



## *PIT NEWS* *December, 2023*

*Editor: Donna Gross*

**Next Meeting: December 6, 2023**

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



Greetings Fellow Yellow Shirts:

As 2023 draws to a close, I'd like to thank everyone for making my first of three years as your club's President a good one. I was afraid the guys wouldn't want some old lady being their leader, but you have welcomed me with open arms. We have had great speakers, thanks to Chris Bleistein and Art Fehrman, and I like to keep things moving along so early risers can be home in bed by 9:00.

We have had some amazing special events and my hope is that many more of you can join us in 2024.

At our Hall of Fame Induction Celebration, we will be inducting past presidents who are not already in: Glen Carter, Gerry Hafer and Chris Bleistein. Please join us for a fun night of honoring our speakers from this past year and those who have served the club so honorably. Throw in some dancing to the music of Tight Genes and it will be a night to beat.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a happy, healthy New Year, and to be safe in all you do.

Sincerely, Gerry G  
Crew Chief/President

## Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 6, Wednesday	<b>Monthly Meeting, Moyer Rec Center 7 p.m., 3000 Moyer Loop (near Walmart Neighborhood Market)</b>
Jan. 3, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
Jan. 6, Saturday	Car Club Showcase, Brownwood Paddock Square, 4-9 p.m.
Feb. 7, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
Feb. 20, Tuesday	Hall of Fame Induction Celebration, Rohan Rec Center, 4:30 p.m.



*The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club*  
*Hall of Fame Induction Celebration*  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

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

**ROHAN RECREATION CENTER**  
850 KRISTINE WAY  
THE VILLAGES, FL 32163

**TIGHT GENES - Singing Siblings will be performing**



The ticket price has NOT increased – the cost remains at \$40 per person. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a great night. Catering by Pasta Faire. Please see Donna Gross at the December and January meetings or call Donna at 401-323-1334 if you cannot attend the meeting but want tickets. You can also mail a check (payable to TVMRFC) for \$40 per person to Donna Gross, 3871 View Path, The Villages, FL 32163

## Next Meeting - Dec. 6

### IMPORTANT NOTE

**Our December Meeting Will Be Held on Wednesday, December 6 at  
Moyer Recreation Center, 3000 Moyer Loop (near Walmart Neighborhood Market)**



Our guest speaker will be journalist and author Richard Golardi. A graduate of Kean University in New Jersey, Golardi has been following open wheel racing since attending his first race in 1964 at Langhorne Speedway.

Richard currently writes a column on Florida sprint car and open wheel racing for Hoseheads.com titled "Florida Open Wheel," which he has done for the past 14 years. Previously, he reported on the IndyCar Series for OpenWheelRacers.com and was a feature reporter for Flat Out Magazine. The racing videos on his YouTube channel, Florida Open Wheel, have been viewed over one million times.

Golardi recently published his first book, for which he conducted interviews and research for five years -- ***Racers in the Sun, Volume One: The Story of Florida's Sprint Car Legends***. This book is a collective biography with 13 individual biographies and the story of one iconic Florida race track. It is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

A retired small business owner, he owned an insurance and financial services agency in Florida for 30 years, which included 15 years as the West Melbourne Allstate Insurance agent. He currently resides in Melbourne, Florida, and enjoys getting behind the wheel of his classic car, a 2014 Corvette Stingray.

Signed copies of Richard's book will be available to purchase at the December 6 meeting for \$30 (\$2 less than on Amazon) and \$10 of this will be donated to our club. It will be signed by Richard Golardi and Wayne Reutimann.

## *The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club*



We will be collecting toys at the December 6 meeting. Let's try to surpass what we collected at the November meeting (which was 35 toys and \$50 in cash donations). They will go to children in our Tri-County area with the Toys for Tots program, run by the Marine Corps veterans. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for someone up to 12 years of age. No candy, clothing or gun-like items, please. Craft items such as crayons, coloring books, stickers, doodle pads and colored pencils are also desired. Thank you for making a child's Christmas a bit brighter.

