



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report December, 2012



Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, February 6, 2013

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Our Two "Home Tracks" Pay a Visit



From left: Mike Reed and John Chance, CCS; Ken Snyder and Joe Linebarier, BRP

November 7—As most of us are well aware, we are blessed with two great race tracks within an easy drive from us. For the asphalt enthusiasts we have Citrus County Speedway a mere 26 miles west from Laurel Manor, while our dirt track buffs have only a bit further to travel to the north to catch the action at Bubba Raceway Park just above Ocala. Both tracks have become somewhat favorite venues for us, and on any given race night you're likely to spot a few "yellow shirts" in the stands.

Our November 7 meeting featured a long-awaited visit from Bubba Raceway Park (BRP) representatives, with Operations Manager Ken Snyder and Track Announcer Joe Dirt (actually, his name is Joe Linebarier, but "Dirt" is so much cooler as a handle). Together, Messrs. Snyder and "Dirt" updated us on the season now concluding at BRP, along with some insights into the track's plans for the 2013 season. Perhaps the most exciting preview was the discussion on the planned "2013 Bubba Army Winternationals," a four-week dirt racing extravaganza beginning Monday, January 28 and concluding Saturday, February 23. Competition will include Dirt Late Models, UMP Open Wheel Modifieds, Winged Sprints, World of Outlaws Late Models, and USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars. Snyder also gave us a "sneak peak" at a dirt track driving school BRP is planning to launch in February, titled "Competition 101." Stay tuned for more information over the next several weeks...this could be really big!

The other half of our "visits from our home tracks" contingent took the form of a critique of the driving skills of our two "Hornet Classic" drivers—Gary Seyler and Jerry Conkle. Trackside coordinator John Chance gave us an insightful recap of the driving prowess displayed by these two spirited competitors, citing their evident talent levels behind the wheel. For those of you who missed it, Seyler and Conkle lined up with rookie Hornet driver Brittany Brown of Inverness for a no-holds-barred 15-lap slugfest on October 27 over at CCS. Our two guys struggled mightily to overcome the advantage that Brittany's superior equipment gave her, but in the end they finished second and third. Seyler provided some awesome thrills for our contingent of 35 supporters in the stands, leading three laps and smacking the wall twice while dueling with Brown. Conkle, on the other hand, played it cool in third place, keeping an eye on the leaders and staying in position to capitalize on any dust-ups between them. Unfortunately, Jerry's

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Our Two “Home Tracks” Pay a Visit (cont’d)

(continued from page 1) strategy proved fruitless, although he did achieve a podium finish in the event.

In the trophy presentation commemorating our two participants, CCS representative Chance observed that “Both drivers are to be commended for taking the challenge, and for displaying skill levels beyond what is normally expected of Hornet class drivers.” Both Chance and Mike Reed deemed the event a success for both CCS and the Club, and indicated that the event will become an annual outing for 2013 and beyond. At right are a few photo highlights from the event.

(Editorial note: Anyone who missed the race can still view it in the “Video Gallery” of our website—
www.villagesracingclub.com).



Clockwise, from top left: The yellow shirts in the stands at CCS; Jerry Conkle receiving his trophy from John Chance; Gary Seyler getting set to go; Conkle tightening his belts; Seyler getting ready to clobber the first turn wall while Brittany Brown stands on the brakes.



The Villages Cup—Another Great One!

November 14—The third edition on our annual Villages Cup competition came off with out a hitch...well, maybe one, when a wind gust tore down part of the sound system and damaged some of Dave’s equipment! But overall, it was a great event, with 17 R/C car drivers in two classes registering for the double elimination tournament. From the stirring National Anthem to the trophy presentations and post-race celebrations, it was a day to remember for our R/C enthusiasts.

The start-up for the event featured a parade lap during the National Anthem, driven by co-organizer Dave Allen. Next on the agenda was a rousing call to drivers to start their engines delivered by our own

NASCAR veteran Arthur ‘Buster’ Burt. Then came the elimination heats, followed by the features, and the competition was fast and furious. When the smoke cleared, our resident R/C aces Larry Anderson and Dave Allen grabbed most of the hardware, with Anderson winning all five of his heat races and the features in both the Stock class and the Modified class. Allen won four of his heat races, and finished second in both features. In the Stock Class feature, Don Day and Mike Heinke finished 3rd and 4th, respectively, while in the Modified Class feature, Tony Cahl grabbed 3rd place honors, with Bob Woodsford finishing 4th.

In addition to some great racing action, the event was honored by a guest appearance from our own “Ms. Villages Cup,” in complete racing uniform:



At first, we thought it was Amanda Ferguson, but we quickly realized it was our own Wendy Touchette!

