



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Special Edition Newsletter

Tuesday, December, 2009

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Hall of Fame Continues to Grow!



Class of 2009

(From Left) Club President Glen Carter, Betty Skelton Erde, Joe Lewandoski, Ned & Debra Bowers, Keith Chartrand, Jim Hedlund, Club Vice President Gerry Hafer. Missing from photo: Duncan Paterson; Karl, Jeanne, & Stephen Stutzman; Lori & Bill Cleary; Harold Bedell

Our club's Hall of Fame—now in its third year—took another step forward on December 1 with the induction of another 13 members as the "Class of 2009." Club President **Glen Carter** put it best with the comment, "Our Hall is well on the way to becoming the "Who's Who" in Motorsports in Central Florida, and there's no doubt in my mind that we'll continue in this direction in the years ahead."

This year's group of inductees was again represented the diversity of the club's motor racing interests. For example, the Class of 2009 included an

award-winning journalist, a husband/wife team dedicated to the building of a race team, representatives of a team of golf cart specialists attempting to earn a spot in the Guinness World record with a 125 mph cart, and a Formula 1 specialist. The Class also included the operators of a newly-formed local race track, a FASCAR marketing director, a former track official who played a part in one of NASCAR's defining moments, and a racer who began his career at the tender age of 68. And, if that wasn't enough, the night's list of

sports celebrities included the woman known around the world as "The First Lady of Firsts"—a lady who has "held more combined land records and more air records than any other women (ever)."

This group of inductees now stands alongside some of the greatest names in local racing. For a refresher, take a look at the previous year inductees on the "Hall of Fame" page of our website. As noted earlier, it really is becoming a "who's who" of racing in Florida. The next few pages of this special edition newsletter will highlight the "Class of 2009."

The Class of 2009

On the next few pages, we'll give you a recap of this year's inductees into The Villages Motor Racing Hall of Fame. With the addition of this "Class of 2009," total membership in our "Hall" now stands at 38. We expect this number to continue to grow as we bring additional racing-oriented personalities into club meetings to share their experiences with us. It's one of the ways we have of keeping our members informed on the wide variety of racing venues, and it's just one of those things that makes our club great!



Duncan Paterson brought his tremendous background and knowledge in open-wheel, Formula One racing to our attention at our March, 2009 meeting. As we quickly learned when he joined the club, "he's not from around here," having been born in Scotland, lived in England and eventually in Canada (where he now winters) before finding The Villages. Duncan completed medical school in London in 1961, and was affiliated with the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, Ontario. A medical man by profession, he was bitten by the racing bug in the early 1970's when he landed the assignment as Track Medical Officer at several tracks on the F1 circuit in Europe, including Brands-Hatch and Mallory Park, and Mosport and Shannonville in Canada. Then, in the late 1970's he really got the bug, and formed a race team in which he served as part-owner, part driver competing in a Mini Cooper at places like Watkins Glen and Lime Rock. And, on top of that, he went ice-racing in Ontario and was Studded class champion two years in a row!

Affectionately known in racing circles (and perhaps in medical circles as well) as "Hot Doc," Duncan currently divides his time between his home in Barrie, Ontario and The Villages. Unfortunately, he could not be with us at the December 1 event, but we were able to employ the club's technology expertise to allow his participation remotely.



Our next 2009 inductees—**Debra and Ned Bowers**—are both well known to us and are well known in local racing circles. They appeared at our January meeting and gave us a history of their family's twelve years of progress toward building a NASCAR star. As founders of Matt Bowers Racing based in Mt Dora, Florida, and the proud parents of previous year Hall of Fame inductee Matt Bowers, they shared with us the family side of big-time racing, with stories about the wins, the losses, the hardships, the fun, and the camaraderie that is so prevalent in the developmental ranks of the racing world. In addition to their proudest moments, like Matt's 100+ feature wins, his Lowe's Summer Shootout Championship, and his current efforts in the Super Late Model ranks, they shared what it takes to succeed as a family unit. But the Bowers' success is not limited to racing. Deb's accomplishments include being Co-Founder of the world famous Fantasy of Flight in Lakeland, Florida; her experience as Program and Development Manager, Sun 'n Fun Air Museum and Fly-In Team; and her current responsibilities as Vice President & General Manager, Skybolt Aeromotive Corp. in Leesburg. Ned's resume features his current work as a Delta Airlines "big iron", international pilot; his role as Founder of Milspec Products in Sorrento, Florida; and his work as a NASA Launch Vehicle Mechanical Systems Engineer, as well as his role as the owner of Skybolt Aeromotive Fasteners.