### **Final NASCAR Race Watch Party**



On Sunday, November 5 about 30 members and guests gathered to watch the final NASCAR race at Colony Cottage Rec Center on the big screen. Jeff Ing did a great job decorating a cake made for a championship. We enjoyed a pot luck meal and each other's company as we watched Ryan Blaney win his first Cup title.

### **Car Club Showcase**

Our Club has been invited as one of seven featured car clubs to showcase cars on January 6 from 4-9 p.m. at the Brownwood Paddock Square. If you are interested in volunteering that night, please call Jeff Ing at 631-897-6863.

## Prediction Row 2023



We have ended our 2023 Prediction Row season. From the first race at Daytona to the final race at Phoenix, our competitors brought their knowledge of racing and their fingers-crossed luck to every issue of Prediction Row in the Daily Sun on NASCAR race day. Below are the final standings at the end of The Playoff.

Brian Dillon, 2023 Champion - 2 wins, 394 points  
Donna Dillon, 2022 Defending Champion - 2 wins, 363 points  
Tim Burk - 2 wins 335, points  
Craig Simundza - 1 win, 380 points  
Chris Dirato - 1 win, 368 points  
Rick Almeida - 1 win, 301 points

## Prediction Row 2024

The Daily Sun has once again invited our club to showcase our predictive skills during the NASCAR 2024 racing season. I will have a spot at one of the back tables to begin recruiting for the 2024 season. Traditionally, the current champion will defend his/her winning season. There is also a redemption spot for the competitor who came in last. That leaves ten spots available for club members to fill. I am especially encouraging new members to sign up as a way to easily get involved in the club and receive recognition.

## What is Prediction Row?

The NASCAR season is 26 races long. Twelve club members sign up for the year and pick either the first 13 races or the second 13 races. On NASCAR race day, Prediction Row appears in the Sports Section of the Daily Sun. Our competitors simply predict who they think will win that day's race and give a short reason. Our predictors are awarded the same points NASCAR awards the drivers and those points are accumulated throughout the segment. At the end of each 13 weeks, the top 3 (most wins predicted) will compete in The Playoffs, which are the last 10 races of the season. That is it in a nutshell. There are only 2 qualifiers – you must be a club member and you must be able to participate via email.

Sign up at the meeting or contact Silky Meegan at [silkyssunshine@gmail.com](mailto:silkyssunshine@gmail.com). If you have already expressed an interest, please contact me to be sure I have your name.

Silky Meegan  
Prediction Row Coordinator



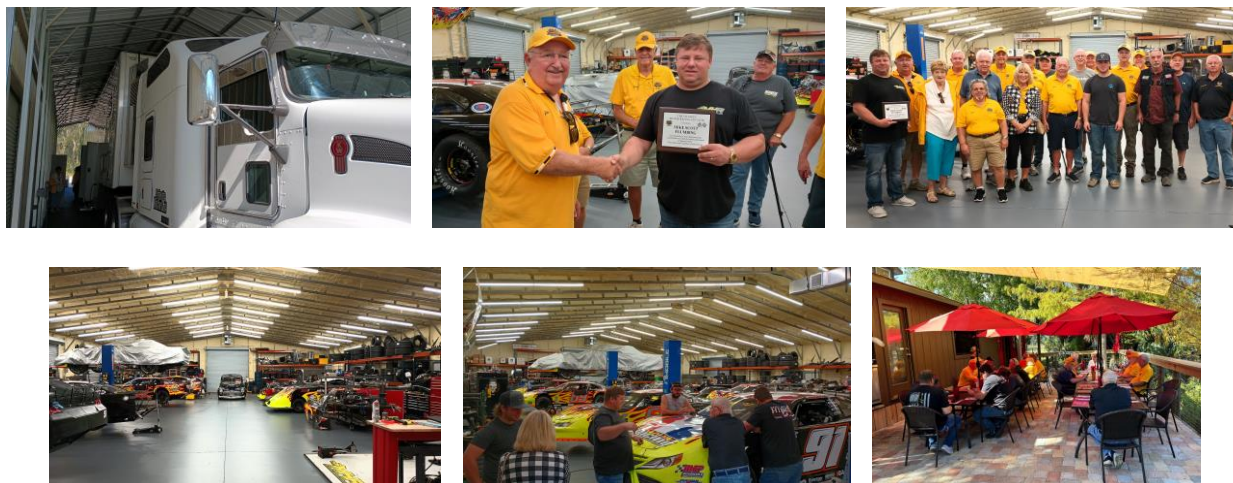
## Pictures from Nov. 1 Meeting



“Wild Bill” Stevenson and President Gerry Greim

## Michael Hinde Shop Tour

On Nov. 8 club members visited Michael Hinde Racing in Hernando. Michael is a member of our HOF. Later, they enjoyed lunch at Red's Restaurant



