



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Special Edition Newsletter

December, 2011

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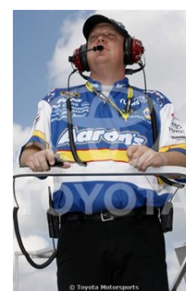
Class of 2011

(Row 1, from left): Sam Patrick, Pete Rosendahl, Billy Garcia, Lee Krauss, Shawn Reutimann. Row 2, from left: John Meeks, Randy Anderson, Kimberly Brown, Robert Hart, Carol Birchwale. Row 3: Marvin Panch)



*We wish all of you a
fantastic Holiday Season,
and a great and
prosperous 2012!*

Our 2011 Hall of Fame Inductees



December 11—Eleven motorsports standouts joined the ranks of The Villages Motor Sports Fan Club's Hall of Fame at a highly-spirited dinner event at Colony Cottage. In announcing this year's inductees, MC Peter Tetrault reflected on the group's diversity, noting that the inductees range “from sprint car veteran to NASCAR spotter, from rat rod standout to track promoters, from Drag racer to NASCAR sponsor rep, from a young rising star to a NHRA veteran and a dirt track ace from the Northeast, and includes a member of NASCAR royalty.” He observed that this collection of personalities is reflective of the club's varied interests and its reach into the world of motorsports.

2011 Hall of Fame Keynoter—Marvin Panch

This year's Holiday Hall of Fame and Awards Night—the fifth annual edition of the event—added a new twist with the inclusion of a Keynote Speaker on the agenda. Through the club's growing network of contacts throughout the motorsports world, we were able to bring a member of NASCAR's royalty to our year-ending event, Marvin Panch. To welcome this legendary competitor to our event, we called on our Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette to deliver a sincere introduction for Mr. Panch; here is a re-print of her remarks in advance of his address to the club:



“As the Club's Special Events Coordinator, I have the honor and the pleasure of introducing tonight's keynote speaker, an individual who has distinguished himself at motorsport's highest level and who has attained what virtually all young stock car racers aspire to.

As a winner of two of NASCAR's most prestigious events—the Daytona 500 and the Charlotte World 600—and as a 17-time winner in Cup-level competition, this gentleman has proven himself worthy of his recognition as one of NASCAR's “50 Greatest Drivers.”

In a racing career that began in Southern California in 1949 and relocated to the East—and to NASCAR—in 1953, this Wisconsin-born racing veteran has driven for some of the most respected car builders in the business—legends like Smokey Yunick, the Woods Brothers, Holman and Moody, and Petty Enterprises, to name a few. He is often referred to as a “natural driver,” and has graced the winner's circle at some of NASCAR's most famous tracks, including Charlotte, North Wilksboro, Atlanta, and Watkins Glen in addition to Daytona.

With 21 poles to go along with his 17 wins, 96 top five and 126 top ten finishes, he has built a racing resume that has been widely recognized across the country. He's been inducted into the National Motor Press Association Hall of Fame, the Legends of Auto Racing, and the Western Motor Sports Writers Hall of Fame. He also is a charter member of the Pure Darlington Record Club and the Unocal 600 Winner's Association, and has been awarded the SMPA Myers Brothers Memorial Award.

Tonight, he adds to this impressive list of accomplishments induction into The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Hall of Fame.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Marvin Panch.”

And with that, the well-respected NASCAR veteran delivered a fascinating recap of his two-day visit in our area, followed by a series of amusing anecdotes about his 15-year career at NASCAR's highest level. Sharing tales about Smokey Yunick, the Woods Brothers, The Pettys, and others, Panch kept the audience spell bound as he re-lived some of his greatest moments in motorsports.



The Class of 2011

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 2011," total membership in our "Hall" now stands at 62. 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!

