



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Special Edition Newsletter

Hall of Fame—Class of 2014

Inside this issue:

The Class of 2014 1, 3-8

Eddie Roche,
Keynote Speaker 2

Glen Carter Crew
Chief Award—2014 9

2014 Prediction Row
Award 9

A Special Guest
Drops In! 10

A look at the Trophy 10

Scenes From The
Big Night 11

Class of 2014

(Row 1, from left: Tony Modica, Allan Brown, Grady Wade, Bob Bolles, George Poveromo. Row 2, from left: Steven Brack, Stan Butler, Skip Bryan, Tony Kennea, Richard Golardi. Row 3: from left: John Ostdiek (pictured without Mary), Paul Barth



Our 2014 Hall of Fame Inductees

February 7—Our Hall of Fame is now 105 members strong, thanks to the Class of 2014 and the 13 new motorsports ambassadors inducted on February 7. As in the case of prior inductions, this Class featured an incredible range of diversity, from radio and television personalities, to noted authors and motorsports journalists, to promoters, to sprint car and stock car legends, to Vintage Sports Car standouts, to Formula 1 historians. We even inducted a veteran of Mexico's Pan American Road Race!

It was another great night for us...our eighth Hall of Fame induction event and an event organized with great precision by Janine Woodsford and her crack crew of volunteers (they even wore logoed aprons to serve the buffet!) And on top of all that, we were honored to have Mr. ISC Archives himself, the inimitable Eddie Roche, as our Keynote Speaker. We were also honored to have a visit from a member we haven't seen for awhile, Ernie Battee, who made the transport up from Lake Harris Health Center to spend the evening with us.

Check out the rest of this newsletter for a recap of the festivities.

The Class of 2014



2014 Hall of Fame Keynoter—Eddie Roche



In 2011, we tweaked the format a bit to add a Keynote Speaker to the mix, and our first of these was the famed Marvin Panch. This was so well received that we decided to have a keynoter every year, and of course we were concerned about keeping the bar as high as we set it with Marvin...and that hasn't been a problem!

The legendary Bobby Brack was our 2012 keynoter, and last year we had the always entertaining Tony Modica handle the duties.

This year we continued our string of great ones, with one of the most recognized personalities in motorsports journalism, Eddie Roche. Recently retired from International

Speedway Corporation, where he served as images and archives manager (2003-2014), Eddie is a well-respected and much-honored member of the motorsports community. His impact on the profession is recognized locally, regionally, and nationally, as evidenced by the prestigious awards he's received during his storied career.

Eddie's career began in 1971 with National Speed Sport News, and the following year he became Motorsports Editor for the Hollywood (FL) Sun daily newspaper. A year later, he was named Field Editor South for Stock Car Racing magazine, and held the position of PR Director for the World Series of Stock Car Racing at New Smyrna Speedway from 1973 to 1977. In 1974, he joined the PR Dept at Daytona International Speedway, beginning a 40-year working relationship with the France family companies. Here are a few additional highlights of Eddie's fascinating career in and around motorsports:

- > He was inducted into the International Race Officials Hall of Fame in 1990, and was the 2013 recipient of the Russ Moyer Media Award and the Daytona International Speedway President's Award.
- > He scanned and uploaded over 10,000 vintage racing photos for Getty Images for their online database.
- > He has been interviewed by Sports Illustrated, ESPN, the Miami Herald, the Daytona Beach News-Journal, FOX, and NASCAR Productions, the latter on his life in motorsports for their video library.
- > He is a member of the National Motorsports Press Association, and Associated Photographers International, and a Contributing Editor for NASCAR Illustrated Magazine.

During his remarks, Eddie traced his history from his first race event at Eau Gallie Speedway in 1962 to his completion last year of an 11-year stint as ISC's Archives Manager. He spoke fondly of his experiences with the France family and with the NASCAR organization, as well as his many years of rubbing elbows with the greatest of NASCAR's greats. His remarks addressed the art of journalism, and the importance of digging for the story rather than relying on cursory research and information supplied by un-vetted sources. Judging by his success in the business, it's fair to say that Eddie was speaking from his own experience.

