



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Special Edition Newsletter

December 12, 2010

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### Class of 2010

(From left) Daniel Miller, Austin Kirkpatrick, Camille Sherman, Joe Eytalis, Bob Sherman, Eric Jones, Nic Fernandez, Alan Bruns, Wayne Anderson, Harold Frederick, Marty Ruser, Terry Turman. (Missing from photo: Mickey Gauldin, George Bonefede)



*We wish all of you a fantastic Holiday Season, and a great and prosperous 2011!*

### Our 2010 Hall of Fame Inductees



Fourteen representatives of Florida's racing community joined The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club's Hall of Fame at its December 12 induction ceremony.

In welcoming the new members, Club President Gerry Hafer noted that

there are now 51 names engraved on the club's trophy—names that represent a growing catalog of "who's who" in Florida's local racing circles.

The class of 2010 pictured above is another exercise in racing diversity, with an active NHRA competitor, a local multi-track modified and late model champion, two noted autocross drivers two local track promoters, three up-and-coming local racing stars, and a former NASCAR series champion, along with a racing

historian and several avid fans who brought special interest experiences to the club.

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 2010."

## The Class of 2010

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 2010," total membership in our "Hall" now stands at 51. 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!

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### Wayne Anderson



A professional race car driver from Wildwood, FL, Wayne Anderson began his career at local tracks in central Florida, winning many track championships and major racing events before jumping to higher levels of the sport in the mid-1990s. He competed in the American Speed Association ranks, the NASCAR All-Pro series, the NASCAR Slim Jim All-Pro Series, the ARCA/ReMax Series, the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, the NASCAR Busch North Series, and the NASCAR Southwest Touring Series, along with a brief stint in the NASCAR Winston Cup series. Often, he wore two hats: crew chief in the garage and driver on the track. Locally, he is a three-time winner of the Florida Governor's Cup, the Powell Memorial, the Pete Orr Memorial, and the Super Late Model Championship at New Smyrna Speedway's Speedweeks, and has twice been crowned Florida

Sunbelt Series Champion. Nationally, his record includes wins at the Texas Big Shot 250, the All American 400 at Nashville, and the Snowball Derby, as well as championship titles in the All-Pro series. Most recently, he captured the inaugural championship in the Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour, winning four of the Tour's nine feature events.

### Alan Bruns



After successfully building a career in the construction industry, Clermont Florida's Alan Bruns succumbed to the lure of automobile racing, and began competing in the modified (Florida IMCA/"E" Modifieds) ranks at central Florida racing venues. In his first full year, he was crowned "Rookie of the Year" at Orlando Speedworld, and earned the 2006 modified championship at both Orlando Speedworld and New Smyrna Speedway that same year. Along with competing in the

modifieds, he began to dabble in the Limited Late Model leagues and quickly met success, earning the Goodyear Challenge Rookie of the Year honors at New Smyrna Speedway in the Limited Late Model class. He went on to capture Late Model Championship at Orlando Speedworld and New Smyrna Speedway in 2009. In five years of racing, Alan has accumulated over 60 feature wins in modified and Late Model competition. In 2010, he was a regular competitor on the Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour, finishing in sixth place in the points standings and posting top ten finishes in two events.

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## The Class of 2010 (Continued)

### Marty Ruser



Marty grew up surrounded by racing, watching his father wheel his micro midget car at Fruitland Park's Speedway Park. At age 12, he entered the ranks of go-kart racing, competing first at Speedway Park, and then at a variety of tracks in and around central Florida and surrounding states. With 38 years of experience in the field of motorsports, Terry has not only been a racer himself, but has also specialized in engine building for many of the teams that compete at Speedway Park, where he serves as Race Director. He is currently employed as an engine-builder and jack-of-all-trades at TS Racing in Bushnell, and also has over 22 years of motor building and repair experience in the lawn mowing industry, including 14 years as an independent entrepreneur. Marty is a native Floridian,

born and raised in Fruitland Park where he now lives with his wife (Denise). They have six children and ten grandchildren, all of whom help keep Marty quite busy.

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### Terry Turman



After breaking into the ranks of dirt track racing at Southern Raceway in northern Florida (Hobby Stock class), Terry's family relocated to the Orlando area where he quickly immersed himself in the wild world of go kart racing. He joined the competition at Burbank Speedway in the Ocala forest area, and subsequently volunteered to help out in raceway operations as a corner worker. Then, about two years ago, he transferred his interests to Speedway Park in Fruitland Park at the request of Marty Ruser, and assisted in the reorganization of their raceway operations. He currently serves as Interim Race Director, and is active in working with many of the race teams, helping them with

car building and competition. He's maintained a lifelong passion for racing, and has been instrumental in building and promoting the family atmosphere that is so prevalent at Speedway Park. A second-generation painting contractor, Terry and his family live in Fruitland Park, and are the true embodiment of a family race team.