Sam Patrick



Sam Patrick is a veteran drag racer who launched his career in 1962 with a '49 Chevy powered by a 357 Chrysler Hemi, then moved to a '57 Chevy 327 that he raced until 1970. After taking an eight-year break, he got back into competition in a '51 Anglia with a 454 Chevy power plant...he wrecked that car at Mid Michigan Dragway in 1980, and then built a 1980 Chevy Monza. He raced the Monza until 1985, then "retired" to focus on family and business matters. As Sam puts it, "My net worth increased much faster without the race car!" Then, in 2003, facing the potential doldrums of retirement, he returned to the sport with a 1937 Chevy Coupe (fuel injected 406 c.i. small block), and in 2005 moved over to the ranks of "nostalgia racing" where he compiled 13 wins in six years of competition at many tracks in the Midwest.

Pete Rosendahl



With 36 years of experience with Remington Arms and a wide range of experience in marketing, **Pete Rosendahl** was a natural to lead the company into the dynamic world of motorsports marketing in 1990. After about a year of careful planning, Pete's efforts reached maturity when Remington Arms signed on as a sponsor for Derrick Cope's no. 10 Purolator Ford in the June, 1990 running of the Budweiser 500 at Dover International Speedway. The rest, as they say, is history...the car went on to win the event, giving Pete and his colleagues the opportunity to savor the excitement of visiting victory lane at The Monster Mile! Pete's involvement in motorsports marketing continued through most of the 1990s, building relationships with marquee names like Morgan Shepard, Rick Mast, Ted Musgrave, and Dale Earnhardt Jr. At our April meeting, Pete shared with us the "inside story" on what marketing on planet NASCAR entails, and what the highs and lows can be.

Billy Garcia



Billy Garcia is a retired sprint car competitor and two-time Central State (California) Racing Association champion. Racing as a "privateer," Billy and wife Kim travelled coast to coast, racing with the biggest names in the business and running in a variety of classes, from modified stock cars, to midgets, to sprint cars. He participated, for example, in ESPN's Saturday Night Thunder in a USAC car, has logged many events in the "World of Outlaws" series. As an example of the extensive windshield time he and Kim logged during their racing days, he recalls that in 1981 they travelled well over 100,000 miles, competing in 100 races in 27 states. With Kim as his most dedicated crew member, the Garcias blazed an impressive trail through racing's history before taking the checkered flag here in The Villages in 2005.

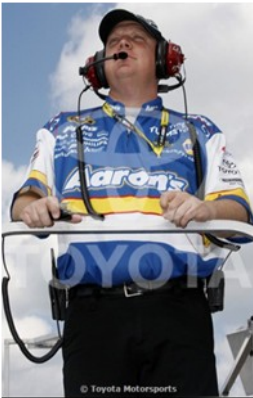
The Class of 2011 (continued)

Lee Krauss



The rapidly growing phenomenon of “Rat Rodding” was the subject of our June meeting, with Bushnell, Florida’s **Lee Krauss** taking center stage with his 1949 International truck...a project that he couldn’t pass up. The vehicle was originally a full-size fuel delivery truck, and was later used as an automotive service truck, but all that remained when he found it was the cab and the front portion of the frame. After hauling it to his shop in Bushnell, he set the cab on a 1981 Chevrolet half-ton pickup frame, cleaned up and refurbished the engine from the pickup and installed it, fitted a scrap 1967 Mustang radiator, added a 1960s-vintage air compressor to drive the air ride that came with the Chevrolet frame, added a few spare parts here and there, and he was in business. Lee, owner/operator of Bushnell Paint & Body, is a perfect example of someone with the right credentials (and tools) to build a rat rod. By the way, the rat rod is not the only toy in his toy box. His garage also includes a 1962 Cadillac Park Avenue (yes, **Cadillac** Park Avenue), a 1966 Oldsmobile Cutlass, and a 1972 Corvette. Perhaps the term “car guy” is a bit of an understatement?