Eddie also acknowledged Class of 2014 member Allan Brown as an icon of perseverance and pursuit of a big-picture goal—his acclaimed "History of America's Speedways."



The Class of 2014

On the next few pages, we'll give you a recap of this year's inductees and their accomplishments. As noted earlier, our "Hall" now numbers 105 members, and if you have the opportunity to take a look at our trophy on display in the lobby of National Parts Depot in Ocala, you'll see one of the most vibrant collections of motorsports representatives ever assembled. Here are the newest members of our Hall of Fame.



Tony Modica

Tony is the host of the "Tony Modica Show," the afternoon sports talk show at Sports Radio 930, Jacksonville FL, owned by Clear Channel Media. He launched his on-air career as a local weather reporter, moving to Clear Channel in 1998 as a Traffic Reporter in Tampa. In 2011 made the jump into sports radio.

Along the way, Tony built a two and a half decade career in motorsports as a track announcer, and is widely recognized as a force in motorsports broadcasting. In 2013, for example, he called over 12,000 laps of racing, covering a variety of racing venues from Stock Cars, to Karts, to Monster Trucks. In fact, many of us from the club had the great pleasure of listening to Tony call races over at Citrus County Speedway.

Tony's talents include appearing in national and local TV commercials and radio voiceovers, along with journalism and acting on the silver screen. If you were with us at last year's Hall of Fame event, you enjoyed his lively and spirited performance as our Keynote Speaker, and his recollections of the history of the Florida racing scene.

Allan E. Brown

Allan Brown has dedicated his life's work to making sure the history of America's race tracks is preserved. With wife Nancy at his side, he travelled a two million mile route that took them to more than two thousand race tracks, a project that resulted in publication of the highly regarded National Speedway Directory. This 30-year odyssey also led Allan to write one of the best-known and critically-acclaimed historical digests of information on racing venues in America--an 800-page compendium of facts, figures, and anecdotes about the places where Motorsports history was made.



This quote from the infamous Dr. Dick Berggren during a "NASCAR on Fox" segment puts Allan's career accomplishments in perspective:

"Had Allan Brown done something else with the time it took to write this book (History of America's Speedways), hundreds if not thousands of race tracks would have passed into oblivion without national notice."

Our February 13 meeting gave us an opportunity to meet Allan and Nancy and hear firsthand his fascinating story.

The Class of 2014 (continued)



Grady Wade

Clearly one of the most colorful of our long list of speakers, Grady Wade brought a Midwestern perspective to our April meeting. Grady's accomplishments are legendary, and earned him a spot in the Highbanks Hall of Fame at the National Midget Auto Racing Museum (Class of 2002), an honor bestowed on such notables as A.J. Foyt, Jan Opperman, and Jack Hewitt. In 2007, he was inducted into the Big Car Racing Association's Hall of Fame.

Competing on what he described as the "Hamburger Trail of Racing," Grady gave us a real feel for the life of a dirt racer, describing a typical schedule that would have him and his team traveling from competition in Oklahoma City on Friday, to Knoxville to compete on Saturday, to Lincoln, Nebraska to race Sunday, ending up in Wichita, Kansas to compete on Monday. He also described the fond memories of "freshening up" in truck stop rest rooms and catching a good night's sleep on a picnic table...you know, the little benefits and luxuries that go along with racing.

Grady's warehouse of memories from the half-mile fairground dirt tracks throughout the middle states gave us a great feel for racing the way it once was.

Bob Bolles

Our May meeting gave us insight into the technical side of racing, with a visit from Circle Track Magazine's Senior Technical Editor Bob Bolles. A twelve-year veteran of the magazine's Motorsports coverage, Bob grew up in Daytona Beach and has a long history of visits to the Speedway as a Level 16 pass holder. He shared stories of hanging out in the pits back in the days when the sport was "more colorful" (I guess you could say less politically correct) than now, and when driver access was more open than it is now.



Bob traced his professional history from an initial business venture in the surveying and civil engineering industry to his move to Virginia to begin working with race teams (which was more fun!). He joined Circle Track's editorial staff in 2002, after contributing a number of articles that appeared in the magazine, and advanced to his present position quickly.

