



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Special Edition Newsletter

Hall of Fame—Class of 2017

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### Class of 2017

(From left: John and Carol Emms, Jim Fenton, Dargan Watts, John Berti, Bob Wise, Ann Young, Paul Bova, and Bob Wardwell.

**Check out their individual bios on pages 3-8!**



### Our 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees

**January 20, 2018**—Eleven new members were inducted into The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club's Hall of Fame in a memorable evening held at La Hacienda Recreation Center in The Villages. And what a great night it was, with roughly 100 members and guests on hand to honor these new inductees as they were recognized for their contribution to our club and to the sport of motor racing.

Induction of the "Class of 2017" brings the total membership in our Hall of Fame to 147. As has been our custom, Master of Ceremonies Mike Anderson invited attendees at the event to take a close look at the names inscribed on the trophy, remarking that they represent a major slice of motorsports history, from NASCAR to NHRA, from stock car racing to sprint car racing, from airplane racing to sports car racing, and from Monster Trucks to Speedboat, Lawn Mower, and Jetski racing. Shortly after the festivities on January 20, our trophy made its way back to the lobby at National Parts Depot in Ocala, where it will be on display until next year's induction.



Unable to attend the event (due to racing commitments, of course!) were Rick Bristol (L) and Jeremy Gerstner (R)



## 2017 Hall of Fame Keynoter—Bruce Jarvis



It was our honor this year to have a distinguished member of the motorsports media join us as Keynote Speaker for our event. Bruce Jarvis was born into a racing family in Plattsburgh, NY, developing a strong interest in the sport at age four attending events with his dad, Ralph, who owned a TQ midget and also built, owned, and sponsored two racing coupes in northeast New York.

During his late teen years, Bruce stepped up his involvement in racing, working as a car builder and pit crew member locally and at Martinsville, Va. He later branched out into professional photography and artwork, photographing friends and associates in racing action and designing racing apparel for many teams.

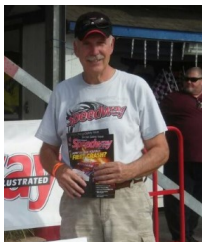
Off the track, Bruce served 33 years as a New York State Corrections Professional, retiring in 2007. He then accepted an offer from longtime friend, racer, and promoter Mike Perrotte to assist in promoting events at Airborne Park Speedway in his hometown of Plattsburgh, NY. In that position, he had the opportunity to work with some of racing's greats, like Bill Wimble, Steve Park, Ted Christopher, Gary Balough, Wes Moody, Ken Squire, and Kenny Wallace.

Also during this time he got to meet Karl Fredrickson, publisher of Speedway Illustrated Magazine. In 2014, Bruce joined the Speedway Illustrative staff, focusing on public relations, sales, and photo and art assignments. According to Fredrickson, Bruce's biggest assets are his ability to talk and meet people and promote both the sport and Speedway Illustrated.

During the summer months, Bruce heads up and organizes the annual Legends Night at Airborne Speedway and has been instrumental in forming a Hall of Fame event at Airborne and a display at a local Museum in Plattsburgh, NY.

Bruce's remarks provided a fitting tee-up to what is one of our most anticipated events, setting the stage for the induction of our latest group of motorsports luminaries.

Some photos of Bruce in action through the years...





## Presenting: The Class of 2017



With the addition of 11 new inductees, our Hall of Fame trophy now sports 147 names, and it's a collection of names that speaks directly to the variety of our interests as a racing-themed group. From local short track stand-outs to drivers who have made it to the big time, and from motorsports media representatives to track owners and promoters, we've pretty much covered the waterfront when it comes to racing. Our Hall includes stock car drivers, sprint car drivers, dragster drivers, auto cross drivers, go-kart drivers, airplane racers, personal watercraft racers, speedboat racers, and horse racers (well, horsepower is horsepower).

Our list of Hall of Famers includes NASCAR drivers (multiple Daytona 500 winners and representatives of "NASCAR's 50 Greatest"), NHRA competitors, SCCA drivers and officials, and drivers from asphalt tracks and dirt tracks. Some are household names, like Buzzie Reutimann, Geoff Bodine, and Marvin Panch, and some are known only within our close circle, but all share a common bond with us: they were willing to share their stories and their love of motorsports with us!

On the next few pages, we'll give you a recap of this year's inductees into The Villages Motor Racing Hall of Fame. We expect our Hall to continue growing as we bring additional racing-oriented personalities into club meetings to share their experiences. 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! And here's the first of our 2017 honorees:

### Dargan Watts



Dargan is a gentleman who is truly one of the great forces in recording and retaining the history of motorsports. Having done it all-- race car driver, car builder, car owner, pit crew member, flag man, track operator and promoter, and motorsports journalist—he shared his vast knowledge of the sport with us as **Keynote Speaker for our 2016 Hall of Fame Induction Event**. Dargan has served many years as a key organizer of the annual Historic North Turn Legends Beach/Road Course Parade at Daytona, and is well known as the manager of five separate racing-related Facebook pages and administrator of four other racing-related websites.

