



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Special Edition Newsletter

Hall of Fame—Class of 2012

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Class of 2012

(Row 1, from left): JC Miller, Eileen Daniels, Geoff Bodine, Diana Hubbard; Row 2, from left: Mike Reed, Denise Sullivan, Wayne Reutimann, Joy Reutimann. Row 3: Amanda Ferguson, Jerry Conkle, Bill Clements, Ken Snyder, . Row 4: Joe Linebarier, John Chance)



Our 2012 Hall of Fame Inductees



January 6—Eleven motorsports stand-outs 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.

2012 Hall of Fame Keynoter—Bobby Brack



For the second year in a row, our Hall of Fame event was treated to a keynote speaker of note...this time our guest was South Florida Stock Car Racing Legend and NASCAR vet Bobby Brack from Miami. In introducing him, MC Peter Tetrault reported that Bobby was known as "The Chief" during his racing years, and his trademark #57 race car was a fixture on the Southern circuit for over 3 decades. His races at the Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway are legendary, and his on-track performance led to him acting as a stunt driving double in the biker cult film, *Wild Rebels* (1967). As a NASCAR Winston Cup competitor, he had raced at such tracks as Daytona, Atlanta, Charlotte, Rockingham, and Talladega, and recorded a 12th place finish in the 1971 Firecracker 400 at Daytona. Bobby has achieved acclaim in the sport of fishing, and his son Steven Brack followed in his foot-

steps. Steve raced for a number of years and like his father achieved Championship winning status. Bobby was inducted into Hialeah Speedway's Hall of Fame in 2010, and he is credited with having recorded a win on every Florida speedway that he ever raced on. Bobby is a native of South Florida, and he and his wife Pat reside in Miami-Dade County, where he is still very much active in sport fishing.

After Peter's remarks, club "Godfather" Dick Anderson was called to the podium to offer some additional welcoming remarks for Bobby. Dick and Bobby, long-time friends, raced against each other at many tracks in Florida and nearby states, waging epic battles at such historic tracks as Palm Beach Speedway and Hialeah Speedway. Dick praised Bobby as without question the best driver he's ever competed against, and expressed sincere gratitude for their long-standing friendship.

Bobby began his remarks with a historical account of South Florida's racing history, including an inventory of the tracks that were active in the 1950s and 1960s. His remarks took us back to places like Opa Locka, Medley, Broward, Hollywood, and Key West's Stock Island speedway, and discussed some of the notables he competed against, including names like Jack Choquette, Bobby Johns, Rags Carter, and the Alabama Gang (Red Farmer, Donnie Allison, and Bobby Allison). From there he moved to a review of his own racing career, from his 1956 debut at Hialeah Speedway in a self-built Sportsman Class 1937 Ford Coupe until his 1995 retirement as a Late Model competitor. During his 35 year racing career, Bobby raced at 39 different tracks in nine different states, winning roughly 475 feature races and 17 track championships. His accomplishments included winning the South Florida State Championship six years in a row, and he was crowned Florida State Champion in 1966.

In addition to racing in the Modified and Late Model ranks, Bobby competed in NASCAR's Winston Cup series, racing at five different tracks in limited schedules, and he also competed in NASCAR's Grand American Series against David Pearson, Buck Baker, Tiny Lund, Richard Childress, and many others. As an interesting side-story, Bobby noted that his 12th place finish in the 1971 Firecracker 400 at Daytona earned him a whopping \$990—today, the minimum purse earned by a car in that race is \$100,000.

For those of us who have known Bobby, it was great to see him again and to relive some of his career accomplishments. For those of us who met him for the first time on January 6, it was a great opportunity to spend time with a true racing legend...one of the all-time greats of motorsports!

The Class of 2012

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 2012," total membership in our "Hall" now stands at 76. 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!

JC Miller



Our year started off with an inside look at the construction of the Iowa Speedway, one of NASCAR's newest racing venues with a unique, Rusty Wallace-designed 7/8th mile oval configuration. Villages of Hemingway resident J. C. Miller, a participant in the development of Iowa Speedway, joined us at our 2012 kick-off meeting to review the history of the speedway's original construction. J.C. delighted our full house with a review of the timeline for the track's construction, from initial planning discussions in 2004 to its inaugural race September of 2006. Using a series of progressive photographs, J.C. took us through the track's construction, from groundbreaking to its opening, and shared quite a few anecdotes about dealing with Rusty "the perfectionist." We came away from that meeting with a much better understanding of what goes in to building a race track from scratch.