## The Villages Christmas Parade at Spanish Springs Wednesday, Nov. 29



The parade began at 3 p.m. in Spanish Springs Town Square. We have been a part of this annual tradition for at least a dozen years. We had 7 golf carts and banner carriers and walkers. The large crowd seemed to enjoy seeing us.

Silky Meegan, Christmas Parade Organizer

## Nov. 12 - Governor's Cup Race, New Smyrna Speedway



## Living Legends Banquet - Tuesday, Feb. 13

**Last call** if you want to attend the Living Legends Banquet in Daytona Beach. Tickets are \$66 and checks made payable to Chris Bleistein or cash needs to be given to Chris by December 6.



Members meet at Bob Evans Restaurant, 2199 Parr Drive (corner of CR 466 & Tall Trees Ln) every Thursday at 8 a.m. to sit and chat about all things racing. So come join the fun. Sit with fellow members and have a coffee or have breakfast.

*Let's Welcome our New Members!*



NO NEW MEMBERS

## 2024 Membership Information

It's that time of year again. Memberships expire on December 31. You can renew your 2024 membership at the December 6 meeting if you want get it done. Renewal cost is \$20 per person. If you won't be at the meeting, please feel free to print off a renewal form from the website and mail it to me. Send it to me at: Lois Taylor, 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163

The Board of Directors has been working hard to get top-notch speakers and a lot of other things for this year's club meetings. See you there. Please be sure to stop at the sign-in tables and check in. We have to get an accurate count to continue to keep our meeting room at Colony Cottage Rec Center.

Lois Taylor  
Membership Coordinator



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



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!  
ENOUGH A JOYOUS **MERRY CHRISTMAS** OR A **HAPPY HANUKKAH** AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!

### *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 members.

### *Get Well and Thinking of You*

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

### **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

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 need to order a minimum of six 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 Mike Gross at a club meeting or contact him at mikesg201@gmail.com.



### **Assistant Media Coordinators**

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, club website and Facebook. We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. 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).

### **Recording Secretary**

We need a volunteer to record minutes at our board of directors meetings. These are held at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, August - April. The minutes are then emailed to the board members. Please call or email club president Gerry Greim to talk about this opportunity, 215-630-1402 or [gerryglbi@cs.com](mailto:gerryglbi@cs.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, Gerry Greim at 215-630-1402 or [gerryglbi@cs.com](mailto:gerryglbi@cs.com).



## PIT CREW

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

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Gerry Greim	President	Crew Chief	215-630-1402
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Volunteer needed	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
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	Sponsor Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Art Fehrman	Special Tours Coordinator	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Jeff Ing	Car Shows Coordinator	Spotter	631-897-6263
Chris Dirato	Member At Large	Mechanic	917-921-9070
Chris Bleistein	Immediate Past President	Team Owner	954-729-3050
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



ASA  
Midwest Tour



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



Ultrax Printing  
Lady Lake, FL  
352-205-8222



Choice Awards  
Bellevue, FL  
352-245-4496



Professional  
Home  
Maintenance  
and Repair  
Services

Triline Services  
The Villages, FL  
217-433-1394



**Gold Sponsor**  
Village Kart Aide  
The Villages, FL  
352-409-5853



**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



Illinois Stock Car Hall of Fame  
Roscoe, IL  
708-254-5196



Historic Auto Attractions  
Roscoe, IL  
815-389-7917



Kokomo Speedway  
Kokomo, IN  
765-459-3877



Village Airport Van  
Lady Lake, FL  
352-241-2000

## 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.