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## The Class of 2010 (Continued)

### Nic Fernandez



This eight year old rising star of the racing world is an honor student at The Villages Charter School and enjoys a wide variety of sports, but his central passion is racing. He drives the number 03 Kart at nearby Speedway Park, where in 2009 he captured the track's "Rookie of the Year" honors. With three years of racing experience already on the books, this superstar of the future has all the makings of a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead. With a string of feature wins against some tough competitors under his belt, and with the strong support of a family race team behind him, he seems well on his way to achieving his ultimate racing goal...NASCAR. Nic, his crew chief father Jorge, his main fans mother

Stephanie and sister Ali, and his hero/grandfather "Charging Charlie Worth" are the true embodiment of a grassroots racing operation destined for success in life and on the track.

### Eric Jones



As a former General Motors/Buick City worker, this veteran NHRA competitor has been around the automotive world for most of his life. In 1959, at age 14, he attended his first drag race in Michigan and was hooked...within three years, he was behind the wheel. For the next 35 years or so, he competed at various levels in the sport and, upon his retirement from GM in 1994, took the big step of acquiring his "big toy" (Eric's own words)...a 900-horsepower rear-engine rail dragster that enables him to do a quarter mile in under eight seconds (175 mph). But that's not all...Eric is also an accomplished marathon runner, having participated in over 50 events (12 times in the Boston Marathon), and

he's the proud owner of a restored 1931 Ford Street Rod. Eric and his wife, Peggy, are part-time residents of The Villages, dividing their time between summers in Michigan and winters in Florida.

### Daniel Miller



This 13-year old future star has been racing since the age of 4, starting in the ranks of Quarter Midgets in 2000. His first career win was logged at Apopka Speedway in 2001 and, over the next three years, he continued to grow, racking up 20 feature wins and 50 top-five finishes. In 2005, he made the jump to mini-cup cars (half-scale Nextel Cup-type cars), recording top-fives in his first two events. He won six mini-cup features in his first full year of competition (2006), and in 2007 became the winningest mini-cup driver in Florida with 23 feature wins. Continuing his upward progressing into 2008, Daniel moved to the Pro Challenge series, earning Rookie of the Year honors and winning the Florida Short Track Report's Rookie of the Year honors. 2010 finds him continuing to advance, now competing in the ASA Late Model ranks.



## The Class of 2010 (Continued)

### Camille & Bob Sherman



Camille and Bob Sherman have been members of the Villages Racing Fan Club since its inception and currently serve on the Board as Membership Chairpersons. Though not directly associated with racing, both have been avid fans since their days in New York. Both worked for the Grumman Corporation on Long Island (Camille as the Manager of Product Repairs and Bob as a Program Manager for Foreign Military Sales) and when The Northrop Corporation merged with Grumman to form the Northrop Grumman Corporation, both were sent to the Chicagoland area and later to the suburbs of Baltimore. Their four children and their families live along the east coast. When in Boston, they get to go to the races in New Hampshire and when in Charlotte, they go to Charlotte Motor Speedway and the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Bob has written two articles for the Newsletter.

### Austin Kirkpatrick



This young, rising star on the local racing scene began his career at age 7 racing go-karts at nearby Speedway Park. He finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in this class in his rookie year, and quickly moved to state-level competition the following year and national-level competition the year after that. His accomplishments continued to build, and he was crowned National Points Champ in World Karting Assoc. competition in 2006. Then, in 2007, he made the jump to Late Model Stock Cars, running at Desoto, New Smyrna, Columbia, and Lakeland. In 2009, he was

named "Rookie of the Year" in ASA's Southern Division, and in 2010 he became a regular competitor in the Sunoco Florida All Stars Tour and was crowned "Rookie of the Year" in that series, finishing second in the championship points race to veteran Wayne Anderson. He is a resident of Ocala, and a senior at Trinity Catholic High School in Ocala.

## The Class of 2010 (Continued)

### Harold Frederick



For over four decades, Harold Frederick has been traveling the eastern United States chronicling the local racing world and collecting racing memorabilia. A former racer himself (three years behind the wheel of an IMSA Modified competing at Columbia, Bronson, Palatka, New Smyrna, and Ocala), he has been attending races on average of three nights per week for more than forty years, usually shooting 2 to 5 rolls of film per race. Since attending his first race at Daytona International Speedway in 1969, he has been building his collection with material gathered up and down the east coast, from Oswego, to Myrtle Beach, to Talladega, adding a new track each year (his personal goal). In Florida, he's visited every track except Punta Gorda and Orlando Speedworld, and spends roughly the equivalent of one day per week reading

and researching the world of motorsports. He and his wife live in Ocala, where his off-track life includes the operation of a landscaping business.

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### George Bonafede



George Bonafede is a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch, where he mixes business with pleasure by seeking out clients with motorsports interests. A self-described "car nut," he has been a Corvette enthusiast from the age of six, and currently owns a 1990 ZR-1 Vette with a World Challenge engine capable of turning approximately 640 bhp. His Autocross experience is extensive, and he's achieved national-level wins while competing in events across the country. Most recently, George placed second at Sebring in a Time Attack event. He is

currently serving as president of the Martin Sports Car Club of Orlando, and his driving expertise has also led to his recent distinction as a Porsche Club certified driving instructor. George is a native of Rochester, New York, presently lives in Winter Garden, Florida with his wife, Nancyann, their two sons, and a newborn daughter.