Shawn Reutimann



A member of the famous Zephyrhills, Florida-based Reutimann racing dynasty, **Shawn Reutimann** visited with us in July and gave us all the opportunity to acquire a totally different perspective on NASCAR cup-level racing...the spotter’s view. In addition to describing the duties and responsibilities of this critical race team component, Shawn shared with us many of his fascinating experiences with legends of the racing world. He also added a number of stories about his life in racing, from his early days as a “gofer” at Reutimann Racing, to his travels with cousin David Reutimann as they both cut their teeth in the world of competitive motorsports, to his present-day experiences on the grueling NASCAR circuit. He also shared some fascinating tales of studying racing at the hand of his dad, Wayne, and of course his famous uncle, Buzzie.

John Meeks



John Meeks has played an instrumental role in the resurgence of Bronson Speedway, Archer, Florida. His animated style, coupled with his extensive knowledge of the motorsports world both local and statewide, has enabled him to contribute to Bronson Speedway’s re-establishment as a Central Florida racing venue. In September of this year, John visited with our group and updated us on Bronson’s re-emergence, and gave us a host of insider perspectives on what to expect in the future as their program develops. The following month, he served as a gracious emcee as a contingent of club members visited the track, including facilitating our group’s celebration in the winner’s circle following Randy Anderson’s thrilling victory in the open wheel modified class.

The Class of 2011 (continued)

Randy Anderson



Randy Anderson, a third-generation driver from Wildwood, Florida is a rapidly rising star on the local racing scene. He's 17 years old, but his 13-year (yes, 13-year) racing history has paved the way for what we feel will be a long string of successes in his future. Following in the footsteps of his legendary grandfather, Dick Anderson, and his famous father, Wayne Anderson, Randy has already built a reputation as a strong competitor at various levels of the sport. From Florida Pro Trucks to Super Late Models, he's competed head-to-head with the best of Florida's drivers, and in 2010 finished third in championship points in the Florida All Stars Tour, while capturing runner-up honors in Rookie-of-the-Year competition. In 2011, he changed pace to compete in the Modified ranks, where he's logged top 5 finishes in 5 of his 8 events, winning three features.

Kimberly Brown



Kim Brown is well-known in local racing circles as one of the key people in the FASCAR world...the person behind the scenes who just seems to make it all happen. As an able-bodied lieutenant to Robert Hart, Kim manages the myriad details that go along with organizing and carrying out racing events, from promotion to scheduling, to staffing issues, to dealing with groups at events (as in the case of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club). Kim currently holds the position of FASCAR General Manager, and handles logistics for New Smyrna Speedway and Orlando Speedworld. She's been affiliated with FASCAR since 2003, and has built a reputation as someone who gets things done. She's been instrumental in helping our group execute several major trips to FASCAR venues.

Robert Hart



Robert Hart, a 6th generation Florida Cracker, has been in the racing business for over 45 years, and has built a Central Florida racing domain that includes ownership of New Smyrna Speedway, Orlando Speedworld, and Columbia Motorsports Park in Lake City, along with a sanctioning organization (FASCAR) created to serve as a developmental league for local stock car drivers. Today, FASCAR is home to many of the greatest names in Florida Stock Car history, and annually hosts two of the most prestigious events in Southern Stock Car Racing...the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing (nine straight days of the most intensely competitive racing anywhere in the south) in February and the Florida Governor's Cup 200 in November. Both of these events routinely attract the best of Florida's racing royalty, along with many out-of-state competitors seeking to further develop their resumes. In fact, since the "World Series" coincides with NASCAR's season opening events in Daytona, many regular NASCAR drivers frequently make the short trip down to New Smyrna to take on the locals.

