



PIT NEWS *February, 2023*

Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: February 1, 2023

A Few Words from the President's Desk



I would like to thank everyone for your support and encouragement as I take over the Presidency of our Motor Racing Fan Club. Chris Bleistein has done an amazing job for the past three years and if I can fill shoes half the size of his, I will be doing well.

As we approach the month of February, we have a lot to look forward to. February 1 will be our regular meeting at 7PM at Colony Cottage Rec Center. Our speaker will be club member John Mulloy, former tire changer for the Dale Earnhardt Sr. race team. He has lots of stories, good and bad, to tell us. Whether you liked or hated Dale, this will be an excellent program.

February 4 will be our Hall of Fame Celebration with Suzie Casta entertaining. February 13 will be the Legends of Racing car show and parade in Daytona Beach Shores. Anyone interested in taking a ride to the beach, it is a fun day. You might come face-to-face with a celebrity racer. February 19, 2:30PM, we will be having a Daytona 500 watch party at the Rohan Rec Center. Please bring a potluck food item to serve 8 people as your admission ticket, as well as your favorite liquid refreshment. For those interested in drag racing, the club is sponsoring a bus trip to the Gatornationals on Friday March 10. Contact Michael Gross for tickets and/or the bus ride.

As for football ... FLY, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES, FLY

Regards,
Gerry Greim

Congratulations



Let's all congratulate Ms. Gerry Greim on her election to Club President. For all of the members who were not in attendance at the January 4, 2023 meeting, Chris Bleistein passed the 'wrench' to Gerry.

Gerry has been a member for many years and has served as Recording Secretary and is always willing to give her assistance where it is needed. She has been an intricate part of this club and well deserving of the Presidency.

I would be remiss if I didn't commend Chris Bleistein for the excellent job he has done for the last three years. It has been his leadership that has brought the club to where it is today. Chris will continue to work with the current board in securing speakers and helping wherever he is needed.



Picture from January 4 Meeting



Art Fehrman presents guest speaker Joe Gerardi with his Certificate of Appreciation.

2022 Prediction Row Champion



Silky Meegan presents the Prediction Row trophy to the 2022 champion, Donna Dillon. Donna gets to keep the traveling trophy for a year of bragging rights.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 1, Wednesday Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 4, Saturday Hall of Fame Induction Celebration, Eisenhower Rec Center 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19, Sunday Daytona 500 Watch Party, Rohan Regional Rec Center 2:30 p.m.
- Mar. 1, Wednesday Monthly Meeting, Colony Cottage Rec Center, 7 p.m.

Update For Gatornationals Trip On March 10, 2023

A bus has been reserved for the 2023 racing qualifications at Gainesville on Friday, March 10. Tickets will go on sale at the February 1 club meeting. There will be no increase in the ticket price as this is being treated as a rained-out event. However, if you did NOT purchase a ticket last year but would like to attend, the ticket cost is \$44. Anyone who is interested in taking the bus to the track, the cost is \$30. Please see Mike Gross in the back of the meeting room or call Mike at 352-399-6072.

Next Meeting – February 1



Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 1 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, going green at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker is John Mulloy, a club member with a long resume at various teams in the NASCAR Winston Cup Series.

One highlight on his resume is as tire carrier with the Flying Aces, the over-the-wall crew that pitted the #3 Chevy for Dale Earnhardt Sr. John served on this pit crew from 1990-1996.

Over his career, Mulloy was on the pit crews of seven championship teams in the Winston Cup Series -- five with Dale Earnhardt Sr., one with Bobby Labonte and one with Tony Stewart.

Daytona Watch Party

Please join us for the Daytona 500 Watch Party on February 19, 2023 at 2:30PM at the Rohan Regional Recreation Center. Please bring a potluck food item to serve 8 people as your admission ticket, as well as your favorite beverage.



Prediction Row for 2023 NASCAR Season

We are beginning our 16th year of predicting NASCAR race winners in the Sports Section of The Villages Daily Sun. The feature appears on every NASCAR points race day.

Each year 12 club members “volunteer” to participate – six for the first 13 races; six for races 14-26. Using the points NASCAR awards after each race, our competitors accumulate points for their predictions. From each group, the three with the most wins/highest points move on to the Playoffs. Our six Playoff predictors then compete for the Prediction Row trophy. The player with the most wins/points is crowned the Champion. Our champion for 2022 was Donna Dillon.

For 2023 most of our participants are newish club members competing for the first time. Donna is defending her title and there are two “repeaters” from last year. To liven up the competition, we have two couples playing the game. Each member of each couple will compete in different segments from their spouse, but could easily end up as rivals in The Playoff.