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## The Class of 2010 (Continued)

### Mickey Gauldin



Mickey Gauldin is a registered professional engineer in the State of Florida, a background that has no doubt helped him succeed in the field of Autocross racing. He's always been a "car guy," beginning with his very first set of wheels—a turbocharged 1965 Corvair Corsa—and progressing through a number of speed-oriented machines to his present fleet—a 1966 Sunbeam Tiger and a turbocharged 2004 Mazda Speed Miata. Mickey has been an avid Autocross driver since 1970, and has accumulated a wealth of experience at venues

around the state of Florida. Since 2004, he has been affiliated with the Martin Sports Car Club of Orlando, and competes regularly at their Tavares site. He and his wife, Jackie, live in Clermont with their two greyhounds (Josie and Complete Chaos) and are instrumental in a continuing effort to rescue retired racing greyhounds (they've helped place more than 550 since 2007). Mickey is retired from Sumter Energy (SECO), where he served as Director of Customer Services.

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### Joe Eytalis



A self-described "motor head," Joe Eytalis is a veteran car-builder and drag racer with roots in Northern Illinois and a fondness all forms of motorsports. He has a particular affection for NASCAR and drag racing, and has made many friends and acquaintances in the world of racing. Among these are the likes of "Big Daddy" Don Garlits and Doug Rose, known the world over as the man behind the "Green Mamba" Jet Car. Joe recently concluded a career in government serviced with the Federal Aviation Agency, last serving as manager of the FAA's Tampa Tower Facility. Using video segments compiled by his son

Ben, affiliated with NBC's Tampa Channel 8, Joe brought to the club an exciting compilation of visual entertainment on such subjects as "rat Rods," "pocket bikes/minimotos," and a variety of drag racing scenarios, and has expressed interest in working further with Ben to produce a segment including The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.

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*Congratulations to our 2010 inductees!*

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## Glen Carter Crew Chief Award Goes to Wayne Nolan

Another highlight of the evening 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 making the selection this year, the committee took a look back not only at 2010, but at our history over the past four years. When thought was given to the trips we’ve taken and the events we’ve held, it kind of jumped out that one of the major features of our group is the simple fact that we have a unified identity. This identity is not only as a bunch of motorsports fans, or some would say addicts, or some would even say “motorheads”, but more importantly we’re the “folks in the yellow shirts!” That’s our brand when we go to a race, and many times we’ve heard from drivers, promoters, sports writers, and other race fans that “Hey...we saw you guys in the yellow shirts!”

But it didn’t just happen that we all just accidentally decided to wear yellow, it happened through the on-going behind-the-scenes coordination of our club apparel program, and through the quiet dedication of the coordinator of this program. He’s always on the look-out for items that continue to promote our identity, and he tirelessly maintains the inventory, processes orders, and ensures that everyone can get what they need. He even finds time to serve us as “Mr. Golf,” arranging and administering the golf tournaments that many of us look forward to each year. Beyond all that, for the past few years he’s even served with his wife Barbara as one of the organizers of these Hall of Fame events.

In presenting the award to Wayne, retired Crew Chief Carter commented, “I really don’t think you can find a better team player and contributor to the cause than **Wayne Nolan**, and it’s my pleasure to honor him as the 2010 recipient of **The Glen Carter Crew Chief Award**.”



## A Special Award

In addition to honoring our new Hall of Fame members and our newest recipient of the “Glen Carter Crew Chief Award,” the agenda for the night included a very special award to be forever known as the “Buster Burt Teddy Bear Cushion Award.” The legendary Burt presented his recently retired stadium seat cushion (yes, the one with the Teddy Bears all over it) to Wendy Touchette, essentially in acknowledgement of her frequent and persistent comments about the lack of “manliness” when pressed into service at racing events. It was a somber moment for the audience, as Wendy gracefully accepted the “gift,” and as she read a sincere letter to her as written by the cushion itself. As it turns out, the cushion was quite eloquent in its choice of words, particularly when expressing its genuine pleasure at being placed in the custody of our esteemed Special Events Coordinator. Don’t be surprised if this particular item shows up again at some point, possibly as the object of a “re-gifting” gesture in the future!



## Past Hall of Fame Member to be Honored in North Carolina



In his closing remarks, Club President Gerry Hafer called attention to Ms. Betty Skelton Erde (Class of 2009) and her December 17, 2010 enshrinement in the Paul E. Garber First Flight Shrine (Paul Garber was the first executive director of the Smithsonian’s Air and Space Museum). She joins aviation’s greatest names as an individual who has achieved “significant firsts,” and will have her portrait included with such distinguished and celebrated names as Orville and Wilbur Wright, Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Captain Eddie Rickenbacher, John Glenn, Yuri Gagarin, George H. Bush, the Tuskegee Airmen, Alan Shepard and many others. She will be one of over 80 aviation celebrities upon whom this prestigious award has been bestowed. Hafer congratulated her on behalf of the club, and wished her well as she carries The Villages colors to North Carolina!



## Scenes From The Big Event





## More Scenes From The Big Event

