



## ***PIT NEWS***

### ***January, 2026***

*Editor: Donna Gross*

**Next Meeting: January 7, 2026**

### ***A Few Words from the Outgoing President's Desk***



Greetings to you all,

I hope you and your families had a blessed Christmas and that 2026 brings you much health and happiness.

My term as your Crew Chief has drawn to an end. Much water has passed under the bridge. but it was all good and I loved every minute of it. The three years have passed quickly. I leave you in very good hands. New blood, new ideas and youth are the keys to your new leadership. I know you will support them as you have me and I ask that you give them suggestions of what you would like to see happening and the club will go on successfully for another twenty years. I will see you around, at a meeting, at a local race track and maybe, on the Beach.

Thank you for everything!

Love always, Gerry G.

### ***A Few Words from the Incoming President's Desk***



As we come to the end of another year in the club's history, I'd like to thank all the members for the warm welcome and support for voting for me as your new president. I hope I can continue the club's "Racing Themed" agenda at our meetings and club events.

I'd like to thank Gerry Greim and Chris Bleistein, the past two presidents that helped me since I joined the club, and also the great Board of Directors that volunteered their time and effort to steer the club in the right direction over the past years.

I'll continue the traditions of the club with new ideas and with the input of our great members. Many club members attended our events this past year – garage tours, Living Legends banquet in Daytona, our own Hall of Fame banquet, tailgating at local tracks, and our club's car shows with a variety of race cars and show cars.

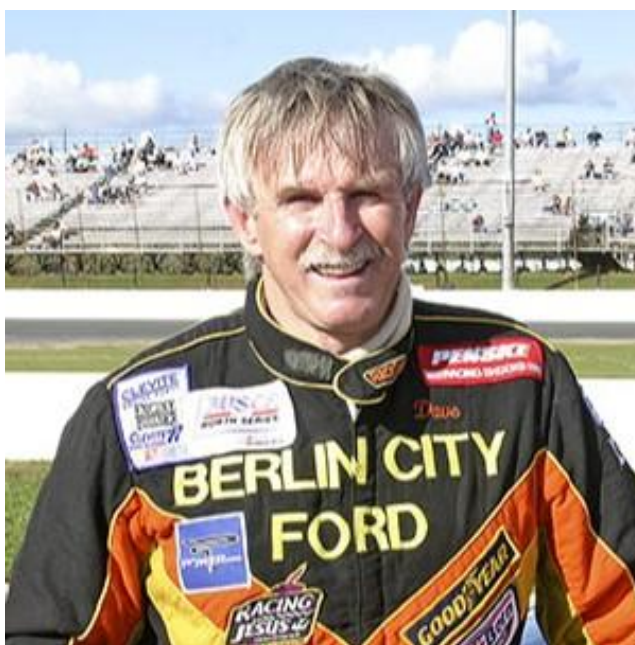
Our speaker on January 7 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center is Dave Dion. Watch the monthly newsletters for more info on upcoming events. Looking forward to seeing you and serving you as your new president.

Sincerely, Jeff Ing

## Important Upcoming Dates

Jan 5, Monday	Daytona Speedway Tour and Museum Access (details to follow)
Jan 7, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 7 PM
Jan 24, Saturday	Villages Car Club Showcase, Brownwood Square, 4-8 PM
Feb 4, Wednesday	Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 7 PM
Mar 4, Wednesday	Hall of Fame Induction Celebration, Colony Cottage, 4:30 PM (No monthly club meeting in March)

## Next Meeting – January 7



Our next meeting is on January 7 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker is the legendary short-track stock car racer in the Northeast, “Dynamite” Dave Dion. His racing accomplishments were part of a family affair as his brothers Paul, Roger and Donald were all integral parts to the Dion Brothers Racing team.

Racing primarily in Late Models, Dave became a dominant force at tracks like Thunder Road, Catamount Stadium and across New England, piling up wins and championships.

Dion took his talents to the NASCAR Busch North Series, winning 13 races over 20 seasons (1987-2006). Dion won the 1996 Busch North Series Championship at age 52. His last win on the series came at Oxford Plains Speedway in 2005 at the age of 61. He won the Oxford 250 three different times in three different decades (1975, 1985, 1992), becoming the event’s first 3-time winner. He considers this and his Busch North title his greatest accomplishments in racing.