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The Villages Cup—Another Great One! (continued)

Here are a few more action shots from Cup action:



L-to-R: Dave Allen's professional sound set-up; the National Anthem host car; the start of a heat race

Wayne Nolan Grabs 2012 Prediction Row Crown

As is often the case in stock car racing, the sprint to the finish was a shocker, with Wayne Nolan coming out of nowhere to overtake the leaders in the closing laps. On average, Wayne's picks during the ten Chase events finished tenth, while runner up Jerry Conkle racked up an 11.3 average and third-place finisher Bob Giles came in at an 11.4 average. During the Chase round, Jon Neville occupied the top spot seven of the ten weeks, but dropped to fourth as a result of Jimmy Johnson's final race problems. Neville's overall Chase average fell to 13.5 for the full ten races.

our panel of experts scored a total of 14 winning predictions, with Corky Eck leading the way with three checkered flag picks. Jon Neville, Connie Scalzitti, and Wendy Touchette each captured two winning predictions, while the remaining five were spread among eventual champion Wayne Nolan, Gary Civiletti, Fred Coenen, Jim Carter, and Jerry Conkle.

Overall, of the 216 possible picks, the selections of our 12 panelists wound up in the top ten 59% of the time, indicating that they had a pretty good idea of how the 36 races would unfold. Even better, these picks finished in the top five 35% of the time, with podium finishes 19%

We'll be recruiting for Prediction Row panelists in January, so watch for emails and web articles for your chance to join this elite group of former winners:

- 2012—Wayne Nolan
- 2011— Alan Stone
- 2010—Bill Tharp
- 2009—Silky Meegan



Nolan receives award from Crew Chief Hafer.

Local Merchants Support 10/28 Bingo Fundraiser

Although our October 28 Bingo fundraising event met with only moderate success, it's fair to say that our spirited players had a great time. In addition to cash prizes, the support of several local merchants went a long way to making the trip out to Colony Cottage worthwhile for some lucky contestants.

We'd like to offer a sincere note of thanks to these vendors, and we encourage you to visit their places of business and thank them for their support:



Welcome, New Members

At our last two meetings, we added several more racing enthusiasts to our group! Be sure to greet them next time you see them and strike up a conversation about their interest in the wide world of motorsports!



Left-to-right: (Row 1) Joe Beauregard, Tony Cahl, Mark Erdrich, Sherwood Herb, Rosine Levitich & Roger Sandefer, (Row 2) George Meielhof, George Nagle, William Southwick, John Uaduari

Local Racing Corner

As we've mentioned quite a few times in the past, these tracks represent the local roots of racing and they need our support! If you've been to an event at any of these tracks recently, you'll no doubt agree that attendance is down. Car counts are down as well, and it's easy to see that either of these facts represents a cause-and-effect situation. If the cars don't come, neither will the fans, and it's becoming a downward spiral that can only lead to the closing of tracks here in Central Florida. We've already lost one this year (Columbia), and most of the others are struggling. So, let's do our part to keep the sport alive! These tracks are where the future big-league drivers cut their teeth.

Track	Location	Telephone	Website URL
Original Speedway Park	Fruitland Park	352-348-4336	originalspeedwaypark.com
Citrus County Speedway	Inverness	352-726-9339	citruscountyspeedway.com
Bubba Raceway Park	Ocala (Zuber)	352-622-9400	bubbaracewaypark.com
Volusia Raceway Park	Barberville	386-985-4402	volusiaspeedwaypark.com
New Smyrna Speedway	Samsula	386-427-4129	newsmyrnaspeedway.org
Orlando Speedworld	Bithlo	407-568-1367	orlandospeedworld.org
East Bay Raceway Park	Tampa (Gibson)	813-677-7223	eastbayracewaypark.com
Marion County Speedway	Ocala	352-812-3922	ocalamicrospeedway.com
Auburndale Speedway	Winter Haven	863-551-1131	auburndaleracing.com
Punta Gorda Speedway	Punta Gorda	941-575-7223	puntagordaspeedway.com
Desoto Super Speedway	Bradenton	941-748-3171	desotosuperspeedway.com

Special Events Roundup



It's hard to believe we're into the "off season," but don't despair...a quick look at our website will tell you we're already promoting trips to NASCAR's Speedweeks events, and we're all looking forward to the start of another active racing season. Although the months of December are a good time to sit back and take a breath, we know our R/C racers don't take a break, and neither do some of our local tracks. Citrus County Speedway, for example, hosted a "Fall Spectacular" event on 12/15, and they'll be welcoming in 2013 with a 100-lap Super Late Model event on 1/12. Week one of Bubba Raceway Park's "Winternationals" kicks off 1/28, and New Smyrna's "Red Eye 100" is set for 1/5. So, I guess it's not really an "off season," is it?