As most of you know, we are always on the lookout for representatives of local race tracks to visit us and give us the inside scoop on their facilities. In April of this year, we were honored to have FASCAR's Marketing Director **Joe Lewandoski** join us to provide not only an in-depth look at New Smyrna Speedway's operations, but to share his thoughts on local, short-track racing as well. A native of Terryville, Connecticut, he is a graduate of Ohio University and earned his Masters degree at Stetson University, where he later served as Assistant Basketball Coach before turning his attention to the world of racing. His first job in racing was the position of General Manager at Tucson Raceway Park in Tucson, Arizona, and from there he progressed through a variety of positions at short tracks in diverse locations such as Massachusetts, Washington, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. He eventually wound up at NASCAR before ultimately joining FASCAR and New Smyrna Speedway.

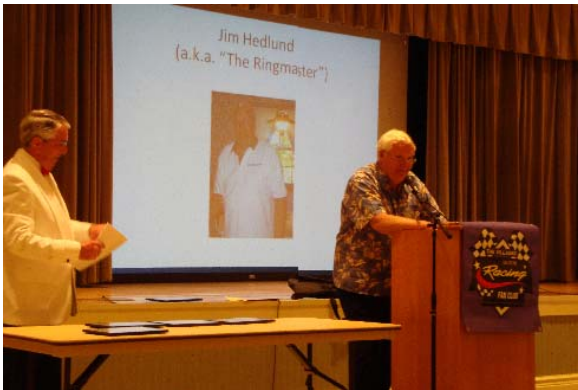
During his April visit with us, he provided a genuine historical perspective on racing then and now, along with the history of New Smyrna Speedway, one of the two tracks where he serves as FASCAR's Marketing Director. One of the highlights of Joe's presentation was his description of our club's membership as "true racing fans," primarily due to our demonstrated interest in "good old Saturday night short-track racing."

The Class of 2009 (Continued)



Since The Villages is pretty much “all about carts,” we thought it appropriate at our May 27 meeting to invite one of the area’s premier golf cart service specialists to give us some pointers. With a business name like “ALL ABOUT CARTS,” it was clear that a family operation like **Karl, Jeanne, and Stephen Stutzman** from nearby Hernando County would fill the bill, and they certainly did not disappoint us. With Karl leading the way, the Stutzman’s provided a thoroughly entertaining and rewarding discussion on golf cart maintenance and golf cart safety, with emphasis on when and when not to be a “do it yourselfer.”

But we’re race fans at heart, and what many of us viewed as the highlight of the Stutzman’s visit was their discussion on the quest to get into the Guinness Book of Records with a 125 mile-per-hour golf cart. There’s no doubt in our minds that this intrepid threesome can pull it off, and we’re all looking forward to learning of their success in this venture.



Earlier in 2009, we discovered that there was an honest-to-goodness part of NASCAR folklore living right next door to The Villages. **Jim Hedlund**, our next inductee, is the individual who has been affectionately nicknamed “The Ringmaster” for his role in breaking up the famous, or perhaps infamous, last lap brawl at the 1979 Daytona 500 between Cale Yarborough and Donnie Allison that has become one of NASCAR’s defining moments.

But that’s not his only claim to fame. He has a long history in motorsports that includes affiliations with drag racing facilities in Winnebago County, Illinois and Oswego, a close affiliation with Rockford Speedway, and a career as sports writer for a number of major racing-oriented media outlets. He also field assignments on ASA, USAC, and NASCAR fire/safety crews, working on stock car, Indy Car, and midget venues at a host of major tracks, including Riverside, Michigan, Atlanta, Texas, Darlington, Rockingham, Talladega, and

of course Daytona.

In addition to his racing-related exploits, he has also had successful careers in soft drink/beer distributorships, an airport crash crew, a tavern owner, and a stint in the Sheriff’s department in Winnebago County, Illinois. He also owned and operated a tour bus line, and presently operates a private label cigar importing business.