## Living Legends of Auto Racing February 10, 2026 (Deadline to sign up and pay is Jan. 7)

Here are the details if you are interested in attending: The event starts at 5PM with a cash bar, and dinner starts at 6PM. The cost is \$66.00 per person and checks need to be payable to Chris Bleistein. **Checks/cash must be given to Chris at the January 7 meeting** or you can mail the check to Chris Bleistein, 4111 McDowell Drive, The Villages, FL 32163. Please include your phone number and whether you need a ride or can drive for the carpool.



### Membership Dues – Time to Renew for 2026

At the November 18 Board of Directors meeting a vote was taken to **increase membership dues immediately to \$25.00 a year.** This increase is necessary to continue providing quality events to our members. You can renew your membership at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend a meeting but want to renew your membership, you can go to the club's website ([villagesracingclub.com](http://villagesracingclub.com)), download and print the membership form and mail it with a check made payable to TVMRFC for \$25.00 and mail the form and check to Lois Taylor, 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163.



Thank you to all of you who donated to our Toys for Tots drive. The club also donated \$100. It is a pleasure knowing we made some children's Christmas a bit for brighter.

*This is going to be a great night for members and their guests to come together and enjoy each other's company.*



*The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club*  
*Annual Awards Celebration*  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

Doors Open: 4:30PM      Dinner: 4:45PM

**COLONY COTTAGE RECREATION CENTER**  
510 COLONY BLVD, THE VILLAGES, FL 32162

**"FOREVER YOUNG" WILL BE PERFORMING**  
**PASTA FAIRE WILL BE CATERING**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE JANUARY 1 and**  
**will be available at January 7 meeting.**

\$40 per person

To purchase tickets or ask questions, call Donna (401) 323-1334

**Make check payable to TVMRFC** and mail to  
Donna Gross, 3871 View Path, The Villages, FL 32163  
\*\* Villages ID or Guest Pass Required \*\*

**Hall of Fame Celebration – Important Notice**

The Hall of Fame Celebration will be held on our normal Wednesday meeting night, but if you DO NOT purchase a ticket, you will not be permitted to enter because this is a special event.

[VillagesRacingClub.com](http://VillagesRacingClub.com) | [Facebook: VillagesRacingClub](https://www.facebook.com/VillagesRacingClub)



## Christmas Parade – December 11

The Villages Christmas Parade took place on December 11 at The Villages Polo Club.





## Tailgating at Volusia – November 22

It was a great night for tailgating and racing.



## The Villages Car Club Showcase – January 24, 2026

The Villages Car Club Showcase will be held at Brownwood Square on Saturday January 24, 4PM-8PM. Come see a variety of vintage stock cars, dragsters, modifieds and NASCAR cars.





## Prediction Row

2026



Craig Simundza, Defending Champion  
Larry Palermini  
Steve Poplarski  
Jim Rezendes  
Bob Woodsford  
Pete Zaagman

Rick Almeida  
Bob Patterson  
Cathe Rezendes  
Ken Ronk  
Jason Woodsford  
*You?*

**Prediction Row needs one more competitor for the 2026 season.** I am actively recruiting NOW. If you would like to give it a try, please contact me immediately or see me at the January 7 meeting. It is easy to compete and picking the winner will challenge your brain. It is fun, nevertheless, to be involved.

Please email Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator, at [silkyssunshine@gmail.com](mailto:silkyssunshine@gmail.com)

### Board of Directors, Election of Officers

Per the Club's bylaws, the election of officers is held every three years at the December club meeting. The following officers were elected on December 3, 2025, to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2026:

President - Jeff Ing  
Vice President - Art Fehrman  
Recording Secretary - Craig Simundza  
Treasurer - Pat Fehrman



### *New Member*

Joe Kuchenbuch – Michigan

## Editor's Corner of jokes (and sometimes) useless funny tidbits...



There were four engineers driving in a car. It sputtered and died, so they pulled over. First, the electrical engineer said, "The coil is bad. We should replace the core." The chemical engineer said, "No, it is the fuel. We should drain it then replace it." Next, the mechanical engineer said, "It is the valve lifter. We need to get in there and take it apart." After a moment, the computer engineer says, "Maybe we should all get out, then get back in."