Some of the events and activities on tap for the next few months are shown below. As always, though, we'd love to hear your suggestions for trips and events... just give me a call!

Wendy

Date/Event	Event Details
Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 New Smyrna Speedway	First race in the FASCAR Triple Crown Series for 2013...the Red Eye 100. Check the track's website for schedule details (http://newsmyrnaspeedway.org)
Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013 Colony Cottage	Our 2012 Hall of Fame Induction. See page 9 of this newsletter for details.
Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013 Citrus County Speedway	Season Opener—SLM 100 event, along with Mini stocks, Pro Trucks, et al. Check the track's website for details (http://www.citruscountyspeedway.com)
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 New Smyrna Speedway	Second race in the FASCAR Triple Crown Series...the Pete Orr Memorial/ Orange Blossom 100. Check the track's website for details.
Monday, Jan. 28, 2013 Bubba Raceway Park	Kick-off of the four-week Bubba Army Winternationals. Check the track's website for schedule details (http://www.bubbaracewaypark.com)
Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 New Smyrna Speedway	Kick-off of the 47th Annual World Series of Asphalt...nine straight days of racing, including Super Late Models, Pro Late Models, Modifieds, and more
Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013 Daytona International Speedway	The Budweiser Duel at Daytona. See our website homepage for information regarding a bus trip to the event.
Sunday Feb. 24, 2013 Daytona International Speedway	The Daytona 500. See our website homepage for information regarding a bus trip to the event.
Friday, Mar. 15, 2013 Gainesville	NHRA Gatornationals. See our website homepage for information regarding a bus trip to the event.
Thursday, May 2 Saddlebrook	Night Golf event...details to follow, but mark your calendars!

Next Up—2012 Hall of Fame Inductions

We're gearing up for the January 6, 2013 edition of our Hall of Fame Induction, and this year we're taking a different approach. Instead of a formal, catered dinner, we've decided to take a more relaxed approach this year, with light refreshments (i.e., snacks and "finger foods") and non-alcoholic drinks (coffee and tea). Of course, as is customary in virtually all activities in The Villages, attendees are invited to "BYOB" to supplement the liquid refreshments we'll provide.

In arriving at this "relaxed" approach, the Pit Crew considered a number of issues related to past Hall of Fame events. The price of catering, for example, was singled out as a significant deterrent, as evidenced by declining participation from our members. Scheduling of the event in the Holiday Season was also considered a problem, creating conflicts on many of our members' social calendars during December. Finally, we concluded that prior agendas, with much of the time allocated to the

dinner itself, did not afford us an opportunity to properly recognize the contributions of our inductees. With more time available for the actual induction and awards programs, we feel we'll be able to do a better job of thanking our inductees.

The details for the January 6 event are shown on page 9, and we ask that you let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend so event co-chairs Barbara and Wayne Nolan can develop a solid headcount for the food!

Villages Honor Flight Visits the Club

December 5—Our group was privileged to have a visit from representatives of Villages Honor Flight at the December 5 meeting. As many of you know, this organization is part of a national network dedicated to commemorating the service of our veterans by transporting them to Washington, D.C. to view the various memorials in the area. As explained on their website (www.villageshonorflight.org),

"World War II Veterans are dying at the rate of 1000 per day. That is not a typo -- 1000 PER DAY. The WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, opened to the public in 2004. Most WWII veterans have not seen this memorial honoring their service to all of mankind, and not many have the means or ability to do so ... until now.



Villages Honor Flight (VHF) was formed in July, 2012 to support Honor Flight efforts in the Villages / Lake County / Sumter County / South Marion County area. This area has a large number of WW II vets and prior to the VHF, those vets had to rely on other FL chapters -- the probability that they would get to see the WWII Memorial was **low.** "

At our December 5 meeting, Villages Honor Flight representatives Jim Dow and George Green covered the background and organization of the local network, with Green providing a moving and heartfelt recap of his own personal Honor Flight trip. Our own Wayne Nolan will be serving as a Guardian on a 2013 trip, so stay tuned to hear about his experience at a future meeting.



George Green delivers a stirring recap of his Honor Flight experience.

Club Shines at Villages Rec Department Event

October 20—A dedicated group of eleven club members pooled their efforts to help make our group look outstanding at this year’s “Tech Know-How” event sponsored by The Villages Recreation Department. Under the leadership of Pit Crew member Gary Civiletti, our representatives staffed an informative array of club memorabilia, including highlights of milestone events, radio-controlled race cars, and general race-themed displays, and once again showed us off as one of the premier organizations in The Villages!