The Class of 2011 (continued)

Carol Birchwale



In the early 1990s at Orange County Fair Speedway, there was a trio of women street stock racers who emerged as a force on this 5/8 mile super fast oval in Middletown, New York. Among these was **Carol Birchwale**, an engaging and dynamic young talent and the daughter of club members Shirley and Arnold Birchwale. Carol went on to compile a spectacular set of statistics over a 15-year competitive career. After earning "Rookie of the Year" honors in the Street Stock class, she advanced to the Open Wheel Sportsman Modified class where she became the first woman to record a feature win. Racing came naturally to Carol...she was a member of a true "racing family." She was encouraged by dad Arnold's history as a mechanic and drag racer, brother Steve's spectacular career as a modified driver, and team mother Shirley's influence as a guiding force.

Marvin Panch



As many of you who follow NASCAR are aware, **Marvin Panch** is a true legend in the sport, and proudly occupies a place in "NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers" list, an honor bestowed on him to commemorate the drivers who "...define the competition of our sport. Their accomplishments are the benchmark that much of our history is identified by. Honoring them in this way, at the beginning of the NASCAR 50th Anniversary celebration, is one way of showing our true appreciation for them and the invaluable contribution they have given over the past 50 years. These are the drivers who made and make NASCAR fans stand on their feet and cheer. These are the drivers who are NASCAR history." (Bill France's words during the 1998 Daytona 500's pre-race festivities.) Marvin is a 17-time winner in Cup-level competition, including the 1961 Daytona 500, the 1966 Charlotte World 600, and a 1965 sweep of both Atlanta Motor Speedway events. He posted 96 top five finishes and captured 21 poles in his 12 year NASCAR Career, and has been inducted into the Pure Darlington Record Club,

the National Motor Press Association Hall of Fame, the Western Motor Sports Writers Hall of Fame, the Daytona Beach Rotary Club Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame, and the Western Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame.

*Congratulations to our
2011 inductees!*

Glen Carter Crew Chief Award Goes to Mike Touchette

Continuing a club tradition into its fourth year, retired Crew Chief Glen Carter took the podium during the night's agenda to present the 2011 "Glen Carter Crew Chief Award" to this year's recipient, Mike Touchette. In describing Mike's contributions to the club, Carter described him as "someone who is consistently working behind the scenes to make sure our meetings and on-site events maintain the air of professionalism that has become our hallmark as a club."

In addition to extolling Mike's skills in the logistical arena, Carter pointed out his "ability to step in and run meetings when our president is off somewhere on one of his frequent trips, and he's also seen at the right hand of our Special Events Coordinator making sure that trips and activities go as planned. (or, if they don't go as planned, to be sure that we have workarounds that make problems go unnoticed by most of us!)"

Mike is now one of four recipients of the Award, which was first presented in 2008 to Gerry Hafer. Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette received the accolade in 2009, followed by the Club's Apparel Coordinator Wayne Nolan in 2010.



2011 Prediction Row Champion Officially Crowned

Prediction Row Coordinator Silky Meegan capped the evening's awards presentation with a recap of the 2011 Prediction Row competition, noting that runner-up Jim Dunaway held the lead through nine Chase races only to suffer a fate similar to that of Carl Edwards in the NASCAR Sprint Cup competition. In the tension-filled November 20 season finale at Homestead, Dunaway sat transfixed as eventual Cup winner Tony Stewart methodically ground his way to a win over Carl Edwards, watching his lead evaporate due to Alan Stone's selection of Tony Stewart as the probable winner.

Silky noted that, just like the Chase for the Sprint Cup, this year's Prediction Row competition produced 36 weeks of tight contention. The final standings were



Points	Predictor
52	Alan Stone
51	Jim Dunaway
50	Jim Carter
48	Jerry Conkle
47	Gary Civiletti
45	Syd Baker

Jim Carter was the first segment winner, with Syd Baker taking second segment honors. Silky noted that recruiting will soon commence for Predictors for the 2012 edition of the program...stay tuned!

Scenes From The Big Event



More Scenes From The Big Event



The 5th Annual



*Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony*

*Colony Cottage
Recreation Center*

December 11, 2011