Eileen Daniels



Our February meeting took us away from stock car racing to the world of drag racing, and we were honored to have with us the "Godmother of the National Hot Rod Association," Eileen Daniels, widely regarded as one of the most influential personalities in NHRA history. Eileen lays claim to seven decades of affiliation with drag racing's governing body, beginning with her 1956 initial stint as an NHRA Regional Advisor—a position she held jointly with her late husband, Bob.

Speaking before a packed house at our February meeting, Eileen took us through a spirited tour of her adventures with NHRA, from her first official NHRA-sanctioned event in 1955 to her present day duties as a "Consultant" to NHRA. Eileen and Bob earned many accolades during their NHRA days, including their 2001 election to the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame. In addition, Eileen served as president of the Piper Puffs, an all-girl group of drag racers, and it was during this time that she earned the distinction of being the first female drag racer to break the 100 mph barrier. "What a thrill it was to receive my 100 mile an hour jacket from the many guys that had never gotten one" recalls!

Geoff Bodine



It was standing room only for our March meeting, with Geoff Bodine captivating us with his insights into what major-league racing is all about. Geoff, with his 18 Cup wins and 6 Nationwide wins, his Daytona 500 win in 1986, his election to "NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers" and "NASCAR's Modified all-time Top 10 Drivers," his all time record of 55 modified wins in a single season, his 1987 Championship in the International Race of Champions, his win in the 1994 running of "The Winston," his experiences in Olympic bobsledding, and many other world-class accomplishments, kept members spellbound as he recounted his career.

Geoff's visit with us made him the fifth racer NASCAR-licensed driver to join the list of our Hall of Famers, and he's now our second Daytona 500 winner and our second "NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers" visitor. Having him along with Marvin Panch as what we now call "friends of the club" is once again clear evidence of the motorsports reach we've been able to achieve in our six year run. Both Geoff and Marvin are legends in the sport, and their willingness to share with us has been gratifying.

The Class of 2012 (continued)

Diana Hubbard



The second part of our March spectacular featured an insightful look at the inside of major league motorsports broadcasting. ESPN Pit Reporter Diana Hubbard gave us a fascinating account of what it takes for a network to put together a seamless broadcast of a major race, and also shared many of the experiences she and husband Ross shared as Indy Car team owners and their affiliation with drivers like Arie Luyendyk (Jr. and Sr.), Felipe Giaffone, and Ricky Treadway. Diana provided a variety of amusing and downright entertaining tales of what happens behind the scenes and behind the camera, and gave us a true insider look at TV coverage. I know many of us can now visualize what's happening before and after those during-the-race interviews, the winner's circle coverage, and so on, and we now know that it's people like Diana that make the on-screen folks look good!

Mike Reed



On April 4, we turned to our local racing roots with a visit from Mike Reed, the promoter and operator of Citrus County Speedway. A mere 26 miles from our normal departure point in The Villages, many of us have long regarded CCS as our "home track" for those needing an asphalt racing fix, and it's not unusual to see a smattering (or sometimes a big glob) of yellow shirts in the stands over there. We've come to appreciate the great racing this track offers, the friendly staff over there (their nickname, by the way, is "the friendliest track in the South"), and the fact that they have a curfew that tends to get us back to the reservation at a decent hour! We attribute a lot of the CCS success to Mike's understanding of both the sport side of racing (he is a former drag racer) and the business side of racing (he's president of the Florida National Bank in Inverness). He's also a Florida native, so he has a good understanding of what appeals to "the locals" as well as us "transplants." In his nearly seven-year run as at CCS, we've seen steady improvement that will no doubt continue, and we've seen our group's interest in CCS take hold.

Denise Sullivan



We've always said that racing is racing, speed is speed, and horsepower is horsepower. With that motto in place, we've had speakers from the world of airplane racing, go-kart racing, sports car racing, drag racing, sprint car racing, stock car racing, radio-controlled car racing, and on and on share their stories with us. And this year, we chalked up year another racing venue...horse racing! With May being Kentucky Derby month, we felt it only appropriate that we hear from a member of the competitive equestrian world, and we were fortunate enough to learn that we have right here in The Villages a true horse racing veteran, Denise Sullivan.

Denise is a native of Maryland, and began riding ponies at age 4. From there, she progressed to working with full size horses as a teenager. In fact, she ran—and won—her very first race as a teenager at Laurel Park in 1973. From 1973 to 1978, she competed over a thousand times, winning between 100 and 150 of the events she entered. During that period, she was a fixture at tracks like Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico, Charles-town, and Penn National, and had the honor of being on the track with American Thoroughbred racehorse Secretariat when the legendary horse was prepping for the 1973 Preakness Stakes.

