



PIT NEWS
May, 2026
Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: May 6, 2026

A Few Words from the President's Desk



Happy Spring, everyone! It's getting warmer and no better time to get out and enjoy some local races in the central Florida area. It will be hot soon!

I'd like to thank the members who were able to make the Capt. Jack McClure and his Rocket Powered Go-Kart movie night on March 26th. It was a different type of outing and it was a good night.

We also had our first tailgate party of the year at Citrus County Speedway. Thank you everyone who helped with the setup, cooking and clean up. It was a good time!

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the car owners and club members that participated in the Car Show in Brownwood. It was a great night of talking shop and meeting potential members.

Our next meeting is May 6th at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. We welcome our guest speaker Vince Heywood from Illinois. Vince has over four decades of racing many types of race cars on dirt and asphalt tracks, which included drag racing. He has many stories to tell us. This is a meeting you won't want to miss!

Hope to see all of you on May 6.

Jeff Ing, Prez

Important Upcoming Dates

May 6, Wednesday	Monthly meeting, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 7 PM
May 11, Monday	Monday Night Car Show at Brownwood (See page 4 for details)
May 30, Saturday	Tailgate Party, Ocala Speedway (Details/sign-up at May meeting)
July 16, Thursday	Camp Villages R/C Race Cars- La Hacienda Rec Center (See page 4)
June, July, August	No monthly meeting – summer break
Sept 2, Wednesday	Monthly meeting, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 7 PM



Prediction Row

2026



After 11 of 13 races, we are nearing the finish line of our Spring Segment and have had four winner pickers. Standings are based on the number of wins with points breaking ties. The top 3 will transfer to the Chase Segment, the last ten races of the season.

Our current standings are:

Pete Zaagman – 3 wins 397 points
Bob Patterson – 2 wins 346 points
Larry Palermini – 2 wins 331 points
Jim Rezendes – 1 win 418 points
Craig Simundza – 0 wins 384 points
Bob Woodsford – 0 wins 267 points

Keep up with the latest standings by checking our website after each race.

Silky Meegan
Prediction Row Coordinator

Next Meeting – May 6



Our next club meeting is on May 6 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, with the green flag dropping at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker is Vince Heywood, a lifelong racer from Antioch, Illinois, who has been living the dream behind the wheel since 1985 when he was just 17 years old. Four decades later, he's still at it, and his story is nothing short of remarkable.

Vince has done it all, street stocks, sportsman, stock cars, modifieds, super modifieds, and sprint cars –on dirt and asphalt – plus nostalgia gasser dragsters. He even shares a piece of history with our own Art Fehrman, having competed in Art's Illinois Vintage Racing Series.

For the past seven seasons, Vince has channeled his passion into nostalgia gasser drag racing, joining a tight-knit brotherhood of racers dedicated to keeping the golden era alive with pre-1966 vintage machines. And when he's not at the track? He's in the garage, collecting and building antique cars, because apparently one racing life isn't enough.

Vince will be bringing photos that take us through a timeline of his adventures and accomplishments. So, get ready for a night full of great stories, iconic machines, and the kind of racing passion that reminds us all why we love this sport.

May 11 – Monday Night Car Show at Brownwood



Come out to Brownwood Paddock Square (5 p.m.-8 p.m.) for a night of cars, shop talk, music and drinks. The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club, The Heart of Florida Model A Restorers Club and Tin Lizzies of North Central Florida will present cars around the square.

Camp Villages Kids - July 16 La Hacienda Recreation Center

Bob Woodsford once again is spearheading the Camp Villages R/C car racing extravaganza. The event will be held at La Hacienda Recreation Center, 1200 Avenida Central. Set up is at 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. with the green flag waving at 10 a.m. The event runs until 1 p.m. Bob is asking for club members to help set up and then stay and help the kids navigate the track.

Please contact Bob at 352-430-5249 if you can help. Please leave him a message if he doesn't answer as he has a SPAM filter on his phone. He is definitely in need of helpers, ESPECIALLY two scorekeepers.

Bob says traditionally there are about 18 kids who participate. New this year is the presentation of trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Our club will provide these trophies and our logo will be on the trophies. Our club logo is also going to be on the R/C cars. Pretty cool and so official looking. **Don't forget to wear your Yellow Shirt.**



Pictures from the April Club Meeting



Guest Speaker Paul Diatlovich and Club President Jeff Ing

March 26 – Capt. Jack McClure and his Rocket Go-Kart Movie



There was a full house at the Old Mill Playhouse to watch this movie. It was a fun night.

April 11 – Tailgating at Citrus County Speedway

Another successful night of tailgating and racing at Citrus County Speedway.



Let's Welcome our New Member!



Bruce Clark - Wisconsin

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



HOW DO YOU KEEP A BAGEL FROM RUNNING AWAY? **YOU PUT LOX ON IT.**



EVERY THURSDAY We order at 8 a.m. Club members and guests meet at Bob Evans Restaurant, 2199 Parr Drive, corner of CR 466 & Tall Trees Lane.

EVERY FRIDAY We order at 7:30 a.m. Club members and guests meet at Toasted Yolk Cafe, 657 Kristine Way, Lake Deaton Plaza.

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 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!

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. 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
Board of Directors, Elected Officers (2026-2028)			
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
Craig Simundza	Secretary	Crew Coach	(708) 744-7292
Rich Benitz	Treasurer	Fueler	(908) 625-5522
Board of Directors, Appointed by President (2026-2028)			
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	(217) 714-2245
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Front Tire Carrier	(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
Non-Board Members			
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
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 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



Sheppard Racing
Enterprises
DeLand, FL
(352) 771-0055



Pops Golf Shop
Pops Golf Shop
The Villages, FL
(352) 633-5059



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

Benefactors

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