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## The Class of 2017 (continued)

In addition to Dargan, our Class of 2017 includes an array of speakers and motorsports luminaries who joined us at meetings throughout the year, helping us to achieve yet another fantastic year for our group. Here they are, in the order of their appearance with us from January through December.

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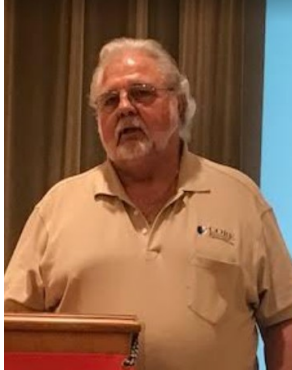
### Paul Bova



We've often said that our Hall of Fame roster carries some of the greatest names in motorsports. But we've also said that some of our most fascinating speakers through the years have come from within, like "Buster" Burt, Billy Garcia, Grady Wade, and others. Our January speaker—Paul Bova—was another great example of the resources we have. Paul is a seasoned vintage sports car racer and a former Sports Car Club of America competitor noted for racing purpose-built and production cars during his career. Paul recently retired from the position of Chief Driving Instructor for the Sayville, New York-based Vintage Racer Group, an organization noted for organizing, sanctioning, and conducting vintage races for a broad range of cars.

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### Jim Fenton



On 1967, Jim "Freight Train" Fenton launched his racing career in the Tornado class at Golden Gate Speedway in Tampa, Florida. Driving for car owner Kenny Faircloth, he was a winner the first time out, and went on to win track championships at Golden Gate in 1973 and 1974. He moved to Late Models at Golden Gate in 1974, taking Rookie of the Year honors and track championships in 1975 and 1976 and recording 22 features wins in 1976. After briefly considering a NASCAR career, life events forced him to the sidelines for a few years, but re-emerged in 1979 and captured the prestigious Governor's Cup 200 Championship at Sunshine Speedway. He continued racing through 1983, eventually stepping out of the car to focus on family and business matters.

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### Jeremy Gerstner



Jeremy Gerstner is a career racer, now highly active and approaching his 40<sup>th</sup> year behind the wheel of a racecar. He started out in 1978 racing Quarter Midgets, stepped up to a Mini Stock in 1987. From there, he progressed to the Open Wheel Modified ranks in 1992, where he competed locally in Florida and in the Southern Automobile Racing Association, United Promoters Modified, ASALMS South, and NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified series. Jeremy logged 14 top ten finishes in Open Wheel Modified in 2017, capturing the 2017 Southern Modified Racing Series Championship. Jeremy's resume also includes competition in Late Models and Super Late Models, locally and in the Sunoco Sunbelt, Hooters Pro Cup, and Florida All

Stars Tour (FAST) series. In the FAST series he logged a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish, competing against the best Late Model and Super Late Model drivers in Florida.

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## The Class of 2017 (continued)

### Bob Wardwell



Many of you know that our motto from the beginning was “racing is racing,” “horsepower is horsepower,” and any kind of speed-oriented competition is what we’re interested in. Bob Wardwell is an example of that motto in action. He is, at age 80, a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Lawn Mower Racing Association, the country’s oldest and largest national mower racing sanctioning body. Bob is a former marine mechanic from New Hampshire who’s been living in Florida for the past 45 years, and is now living in The Villages. He competes regularly in USLMRA Stock class, and has been seen mowing

them down in such exotic places as Gun Barrel City, Texas; Clements, Maryland; and Carlisle, Iowa.

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### John Berti



John Berti is someone those of us who spend time at our “home track,” Citrus County Speedway, know quite well. Berti is the voice of the Speedway, and is a veteran of four decades of motorsports involvement. He’s been a competitor, a track announcer, a promoter, a public relations man, a talk show host, and a motorsports writer. As a track announcer, John has graced the airwaves at speedways like Monadnock Speedway and Claremont Speedway in New Hampshire and Riverside Park Speedway in Massachusetts, and his resume includes a stint as host of the radio program “Motorsports Talk.” His writing credentials include Speedway Scene and National Speed Sport News, as well as frequent contributions to KARNAC, the popular website dedicated to Florida Short Track Stock Car Racing.

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### Ann Young



Ann Young has been a race fan since age five, growing up as a regular at New York’s Islip & Riverhead Speedways. She’s a registered nurse whose career served Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Patchogue, N.Y., but her real passion as a member of a racing family was the sound of motorsports competition. Her late husband Chris, was a well-known championship driver in the Modified and Figure 8 ranks in the Northeast, and her son Christopher is following in his father’s footsteps, distinguishing himself in Legends cars before stepping up to the Modified ranks. Ann and husband Chris bought Bronson Speedway in 2011 and, now in her eighth year as a speedway owner, she has achieved their dream of maintaining a regular racing schedule.