Our next inductee, **Keith Chartrand**, is an award-winning journalist with The Villages Daily Sun, and has received numerous awards and commendations for his sports-related writing. For example, in 2008 he was awarded the Florida Press Club Excellence in Journalism award for Sports Feature Writing and the Florida Society of News Editors Journalism award for sports writing. Most recently, last month he again placed first in the Florida Press Club’s voting for Sports Feature Writing and Headline Writing, an honor he shared with fellow Daily Sun reporter Mike Orton. He also shared a third-place award for Sports Page Design in the Press Club’s 2009 Excellence in Journalism competition. With a Bachelors of Science in Communication and a minor in Journalism from State University of New York College at Fredonia, he is well-equipped for his career in sports journalism and is well known in local and statewide sports circles. He’s especially recognized by our club as the guy that routinely reports our “Prediction Row” NASCAR forecasts!

As a transplanted northerner (a native of Massapequa Park, N.Y.), he cut his teeth in the sports reporting world with a seven-year stint at ESPN in Connecticut. As ESPN’s Associate Director and Assignment Editor, he got a solid, behind-the-scenes look at the workings of NASCAR by serving as a liaison between the on-site production crews covering races and ESPN’s home base. He has also participated in NASCAR’s Media Day activities at Daytona International Speedway, and has provided extensive coverage of major NASCAR events at this track as part of the Daily Sun’s sports reporting team. Outside of the sports writing arena, his interests include writing stories that move people, golf, college football, weight training, and photography.

The Class of 2009 (Continued)



Our next inductee is known the world over as “The First Lady of Firsts.” **Betty Skelton Erde’s** accomplishments are legendary, including the setting and breaking of records in an incredible number of areas, from aviation to automobiles. Along the way, she’s rubbed elbows with many of the biggest names in the world of sports, and has been enshrined in more than ten major Halls of Fame, including the one most familiar to our club...the Motorsports Hall of Fame, where her name stands alongside such legends as Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, Bobby Allison, Cale Yarborough, John Force, and Bill Elliott. As an aviatrix, she’s done some incredible things, like being the first to fly a plane upside-down and cut a ribbon ten feet off the ground. As a driver, she’s piloted a jet car over 300 miles per hour. As a boater, she’s jumped speedboats over stationary objects. She’s set endurance records at Baja and Darlington, sports car records at NASCAR Speedweeks, and aerobatic records as an International Feminine Aerobatic Champion to go along with a series of light plane altitude records. There’s a long list of similar accomplishments that she’s logged, but you get the picture, I’m sure. In fact, one sportswriter summed it up this way, “..(she’s) held more combined land records and more air records than any other woman (ever).”

As a tribute to her life, Betty has been invited to participate in the Lyn St. James “Women in the Winner’s Circle” traveling exhibition, scheduled to kick-off at Daytona International Speedway during 2010 Speedweeks, and will travel around the United States for a four-year tour engaging viewers and informing them about the history of women in motor sports.

Betty’s dear friend, NASCAR Founder Bill France Sr., is quoted as saying, “I would venture to say there is no other woman in the world with all the attributes of this woman. (She) will forever remain a lady...a Super Lady in my book!” A Super Lady in our book, too.



Our next two inductees—**Lori and Bill Cleary**—have a rich history in racing at the kart level in central Florida, having competed for over 15 years at many local tracks in this area. Their involvement resulted in their formation of a go-kart parts business, and provided an entry into the sport for their sons who also competed locally. Eventually, their racing activities evolved into a dream to build a race track and, after obtaining agreement from the Sumter County Fairgrounds board, they put this dream into gear. In late 2007, they began construction of what would become Sumter Motorsports Park (SMP), and launched their promoter careers with exhibition races in conjunction with the 2008 Sumter County Fair. As they gained experience, the track continued to grow in prominence, and their hosting of the 2008 first annual Central Florida Winter Nationals put them on the map in Florida racing circles.

SMP continues to build its reputation as a great racing facility, and plans are on the books to expand the track to accommodate an even greater variety of racing classes. The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club salutes SMP and its contribution to local racing, and welcomes Bill and Lori Cleary to its Hall of Fame.



2009’s final inductee is a man living a dream. At age 68 and a few years into comfortable retirement from his duties in the Sheriff’s Department in upstate New York, **Harold Bedell** made the decision to launch a career as a race car driver. Like so many of us, he was an armchair racing enthusiast since childhood. The pressures of life, though, and the unavailability of the small fortune required to get into auto racing, kept him on the sidelines enjoying the thrills from afar. When he retired in 1999 and made his way to Florida, however, he found an article in a racing magazine that caught his attention. The article described a new class of race car—called “Slingshots”—that offered an opportunity to get into the sport with a modest investment. With the blessings of his wife of 23 years, Terri, he began to do some serious research. After studying the market, and watching “Youtube” video footage of Slingshots in action at nearby Sumter Motorsports Park (SMP), he was hooked!