During his time with us, Bob shared one of the highlights of his Circle Track career, a four-month tour of race tracks across the country promoting the Circle Track brand. Cruising in the AMSOIL GREAT AMERICAN CIRCLE TRACK TOUR R/V, Bob and his wife visited over 100 race tracks in the U.S., where he reported really feeling the "pulse of short track racing."

The Class of 2014 (continued)

George Poveromo



George Poveromo is a renowned angling authority and editor-at-large for Saltwater Sportsman Magazine. He's also the well-known producer and host of the Salt Water Sportsman Seminar series, the nation's largest and most successful educational course on recreational and marine fishing techniques. Beyond that, he's also the producer and host of the nationally-televised series "George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing."

In addition to his prowess in salt water, George is also a noted historian of sorts on South Florida Stock Car racing, and a close friend of Steven Brack and the Brack Family. George joined us at the June meeting to review the history of racing at tracks like Hialeah Speedway and Palm Beach Fairground Speedway, and shared a number of stories and anecdotes about racing in the "good old days" at South Florida's premier racing venues.

With his racing knowledge and his familiarity with Steven and his family, it was a natural to have George play a key role in our June meeting, including a spirited introduction of Steven.

Steven Brack

Steven Brack is a veteran of South Florida Stock Car racing, having pretty much grown up in and around Hialeah Speedway and Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway. He grew up in a racing family and, from his early years on, was constantly behind the wheel of a variety of race cars. His racing accomplishments include competitive wins in the rough and tumble world of South Florida Stock Car racing, including Hialeah Speedway's first Street Stock Championship in 1981.

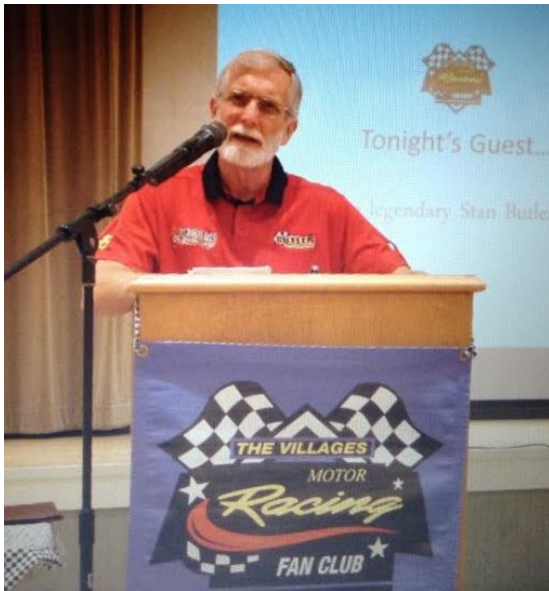
In addition to the racing memories he shared with us, Steven also shared some of his extensive background as an actor and film producer. Last Fall he was awarded an Emmy Award by The National Academy of Television Arts And Sciences for his work in producing an acclaimed history of Hialeah Speedway. His film credits also include a similar documentary on Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway, yet another major contribution to the retention of Florida's racing history.



Steven's most recent racing-related project is his formation late last year of the South Florida Stock Car Archives, a venture that includes over a quarter million racing images from the 1050s through the 1980s in South Florida. The mission of this new venture is to preserve South Florida's rich stock car racing history, covering Hialeah Speedway, Medley Speedway and Old Hollywood Speedway, Miami-Hollywood Speedway Park, Palm Beach Fairgrounds Speedway, and Golden Gate Speedway.

The Class of 2014 (continued)

Stan Butler



Our mid-year meeting brought us a fascinating perspective on the world of Sprint Cars, with the renowned Stan Butler giving us the inside story on the building of a successful and well-respected racing program. Butler, the patriarch of a family racing operation featuring him and his sons Keith and Shane, shared a lengthy analysis of the ups and downs of racing in this venue, including some of his fascinating stories about the “Little 500” at Anderson Speedway (where he’s made 26 starts!).