Ann’s famous quote when she bought the racetrack sums up the odds she faced at the time: “I bought a speedway, they gave me the keys, and I went, ‘Oh, what do I do now?’” Well, it’s 2018, and it looks like she’s arrived.

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## The Class of 2016 (continued)

### John and Carol Emms



John and Carol Emms are true veterans of motorsports, having spent many years at Tioga Motorsports Park, also known as Shangri-La Speedway. John served on the Speedway's emergency crew, while Carol divided her time between the grandstands as a spectator and the pit area with her son's race team. Her son, John Hanbury, was the 2007 and 2008 New York State Whelen All-American Champion, with 17 feature wins to his credit and multiple track championships to go with his racing resume, which included competition in the Race of Champion Modified Tour. All of this was accomplished

under the watchful eye of John and Carol, both of whom served in a variety of positions on the pit crew. Their work on the race team took them to many tracks in the Northeast, including Chemung, Mahoning Valley, and Lancaster Speedway, to name just a few.

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### Rick Bristol



Although he's a native New Yorker, Rick Bristol has lived in Central Florida for more than 30 years. He's an ordained pastor and has served many congregations in and around the Orlando area. Beyond his ministry, though, his passion extends to motorsports where he's been active in a wide variety of capacities, including driver, team owner, track announcer, race director, series director, track general manager, and promoter. In early 2017, he became Marketing and Promotions Manager for Auburndale Speedway, and he's also heading up development of the Sunshine State Challenge Series, a multiple-track series featuring eight separate divisions. Rick is also heavily involved in the Joey Coulter Charity Race Weekend, a successful annual event that wrapped up its 12<sup>th</sup> and final edition last month.

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### Bob Wise



Our November meeting brought us in touch with Bob Wise, the head of Safety and Technical Inspections at our "home track," Citrus County Speedway. Bob is a 41-year veteran of technical and management positions for General Motors, retiring from GM's Powertrain Division where he was a member of their management team. Bob's racing resume includes many years as a tech official for the Automobile Racing Club of America, where he played a key role in interpreting the ARCA rulebook. Bob joined Citrus County Speedway as part of its 2016 rebirth, bringing a wealth of knowledge and applied experience to his role of overseeing and enforcing the rules designed to promote fair and balanced competition.

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## Janine Woodsford Named Glen Carter Crew Chief Award Winner



Since its establishment in 2008, ten of our most active and involved members have been honored to receive this recognition, and if you check the names of these prior honorees on our website you'll quickly understand the reason why each of them was chosen for the award.

This year we honored one of the hardest working members of our pit crew...a fantastic colleague who consistently brings energy, dedication, and drive to any project she takes on. And the success over the past few years of this annual Hall of Fame night is testimony to her organizational skills and her ability to adjust to minor setbacks in a way that just keeps things running smoothly.

The 2017 winner of this award is our resident task master, Janine Woodsford (left in photo)...the one we all count on for assurance that things will get done and get done right.

## Jerry Conkle Crowned 2017 Prediction Row Champ!



On the strength of four wins and a commanding 440-point total, Jerry Conkle captured the 2017 trophy over runner up Gerry Greim. Oddly enough, Gerry's 362-point tally was the lowest of all six finalists, but her four wins trumped the

remaining competitors to place her in second spot. Mark Chatterton placed third with three wins and Don Day scored two, while Lou Palmer and Art Fehrman failed to log a single win. Lou's 411 points ended up second highest, but in our scoring, winning is everything and points are only good for positioning and tie-breaking. Here are the final 2017 standings:

4 wins, 440 points	Jerry Conkle
4 wins, 362 points	Gerry Greim
3 wins, 403 points	Mark Chatterton
2 wins, 398 points	Don Day
0 wins, 411 points	Lou Palmer
0 wins, 404 points	Art Fehrman



## Saying Goodbye to Our Founder



This year's Hall of Fame had a bittersweet touch to it in that we needed to say a sincere farewell to our club's founder, Glen Carter and wife Linda. As many of you know, Glen had the notion way back in 2006 to form a club of "motorheads" and "race fanatics" for the initial purpose of simply coming together to share their love of racing. As you also know, this notion grew, under Glen's leadership, into one of the most well-respected organizations of its type in the State of Florida...and beyond. The Carters are relocating to Georgia to be in proximity to family up there but, hey, it's South Georgia, so we'll no doubt see Glen and Linda zooming around The Villages from time-to-time. Keep an eye out for them!



Scenes From The Big Event