Here are a few snapshots of the day’s festivities:



The Re-Birth of “Our Club Car”

November 28- Look out, Florida Late Model Stock Car Racing Community...he’s back! Club “Godfather” Dick Anderson unveiled his newest car at the Performance Racing Industry’s Annual Trade Show at the Nov. 28-Dec. 1 event at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. And it’s a beauty!

Built as a joint venture between Anderson’s “New Dixie Racing” and Circle Track Magazine, the sleek 2013 Mustang took the show by storm. Sporting a 540 factory-supplied Ford racing engine, an Anderson elite

chassis, and a host of Anderson-inspired performance tweaks, the car has been described by many as being almost too pretty to race. And it will stay spotless for at least a few more weeks, since there are no plans to compete with the car until spring of 2013. If you want to take a close-up look at the car, stop by Dick’s Wildwood race shop and get the grand tour!

By the way, our club logo has been placed in a conspicuous place (the side wind vents), giving us some national exposure (again) via PRI’s audience of an estimated 37,500 attendees.

Here are a few shots of the “New 92”...



Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Hormann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (303-9734)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Gary Civiletti, Villages Liaison (751-4030)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Jerry Conkle, Technical Consultant (750-1185)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

Club Shows Up Big at Christmas Parade

With Gary Civiletti leading the way, our group helped The Villages Recreation Department carryout another great Christmas Parade for area residents. Sharon Civiletti and Gerry Greim headed up our procession with the club's official banner, and were followed by a contingent of decorated golf carts displaying a variety of Christmas themes. In addition, a group of our radio-controlled racing enthusiasts participated, adding a dimension that excited and entertained the spectators.

Here are a few "action shots" from the event...



Conkle's Corner...

Well the "Rumble at Citrus" is over. Gary and I had a great time, it was a lot of fun. Gary is a little younger and a little braver than I am. And I couldn't catch him, my car was a little under powered, it was only running on four cylinders. (Editorial note...it only had four cylinders!) I don't know how Gary got the nick name of Cyclone, I am not sure how I got the nick name of Flash, it could be because they called my uncle a flasher, he tried to quit, but stuck it out for another year.



Some more thoughts to ponder...

- Two brooms were hanging in the closet and after a while they got to know each other so well, they decided to get married. One broom was, of course, the bride broom, and the other the groom broom. The bride broom looked very beautiful in her white dress. The groom broom was handsome and suave in his tuxedo. The wedding was lovely. After the wedding, at the wedding dinner, the bride broom leaned over and said to the groom broom. "I think I am going to have a little whisk broom!" IMPOSSIBLE!" said the groom broom. "WE HAVEN'T EVEN SWEEPED TOGETHER!"
- A Redneck walks into a bar and is about to order a drink when he sees a guy close by talking very loud in Spanish and wearing a Marlin's baseball cap and gesticulating like a wind-mill. He doesn't have to be an Einstein to know that this guy is from Miami, so he shouts over to the bartender so loudly that everyone can hear, "Drinks for everyone, bartender, but not for that Cuban over there." Soon after the drinks have been handed out, the Cuban gives him a big smile, waves at him, then says, "Muchas Gracias and "Sankiu!" in an equally loud voice. This infuriates the Redneck. He once again loudly orders drinks for everyone except the Cuban. As before, this does not seem to bother the Cuban guy. He continues to smile and again yells, "Sankiu". The Redneck asks the bartender, "What the hell is the matter with that guy? I've ordered two rounds of drinks for everyone in the bar but him, and all the stupid idiot does is smile and thank me. Is he nuts?" "Nope," replies the bartender. "He owns the place."



**2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION AND AWARDS NIGHT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013
COLONY COTTAGE RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

**Join us as we celebrate the induction of these
motorsports luminaries into our Hall of Fame**

The Class of 2012

Geoff Bodine	Joe Linebarier (a.k.a. Joe Dirt)
John Chance	J. C. Miller
Bill Clements	Mike Reed
Jerry Conkle	Joy Reutimann
Eileen Daniels	Wayne Reutimann
Amanda Ferguson	Ken Snyder
Diana Hubbard	Denise Sullivan

Keynote Speaker – South Florida Racing Legend Bobby Brack

Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm, followed by the induction at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments, finger foods, and non-alcoholic drinks will be served. (BYOB for other liquid refreshment.)

**RSVP TO BARBARA NOLAN
AT 352-750-9082
BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013**

