ticket price as this is being treated as a rained-out event.

More details will be provided at the February meeting. There will be some extra tickets available for sale, but not until February.

Mike Gross and Lois Taylor will keep members updated.



### Prediction Row for 2023 NASCAR Season

Prediction Row appears in the sports section of The Villages Daily Sun every NASCAR race day.

A group of twelve club members signup at the beginning of the season. Six predict the winner of races 1 – 13 and six predict the winner of races 14 – 26. Using the points NASCAR awards after each race, our competitors accumulate points for their predictions. From each group, the three with the most wins/highest points move on to the Playoffs.

Our six Playoff predictors then compete for the Prediction Row Trophy. The player with the most wins/points is crowned the Champion. Our 2022 winner was Donna Dillon.

I am recruiting club members (especially new club members) to participate for the 2023 season. Basically, there are two requirements: you must be a club member and you must be able to communicate by email. Since we use email, you don't have to be here. You don't even have to know anything about NASCAR as there is plenty of information available through Google.

This is a very easy and fun way to participate in club activities. Prediction Row enables the club to garner recognition during the 36 weeks of the racing season. As a participant, you will also be recognized for at least 13 weeks and one of you will win the Prediction Row trophy.

If you would like to volunteer or ask questions, please contact me, preferably by email – [silkyssunshine@gmail.com](mailto:silkyssunshine@gmail.com). I have only six positions left so the first six responders get the opportunity.

Thanks,  
Silky Meegan  
Prediction Row Coordinator



## Membership Notice

It is time to renew your membership for 2023. If you haven't renewed, you can do so at the membership tables at the meetings. Of course, you can renew by mail if you wish, but please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me Lois Taylor, 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163 and I will mail your 2023 sticker to be placed on your membership card. If you cannot find your card, please let me know ASAP and I will request a new one for you. Also, include your home state if you want it printed on your card.

By starting now, we hope to reduce the line at check-in at the meetings. I look forward to seeing all of you again this year. Our club is growing, so arrive a little early and PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK IN. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY RACE FANS ARE ATTENDING BECAUSE THIS ASSURES US THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR BIG ROOM AT COLONY COTTAGE.

If you have not picked up your membership card, please check the table by the entrance to the meeting room. I have a number of cards that have not been picked up.

Lois Taylor  
Membership Coordinator

### Mark your calendar

*Plans have been made to have a  
Daytona 500 Watch Party on February 19, 2023 at 2:30PM at  
the Rohan Regional Recreation Center. More details to follow.*

### 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](mailto: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....



\*\*\*\*Donna, the editor, is still wrapped up in Christmas lights. I should be done and ready to return next month with useless tidbits or a joke or two. \*\*\*\*



*Let's Welcome our New Members!*

No new members this month

*The Board of Directors would like to wish our club members and their families*



## Club Apparel Is Back

Show off your club pride with "crew uniform" apparel items featuring the club logo. To view the complete line of apparel, please go to the club's website, [VillagesRacingClub.com](http://VillagesRacingClub.com)

These high-quality items may be seen at every club meeting. Some items without your embroidered name are "cash and carry." Orders for embroidered items are taken at each meeting but we now need to order a minimum of 6 items at a time. Cash or check is required at the time of order.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please see Crew Uniform Manager Mike Gross at a club meeting or contact him at [mikesg201@gmail.com](mailto:mikesg201@gmail.com).

## Sponsorship Opportunity with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club



Our club's Sponsorship Program is "revved" 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 [cbracer1316@gmail.com](mailto:cbracer1316@gmail.com).

## *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.*





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](mailto: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.



# 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
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Coordinator	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
John Angiolo	Member At Large	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Chris Dirato	Member At Large	Mechanic	917-921-9070
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
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



ARCA  
Midwest Tour



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



Ultrex Printing  
Lady Lake, FL  
352-205-8222



Lefthander Chassis  
Roscoe, IL  
815-389-9999



Professional  
Home  
Maintenance  
and Repair  
Services

Triline Services  
The Villages, FL  
217-433-1394



Kokomo Speedway  
Kokomo, IN  
765-459-3877



**Platinum Sponsor**  
Mike Scott Plumbing  
Wildwood, FL  
352-748-9111



Parts Geek  
Doylestown, PA  
800-541-9352



Fox Pest Control  
Orlando, FL  
407-863-3592



**Benefactors**  
John Angiolo  
Pat Fehrman  
Alan Stone

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