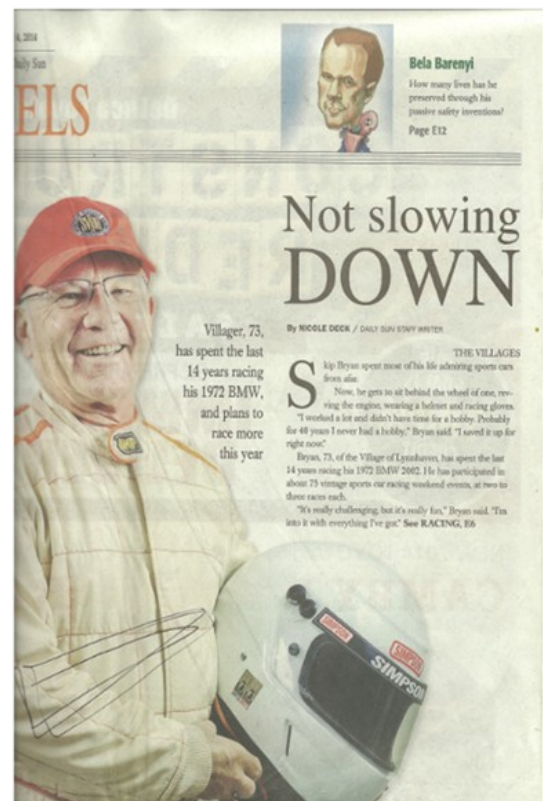
Stan gave us a thorough review of the details associated with Winged and Non-Wing Sprint Cars, and discussed his duties at Citrus County Speedway overseeing the monthly schedule of Sprint Cars over at our “home track.” Many of us have been over to CCS in the past year to observe Stan’s organizational abilities as he arranged some of the best Sprint Car racing in the area.

Skip Bryan

At our August meeting, we were treated to a lively account of a Villages resident living a life many of us dream about! Skip Bryan, from the Village of Lynnhaven, is an honest-to-goodness race car driver, still burning up the tracks in the Sportscar Vintage Race Association ranks at the age of 73.

Skip grew up in Pennsylvania near the state’s premier racing venue—the Reading Fairgrounds—and acquired an interest in speed and competitive driving, especially sports cars, at an early age. This interest was fueled by his exposure to Reading’s other famous venue, the Duryea Drive Hill Climb. Through the years, Skip was the proud owner of a variety of sports cars, but it wasn’t until 2000 that he really got the bug. That was the year he took the step of acquiring his license to race under SVRC sanctioning. At age 60, it was game on for Skip, and he still hasn’t looked back. He competes in roughly 18 events each year, and racked up an SVRC championship in 2007.

Skip’s 2014 season was highly successful, with competition in 16 individual races. Seven times, he achieved “first in class” finishes, plus six top five and three top 10 finishes.



The Class of 2014 (continued)

Tony Kennea



In September, we focused on the world of Formula One racing, an area we hadn't visited since the late Duncan "Hot Doc" Patterson covered it in depth back in March of 2009. This time, it was Tony Kennea, another one of our members from "across the pond," as they say, who gave us a thorough recap of what's going on in this highly competitive racing series. Tony, a dedicated Formula One aficionado, covered the early days of F1, and shared his thoughts on the teams that have been predominant through the years in F1 competition. He also gave us an update on car design and track configurations, emphasizing the criticality of safety and highlighting many of the precautions and safety features that have been implemented throughout the decades.

Tony's remarks gave us all an appreciation for the nuances of Formula 1 racing, delivered in a candid fashion that was both entertaining and enlightening. Tony will be back onstage with us at some point in the next few months, this time sharing his strong knowledge and keen interest in Land Speed Records and, specifically, the Bonneville Salt Flats and the history of that famous speed venue.



RICHARD GOLARDI

Richard Golardi, an accomplished motorsports journalist and columnist and author of a weekly online publication titled "Florida Open Wheel," joined us in October to share his insights into the intense world of open wheel racing. Richard has covered racing at major tracks (including Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Daytona International Speedway, and Homestead-Miami Speedway), and many short tracks in Florida and around the Midwest. As a noted authority on Sprint Car competition, he is preparing to release his first book, a profile of Florida Sprint Car racing legends. In compiling material for the book, he has conducted over 50 individual driver interviews, and is expecting to publish the work in 2015.