Denise recalls having her share of scrapes and battles—some gender-related—as she developed her racing career. These days, though, her competitive focus is on golf and pickleball, although she has hinted at a possible venture into polo...we'll have to see what happens with that.

The Class of 2012 (continued)

Wayne Reutimann



The midpoint of our 2012 club year brought another visit from the Racing Reutimann Clan from Zephyrhills, this time with Buzzie's kid brother Wayne and little sister (and some would say boss) Joy. If you've followed Florida Sprint Car racing, you know that Wayne is a legend in his own right, with a driving resume that includes almost 100 feature wins in Tampa Bay Area Racing Association, as well as a win in the Little 500 at Anderson Indiana Speedway (by the way, he finished in the top 10 50% of the times he raced at Anderson). He also made his mark in the stock car world back in the day, and is a two-time winner of the Florida Governor's Cup to go along with his multiple Florida Late Model Championships and USCS wins. In addition to his illustrious racing career, Wayne is an accomplished high school teacher, and is nearing a well-earned retirement from Zephyrhills High School.

Joy Reutimann



With brothers Buzzie and Wayne showing the way, it's little surprise that that sister Joy would follow in their footsteps, at least for a little while. It seems Joy competed in the "Powder Puff" ranks down in the Tampa area for a few years, but her main role was to provide leadership to her brothers to keep them from going off the rails, so to speak. Joy even found time to dabble in beauty contests, earning the title "Miss Pasco County" in 1969. I think it's fair to say that she got all the good looks that were handed out to the second-generation Reutimann racing family!

Amanda Ferguson



Since our July meeting fell on a holiday, we took a month off, which gave us an opportunity to get ready to welcome Amanda Ferguson back for an update on her academic and racing careers. Amanda, as many of you know was our 2011 scholarship recipient, and she's progressing pretty well in her dual major—Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering at UCF. While maintaining a GPA of 3.5, she's managed to continually develop her racing program, and she's met with some tremendous success in 2012. Along with all this, Amanda continues to find time to share her story with her young fans at schools throughout the area.

This year, she logged her first major win in the Super Late Model ranks, going wire-to-wire in a 100-lap event at Norway Speedway in Wisconsin. She backed that performance up the following night at Sands Speedway in Marquette, Michigan, coming from the rear of the field to lead the last five laps for her second SLM win. She repeated her winning ways the following month at Wisconsin Dells, racking up her third checkers and concluding a highly successful northern racing tour.

Amanda recently signed on with renewable energy company **WaterFurnace** as primary sponsor for her Superstar racing team for 2013, along with associate sponsor EagleJet International, in what promises to be another great season for this rising star. She's well on her way to stardom, so we'll all be able to say "we knew her when..."

The Class of 2012 (continued)

Jerry Conkle



In September, we turned to our own for an in-depth briefing on the Indy Car Racing League's marquee event—the Indianapolis 500. We're fortunate to have an "Indy expert" in our group...the always entertaining Jerry "Flash" Conkle.

As many of you know, Jerry is widely recognized as our resident authority on all things Indy, and frequently (and without urging) has been known to launch into a fascinating monologue on the history of racing at "the Brickyard." He can quote statistics from 80 or 90 years ago, as well as his own first-hand experiences from visits he's made to the track. Jerry opened the presentation at the September meeting with an illuminating look at many little-known facts about Indy and its drivers, and followed it up with a series of fascinating historical tidbits on the Brickyard's history.

Bill Clements



The second portion of our September open-wheel theme featured another Indianapolis aficionado, Brickyard insider Bill Clements. Bill followed Jerry's opening with a fantastic pictorial review of what goes on in and around Indianapolis on race week. From the welcoming parade, to the pre-race festivities, to the Gasoline Alley happenings at race time and during the race, Bill drew on his skills as a track photographer to give us an inside view of this historic event.

Together, Jerry and Bill gave us a real up-close and personal look at "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," answering many of the questions we had about the pinnacle of open-wheel racing.

Ken Snyder



Our November 5 meeting brought with it a long-awaited visit from Bubba Raceway Park, with track official Ken Snyder on-hand to give us an update on happenings on the dirt in Ocala. For the dirt-track enthusiasts in our group (and I think there are quite a few!), BRP is also considered a "home track" for us, and it's not unusual to see a pretty good-sized block of "yellow shirts" in the stands (especially when Honorary Club Member Buzzie Reutimann pays a visit).

Ken provided an exciting synopsis on the 2012 racing season at BRP, and shared some of the excitement planned for 2013. He also gave us a little teaser about the "you drive it" program they're planning to launch in 2013 called "Competition 101"... a program that anyone who wants to try their hand out at dirt-track racing might want to investigate.

