

Motor Racing Fan Club inducts Hall of Fame class



Photos by Peter Travers / Daily Sun
The inductees in The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club's Hall of Fame, from left, Buddy Pearce, Mike Peters, Dick Anderson, Buster Burt, Buzz Wilkie, Dave Bockman, Sabrina Gardner, Larry D. Croom, Steve Griffin, Dean Tillman, and Matt Vaughn gather with the trophy at the club's meeting on Wednesday at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

Group honors 12 past speakers as inaugural inductees

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By Katie Evans

After a year of partnering with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club, being inducted into their 2007 Hall of Fame was a thrill for Dick Anderson.

"I've had my name on probably 700, 800, 900 trophies," said the retired racer from Wildwood, as he looked at the Hall of Fame trophy. "Having my name on this one means the most."

The club has sponsored Anderson-owned race cars in three races this year, and every time his car has come in first.

"My association with the club has been magical," he said. "Every time the club has sponsored me, the racing gods have been with us."

Anderson was among the 12 people inducted into the club's Hall of Fame, which honored all the speakers the club has had in the past year. This year's group of inductees included retired racers, current racers, speedway owners and others.

One inductee, Sabrina Gardner, said becoming a member of the Hall of Fame has an honor, but the relationship she's formed with the club members is incredible.

"I've kind of taken them on as my family," said the manager for corporate and consumer travel for International Speedway Corporation.

In the past year, she's helped arrange packages for the club to make trips to the Pepsi 400 and, in February, the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

The induction ceremony was an opportunity for Gerry Hafer to reflect on the club's past year and the success it has had.

"I just can't believe it," Hafer said. "It's just incredible what's happened with this club."

"Most of the accolades go to Glen (Carter)."

In fact, the club surprised Carter, the president and founder of the club, by awarding him "The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Founding Father Award."

"I just had an idea one day," Carter said, remembering when he started the club.

And as he looked around at the more than 100 people in the room, most wearing the club's signature yellow polo shirt, he smiled. "My God, look what happened!"



Glen Carter, right, president of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club, accepts the 'Founding Father' award from Dave Bockman at the club's Wednesday meeting.