Our club made a connection with this racer when we visited Speedway Park in nearby Fruitland Park, and many of us found him to be a kindred spirit. In fact, probably a few of us even envy him for what he’s doing at this stage of his life. Our relationship with him evolved over the past several months, and we’re now proud to number him among our growing list of club favorites, and we’ve made the short trip down to Sumter Motorsports Park on several occasions to watch him compete in the Slingshot ranks. As a great side note, we’re proud to report that Harold has been crowned 2009 Track Champion in the Slingshot Series at SMP—an incredible accomplishment for a “rookie!”

Hail to the Chief...Highlights of Three-Years of Leadership



Glen Carter
Founder & First President
2006 - 2009



On behalf of the Club's Board of Directors/Pit Crew and its entire membership, **Wendy Touchette** and **Gerry Hafer** took a spot on the night's agenda to present a tribute to retiring Club President Glen Carter. With the editorial help of Glen's wife and Club Historian, Linda, Wendy and Gerry took the audience on a tour of Glen's early years, and provided a glimpse of "Glen's softer side," with snapshots of family members, social gatherings, and his hard-charging years as a racer. Anecdotes explaining some of Glen's quirks (like, for example, "bald" peanuts, SCUBA diving for beer, and the real marketing angle behind Hooter's Restaurants) were shared with the audience and, even though he was given access to a live microphone and invited to rebut (or clarify) the commentary, he had little to say. In addition to covering Glen's history up to now, the tribute concluded with a forward-looking projection of where his racing career will go next. A photo of Glen's next race car, specially designed to accommodate his needs, was unveiled, along with the informal announcement that he was planning to join the Florida All Stars Tour scheduled to launch in February of 2010. We'll see.

At the conclusion of the tribute, Glen was invited to the podium to receive a plaque in honor of his exemplary leadership since the club's September, 2006 founding.



Glen's Future Racing Plans



Glen's Special Award...A Good News/Bad News Scenario!



As part of the Hall of Fame night's goal of honoring retiring Club President Glen Carter, Board Member and Pit Crew Technical Advisor **Arthur "Buster" Burt** presented a special gift to Glen of tickets for a NAS-CAR Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. That was the good news. Buster followed his announcement, though, by stating in simple terms, "The bad news is you missed the race!" It seems that Buster was the holder of two luxury box seats for the November, 1992 race at Atlanta, the event that most NAS-CAR fans will remember as being Richard Petty's last race, Jeff Gordon's first race, and the race in which Bill Elliott lost the NASCAR Championship to Alan Kulwicki by a mere 10 points. Buster was actually there, but didn't get to use the tickets because he was attending to pit duties as a member of Mark Martin's support staff. He kept the tickets as mementos, knowing that some day they would come in handy. Glen also attended that November, 1992 race, but his ticket stubs were long lost.



Glen Carter Crew Chief Award Goes to Wendy Touchette



One of the night's many highlights featured the awarding of the "Glen Carter Crew Chief Award," an honor designed to pay tribute to members who have made substantial contributions to the club's success. In his remarks announcing the 2009 recipient, Carter said, "When we established this award last year, I was caught off-guard and didn't realize until later what an honor it is to have my name become a permanent part of an on-going award. I was pleased to see it go to Gerry Hafer for his work on behalf of the club, and I'm honored again this year to be the one who gets to present it to another club member in recognition of contributions to what we're about as an organization.

"In selecting a recipient for 2009, Gerry and I realized quickly that it wasn't going to take much thought. For the past three years, we've both worked with this person on so many club events, trips, and just plain club business that, thinking back on it, it kind of boggles my mind. It's been quite an experience to watch someone with these organizational skills take command of details in a way that allowed us to look so good as a

club. Organized is just one of the words that describe her approach to things...others are unflappable, especially when things don't go as we planned; thorough, making sure all the little stuff comes together; understanding, when some of us fumble the ball on the assignments she gives us.