The Class of 2012 (continued)

Joe Linebarier



The second half of our November Bubba Raceway Park contingent featured “the voice of BRP,” track announcer Joe Linebarier, also known as “Joe Dirt.” No matter what you call him, there’s no question that he’s one of the most respected announcers in the business, with a knack for building excitement into his track broadcasts. He’s also an on-radio personality, with a Saturday morning ESPN radio program (Racin’ Nation) on 100.1 FM. With racing involvement spanning three decades and a varied list of venues, Mr. Dirt is truly a motorsports icon in the Central Florida area.

John Chance



The second portion of our November meeting involved an official de-briefing of the “2012 Hornet Classic” by track official and event coordinator John Chance from Citrus County Speedway. John provided excellent oversight during the planning and actual running of the event, and critiqued the driving skills of our two competitors—Jerry “Flash” Conkle and Gary “Cyclone” Seyler. In case you missed the event, both Conkle and Seyler scored podium finishes in the 15-lap duel, with Seyler leading three laps on the way to his second-place finish and providing some spectacular racing footage for the highlights film. If you did miss it, and you haven’t yet had the chance to see it, you can catch the action in the video gallery of our club website...it’s worth the watch!

We’re pleased with our relationship with CCS and with the opportunity we’ve had to work with John. We’re all looking forward to their 2013 racing program and to a 2013 repeat of the wildly successful “Hornet Classic.”

*Congratulations to our
2012 inductees!*

Glen Carter Crew Chief Award Goes to Silky Meegan



Club founder and past president Glen Carter presented the 2012 "Glen Carter Crew Chief Award" to Silky Meegan, an outstanding club member. Glen stressed that it's truly an honor to have his name as a permanent part of this on-going award recognizing team members who make major contributions to our success as a group. So far, we've given this recognition to Gerry Hafer, Wendy Touchette, Wayne Nolan, and Mike Touchette, all of whom you undoubtedly recognize as individuals who have been instrumental in our accomplishments and who have served our "pit crew" well.

This year is no different, and we've recognizing someone who is consistently working toward serving the best interests of our group in a way that has helped us establish ourselves as one of the premier clubs in The Villages. Our recipient this year can be called a "quiet organizer," "a go-to person for results," or "a person who just gets things done." From assuming responsibility for issuing thank-you letters to our speakers, to crafting our monthly Rec News announcements, to diligently managing the grueling 36-week "Prediction Row" coordination (and a lot of stuff in between), she's one of those folks we just naturally turn to when we need help...and she's always ready to come through cheerfully!

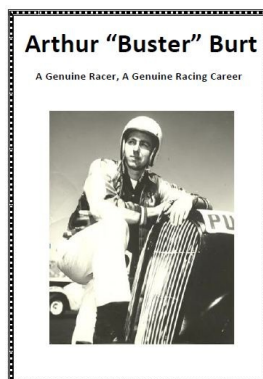
A Special Award from A Special Member!

After a long wait, Buster Burt finally got the opportunity to fulfill some promises he made over a year ago.



Since it's publication in 2011, he's been vowing to present copies of his biography to two of his "favorite friends," Amanda Ferguson and Buzzie Reutimann. All he needed to do was get them together in the same room. And

the mission could be carried out. That finally happened at the January 6 2012 Hall of Fame event, when Buster called Amanda and Buzzie to the podium to receive their own autographed copies of the book, titled "Arthur 'Buster' Burt: A Genuine Racer, A Genuine Racing Career." The story chronicles Buster's on-track exploits from Maine to Florida, and along the way makes references to one of his most enduring memories—defeating the Reutimanns in a major event at Central Florida's Lakeland track.



The Year in Review, By Wendy Touchette



>Our Special Events Coordinator Wendy Touchette closed out the evening's program with a recap of the trips and events that make up 2012. As all involved club members know, each year our Special Events group

puts together a constant flow of motorsports activities designed to cover the waterfront of what we're about. Here's a quick summary: Bus trips to Daytona International Speedway for the Gatorade Duels, the 500, and the Coke Zero 400, as well as the Gatornationals in Gainesville; over 10 separate car pool trips to local tracks and motorsports destinations; two cookouts in conjunction with club meetings; two bingo fundraisers; Our first venture into Night Golf; participation in the Christmas Parade and the Tech Know-How program; Coordination of the Camp Villages R/C program; and the launch of our new club website in August.

One of the most significant events this year was the November 14 running of the 3rd Annual Villages Cup competition, featuring R/C racers.

Scenes From The Big Event



More Scenes From The Big Event