During his visit with us, Richard shared excerpts from the interviews he's conducted, featuring great racing stories as told by the legends themselves. Just last month, Richard returned to our organization to enjoy the remarks of Jack Hewitt, and subsequently produced a tremendous video segment featuring Jack's Indianapolis 500 experience and showcasing his visit with us. If you haven't had the opportunity to do so, it's worth a look. The link is posted on our website (www.villagesracingclub.com).

Florida Open Wheel

The Class of 2014 (continued)



John & Mary Ostdiek

John and Mary Ostdiek represent the embodiment of what race track promoters should be. Through their careful planning and executive oversight, Elko Speedway in Elko, Minnesota and Raceway Park in Shakopee, Minnesota saw several decades of great and productive racing.

During their time with us in November, John and Mary gave us a fascinating glimpse into what it takes to be a successful race track promoter, covering the internal details, like the accounting, insurance arrangements, facilities maintenance, and material inventory, as well as the external details, like advertising and public relations. They covered their strategies for drawing people into the seats at the track, highlighting many of the special events they built into their programs, like school bus racing, bus jumps, bicycle races, flag pole racing, trailer races, chain races, and mid-night/lights out races, just to name a few. I think we all came away with a better understanding of what track promoters here in Central Florida are lacking.



Paul Barth

Our season ended with an intriguing look inside the Pan American Road Race, Mexico's premier automotive event. Club member Paul Barth was a two-time competitor in this landmark event, driving a 1965 Chevy Nova as part of a two-man race team, first with Tom Silver in 2000 and then with Robin Bazil in 2001. With video highlights, Paul showed us the highlights (and some of the lowlights) of the 2001 edition of this grueling event, and shared insights into both the motorsports aspects and the cultural aspects of this landmark event.

Paul also shared his experiences as part of a race team competing in the Indianapolis 500 and other Indy Car events, in a race car driven by veteran USAC and CART driver Roger Rager. Through Paul's comments we all obtained a sense of what goes on behind the scenes in Open Wheel and Champ Car competition.



Mike Anderson—2014 Glen Carter Crew Chief Award



Club Founder and former Crew Chief Glen Carter presented the 2014 "Glen Carter Crew Chief Award" to Mike Anderson. The award, Carter noted, is given in recognition of Mike's substantial contributions to the club's continued success, most notably his development and operation of our critically acclaimed website (www.villagesracingclub.com). Beyond that, Carter acknowledged Mike's consistent behind-the-scenes support at meetings, as well as his willingness and ability to stand in to virtually any spot as needed.

"This award recognizes individuals who have stepped to the plate for us and who have used their talents to help The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club become a truly well-respected organization in the Florida racing community," Carter commented, "and that describes Mike Anderson to a tee."

Shirley Birchwale takes home the 2014 Prediction Row Trophy

Shirley Birchwale, a rookie predictor, prevailed in the 2014 Prediction Row competition and now has her name engraved on the trophy. She can proudly display the traveling trophy accompanied by bragging rights until a new champion is crowned in 2015...and maybe she'll get to keep it another year!

Six club members competed in Segment One (Sprint Cup races 1-13): John Angiolo, Syd Baker, Paul Barth, Gerry Greim, Barb Pappas, and Janine Woodsford. Six more members competed in Segment Two (races 14-26): Mike Anderson, Shirley Birchwale, Mimi Carter, Tom Horrmann, David Vanderwall, and Daryl Ware.

The Top 3 in each segment transferred into the Chase Segment (races 27-36). The competitors in the Chase Segment were Mike Anderson, John Angiolo, Syd Baker, Shirley Birchwale, David Vanderwall, and Janine Woodsford. Scoring is based on finishing positions of each predictor's pick, with wins being the most heavily weighted factor in determining the champion.

Check the club website for the slate of club members who will challenge Shirley in 2015.



The final 2014 standings were:
 3 wins, 356 points Shirley Birchwale
 2 wins, 384 points John Angiolo
 2 wins, 334 points David Vanderwall
 1 win, 356 points Mike Anderson
 1 win, 337 points Janine Woodsford
 0 wins, 302 points Syd Baker



A Special Guest Drops in for a Visit!