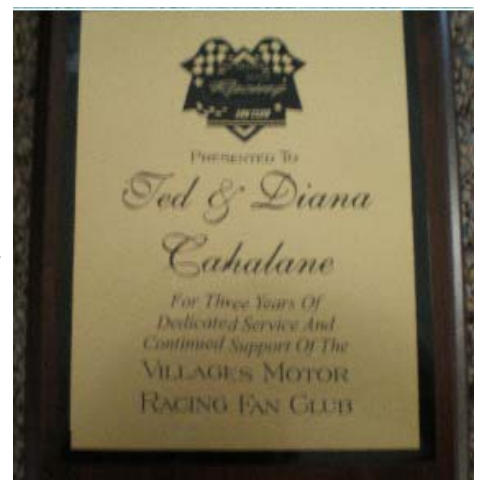
"We've accomplished so much during three short years, and I think all of you would agree with me that without her, our trips and events would have been sort of chaotic. In fact, Gerry and I have remarked on many, many occasions that if it would have been up to us, it would have been just one disaster after another!"



Honoring the Cahalanes for Jobs Well-Done



In addition to Glen Carter's retirement as Club President, Club Treasurer **Ted Cahalane** also previously announced that he would be stepping down from his post and handing the financial reigns over to a successor. Ted has been Treasurer since the club's inception, presiding over what turned out to be an incredible volume of cash transactions as a result of the equally incredible number of trips, events, and activities undertaken during the three-year life of the organization. During Ted's tenure as Treasurer, his wife, Diana, was likewise instrumental in handling many of the club's behind-the-scenes administrative functions, including filling in often at the membership table during meetings, arranging special projects, and of course keeping Ted in line.



To recognize the Cahalanes and their contributions over the club's three-year history, President Carter presented a commemorative plaque to them, and recapped their value to the organization. In accepting the recognition, Ted expressed his pleasure in being affiliated with this great organization, and indicated that he was leaving the Treasurer position with a zero balance in the checkbook. (Just kidding!)

Comments of Appreciation from Matt Bowers



Matt Bowers, former Hall of Fame inductee (Class of 2008) and 2009 recipient of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club's College Book/Tuition Scholarship took the podium during the night's program to express his appreciation to the club for its support. In addition to updating his fan base on the progress of his academic program at Lake-Sumter Community College, Matt provided an overview of his current efforts and future plans for his racing career. Part of his recent experiences, he noted, included his work as a pit crew member for fellow Super Late Model racer Jessica Murphy at the November 21 Florida Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway. "It was a real learning experience," he quipped, "especially the pit stop and the exploding lug nuts." Nevertheless, he noted, it is important for him at this stage to compile as much outside-the-car experience as possible to complement his behind-the-wheel expertise. Matt noted that 2009 was a year of re-building and re-tooling for his team, and expressed optimism looking forward into 2010. One of the team's plans, he noted, is to consider entering the Florida All Stars Tour program now being developed by Dick and Wayne Anderson and Alan Bruns. This series would enable Matt to accumulate seat-time in competition with Florida's elite competitors, and would produce another credential for his already impressive resume.

Glen's Parting Comments

Here's a reprint of Glen Carter's final remarks as Club President/Crew Chief...

"When I first put the ad in the paper for this club I had no idea all this would happen. It's been a great three years, seeing what I started touch so many lives. It has been a labor of love, believe me!

I want to say just a few words in parting my post at Crew Chief ----
THIS IS A GREAT CLUB!!!!

I have been involved in racing over 50 years, been to practically all of the big tracks, met a lot of the big racing stars and hero's and had a lot of fun. But the three years I have spent in this Club is by far the most enjoyable of my life.

The people I have met, the people we are honoring tonight and the others on this trophy that we have honored in the past are my real heroes now. They are what makes racing what it is. They don't get the recognition they deserve, but through this Club we have tried to identify them and let them know we appreciate what they do for racing. What other race fan gets to sit in the room with Stars like we have here tonight.

First, I want to thank my wife Linda for her patience. I have spent a lot of time in my "Man Cave" as she calls it, working on things for the Club, instead of taking care of "HoneyDo's." She has worked hard also on keeping the history of the club in scrapbooks. And, the success of any Club like ours, or a Business, or any Venture depends on the people involved. I don't know how I was so lucky and fortunate to have found the guys that have helped me through the years. It was just meant to be.

It was a little rough start back in Sept of 06. (like me trying to tell Wendy how to plan a special event, or tell Gerry how to do a newsletter, or tell Ted how to balance a checkbook) But I soon learned the best thing to do is give them a goal and stay the hell out of the way. I want to thank all of the Board members that have served with me and everybody in the Club for all of your help. It could not have been done without you. I have served three years as Crew Chief and we have won three championships, but it's time for me to move on, so I'm turning my tools over to a proven leader, one that I know will lead this club to many more Championships. Your new Crew Chief - Gerry Hafer."



Scenes From The Big Event



More Scenes From The Big Event