**EVERY THURSDAY** Club members and guests meet at Bob Evans Restaurant, 2199 Parr Drive, corner of CR 466 & Tall Trees Lane.

**EVERY FRIDAY** Club members and guests meet at Toasted Yolk Cafe, 657 Kristine Way, Lake Deaton Plaza.

We order at 8 a.m. Come join the fun. Sit with fellow members and have a coffee or have breakfast and chat about all things racing.

## **PLEASE KEEP US POSTED**

**Did you move, change your phone number or e-mail address? We need to know!**

Please let membership coordinator Lois Taylor know by either checking in with her at a meeting or emailing her at [ltaylr@hotmail.com](mailto:ltaylr@hotmail.com) or calling her at (352) 633-5624. It is important that we have your updated information in the event we need to reach out to members.



## Club Apparel



Get ready to rock your club pride with our exclusive “crew uniform” apparel, featuring the iconic club logo! From shirts to caps to totes, show the world you are part of the action. Check out the full collection now at [VillagesRacingClub.com](http://VillagesRacingClub.com)!

These top-quality items are available for viewing at every club meeting, and some items – without your personalized embroidery – are "cash and carry" for your convenience. Need your name embroidered? No problem! Orders for personalized gear are taken at every meeting, but we do require a minimum of six items per order (total from all members). Remember, cash or check is needed at the time of purchase.

Got questions or ready to place your order? Catch Mike Gross at a club meeting or reach out via email at [mikesg201@gmail.com](mailto:mikesg201@gmail.com). Let's gear up and represent the club in style!

## *Get Well and Thinking of You*

*We would like to send well wishes to all of our members and their families who may be recovering from or are in the midst of dealing with a medical illness.*



## PIT CREW

**Need to get in touch with a member of the Pit Crew?  
Please see the information below.**

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
<b>Board of Directors, Elected Officers (2026-2028)</b>			
Jeff Ing	President and Car Shows Coordinator	Crew Chief	(631) 897-6263
Art Fehrman	Vice President and Special Tours Coordinator	Car Chief	(708) 254-5196
<i>Open</i>	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	
Craig Simundza	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	(708) 744-7292
Pat Fehrman	Treasurer	Fueler	(630) 347-0052
<b>Board of Directors, Appointed by President (2026-2028)</b>			
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	(217) 714-2245
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Mechanic	(352) 633-5624
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Spotter	(401) 323-1334
John Angiolo	Sponsors Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	(414) 305-8094
Chris Bleistein	Past President	Team Owner	(954) 729-3050
Tony Kennea	Past President	Team Owner	(352) 603-9197
<b>Non-Board Members</b>			
Bob Woodsford	50/50 Coordinator and Camp Villages R/C Car Racing Coordinator	Rear Tire Changer	(352) 430-5249
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Coordinator	Jack Man	(401) 323-1313
Silky Meegan	Prediction Row Coordinator	Front Tire Changer	(352) 430-6042

**Don't forget to visit our website for more club information.**

# Thank You

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors for helping to keep the engines running! When you have the chance, please support their businesses – they're a big reason our club continues to thrive.



Mike Scott Plumbing  
Wildwood, FL  
(352) 748-9111

*Village Kart Aide*



Village Kart Aide  
The Villages, FL  
(352) 409-5853



TriLine Services  
The Villages, FL  
(217) 433-1394



Bob Woodsford, Realtor  
The Villages, FL  
(352) 430-5249



Mammoth Machines  
Leesburg, FL  
(407) 235-5282



Historic Auto Attractions  
Roscoe, IL  
(815) 389-7917



Ultrex Printing  
Lady Lake, FL  
(352) 205-8222



Choice Awards  
Bellevue, FL  
(352) 245-4496



Fox Pest Control  
Orlando, FL  
(407) 863-3592



Kokomo Speedway  
Kokomo, IN  
(765) 459-3877



ASA  
Midwest Tour



Golf Central  
The Villages, FL  
(352) 633-5059



A-1 United Tree Service  
The Villages, FL  
(352) 460-3763

## Benefactors

John Angiolo  
Pat Fehrman  
Sue & Richard Poindexter  
Jimmy Schumacher  
Alan Stone  
Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money and services to help support us.