Our festive evening was made even brighter by the arrival of club member Ernie Battee. Many of our longer-time members are aware of Ernie and the circumstances of his December 2012 auto accident at the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd. and CR 466. Ernie had very severe injuries, including a severed spinal cord and 120 lacerations, including part of his scalp. As a result, he remains paralyzed from his neck down.

Ernie's family arranged for his transport from Lake Harris Health Center in Leesburg, and it became a great night out for Ernie and a great night for us to have him with us for another out-

standing Hall of Fame night. In the photo above left, Jim "Ringmaster" Hedlund lends Ernie a hand, while Wendy Touchette stands at the ready.

These days, despite being confined to a wheelchair and pretty much restricted in travel, Ernie takes great pride in following his interests in racing. His daughter, Lisa, is married to two-time NASCAR Busch Series Champion Randy Lajoie, and she and Randy are the proud parents of Corey, presently a Richard Petty Development Driver. And their pride is matched equally by Ernie...just sit with him and watch a race that Corey's in and you'll see it firsthand. Ernie reflects often on the races he's attended live, including Cory's dominant win in the September 28, 2012 K&N Series "American Real TV 150" at Dover International Speedway (photo at right).



Club members are encouraged to take a trip down to Lake Harris Health Center to visit Ernie. He enjoys the company, and you'll be guaranteed to have a good conversation about racing!

Our Trophy...And We're Proud of it!

As pointed out earlier, our Hall of Fame trophy now has 105 names inscribed on it. Take a look at these names and you'll get a good perspective on the ground we've covered since 2006.

2006 - 2007 MATT WUGHIN DON HERONE DICK ANDERSON LARRY CROOM BUDDY PEARCE STEVE GRIFFIN BUZZ WILKIE SABRINA GARDNER MIKE PETERS TIM LAKE LOU TREMBLAY DEAN TILLMAN DAVE BOCKMAN ARTHUR (BUSTER) BURT	2007 - 2008 DONNA DAVIS ANGE CLIFTON CHUCK BURKHALTER DAVE COLBERT WILLIE BURKHALTER DEREK PUTNAM BUZZIE REUTIMANN MATT BOWERS KP JONES MARY ANDERSON-HUMPHRY	2008 - 2009 NED & DEBRA BOWERS JIM HEDLUND DUNCAN PATERSON BETTY SKELTON ERDE JOE LEWANDOSKI KEITH CHARTRAND KARL, JEAN & BILL & LORI CLEARY STEPHEN STUTZMAN HAROLD BEDELL	2009 - 2010 WAYNE ANDERSON MICKEY GAULDIN GEORGE BONAFEDE ERIC JONES ALAN BRUNS AUSTIN KIRKPATRICK JOE EYTAUS DANIEL MILLER NIC FERNANDEZ MARTY RUSER HAROLD FREDERICK TERRY TURMAN CAMILLE & BOB SHERMAN
2011 SAM PATRICK JOHN MEES PETE ROSENDAHL RANDY ANDERSON BILL GARCIA KIM BROWN LEE KRAUSS ROBERT HART SHAWN REUTIMANN CAROL BIRCHWALE MARVIN PANCH	2012 J.C. MILLER JOY REUTIMANN EILEEN DANIELS AMANDA FERGUSON GEOFF BODINE JERRY CONKLE DIANA HUBBARD BILL CLEMENTS MIKE REED JOHN CHANCE DENISE SULLIVAN KEN SNYDER WAYNE REUTIMANN JOE LINEBARIER	2013 BOBBY BRACK DAVID VANDERWALL GEORGE WAGNER MARK LUTES RICK SCHMIDT ELAINE HAROLD BILL JOHN JANE ROUTTE GERRI PRUSKO JAKE PERKINS DAVID COURLEY JOHN PETERS DEVIN McLEOD GARY LAPLANT DORA THORNE	2014 TONY MODICA STAN BUTLER ALLAN E. BROWN SKIP BRYAN GRADY WADE TONY KENNEA BOB BOLLES RICHARD GOLARDA STEVEN BRACK JOHN & MARY OSTDIK GEORGE POVEROMO PAUL BARTH

Some Scenes From The Big Event