Welcome our 2023 Predictors

Spring Segment

Rick Almeida
Brian Dillon
Jeff Ing
John Mulloy
Craig Simundza
Bill Samuels

Summer Segment

Tim Burk
Donna Dillon
Chris Dirato
Rick Kegel
Bob Lupini
Linda Samuels

Silky Meegan
Prediction Row Coordinator

Membership Notice

It is time to renew your membership for 2023. If you haven't renewed, you can do so at the membership tables at the meetings. Of course, you can renew by mail if you wish, but please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me Lois Taylor, 701 Abdella Way, The Villages, FL 32163 and I will mail your 2023 sticker to be placed on your membership card. If you cannot find your card, please let me know ASAP and I will request a new one for you. Also, include your home state if you want it printed on your card.

By starting now, we hope to reduce the line at check-in at the meetings. I look forward to seeing all of you again this year. Our club is growing, so arrive a little early and PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK IN. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY RACE FANS ARE ATTENDING BECAUSE THIS ASSURES US THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR BIG ROOM AT COLONY COTTAGE.

If you have not picked up your membership card, please check the table by the entrance to the meeting room. I have a number of cards that have not been picked up.

Lois Taylor
Membership Coordinator

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 updated information in the event we need to reach out to you.

Get Well and Thinking of You

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

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



What do race car drivers wear under their fire-retardant suits? Speedos

I went to a drag race last Saturday. I still can't believe the guy in high heels won.

What do parents give their baby if they want them to be a future race car driver? Formula 1

If Robert Pressley, John Andretti and Geoff Bodine were in a boat and the boat sinks, who would be saved? Half the cars in Sunday's race.



Let's Welcome our New Members!

John Modesto from Tennessee/Florida

Melvin Naylor from Maryland

Steve Shell from Florida

Charles Zieman from Illinois

Club Apparel Is Back

Show off your club pride with "crew uniform" apparel items featuring the club logo. To view the complete line of apparel, please go to the club's website, VillagesRacingClub.com

These high-quality items may be seen at every club meeting. Some items without your embroidered name are "cash and carry." Orders for embroidered items are taken at each meeting, but we need to order a minimum of six items at a time. Cash or check is required at the time of order.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please see Crew Uniform Manager Mike Gross at a club meeting or contact him at mikesg201@gmail.com.

Sponsorship Opportunity with The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club



Our club's Sponsorship Program is "revved" up. Here is the information that is given to a sponsor to show them what the club will provide in return for their sponsorship.

We are pleased to announce your sponsorship will be showcased on our website Sponsor Page. It will also be promoted at our monthly meetings and at every racing booth throughout the year. We will provide handouts and advertise your business at our racing events.

Sponsorships will go a long way toward making our goals a reality. We are striving to bring informative and diverse racing-related events to The Villages. For more information to become a sponsor, please contact club president, Gerry Greim at 215-630-1402 or gerryglbi@cs.com.



Assistant Media Coordinators

We are searching for helpers to assist media coordinator Mike Anderson with activities that he handles. They are quite varied: email blasts, print member badges, PowerPoint at meetings, Word, club website and Facebook. We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. If you would like to talk about this opportunity, please call or email Mike, 217-714-2245 or mike.mag70@gmail.com.

Recording Secretary

We need a volunteer to record minutes at our board of directors meetings. These are held at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, August - April. The minutes are then emailed to the board members. Please call or email club president Gerry Greim to talk about this opportunity, 215-630-1402 or gerryglbi@cs.com.



PIT CREW

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

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Gerry Greim	President	Crew Chief	215-630-1402
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Volunteer needed	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	
Roger Taylor	Treasurer	Fueler	352-633-5624
Mike Gross	Special Events Coordinator	Jack Man	401-323-1313
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Mechanic	352-633-5624
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Coordinator	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
John Angiolo	Member At Large	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Chris Dirato	Member At Large	Mechanic	917-921-9070
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Chris Bleistein	Immediate Past President	Team Owner	954-729-3050
Jerry Conkle	Past President	Team Owner	352-750-1185

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

Thank You

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support. We ask that you please support these businesses so that they can continue to be a vital part of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club.



Mammoth Machines
Leesburg, FL
407-235-5282



ASA
Midwest Tour



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



Ultrex Printing
Lady Lake, FL
352-205-8222



Lefthander Chassis
Roscoe, IL
815-389-9999



Professional Home Maintenance and Repair Services

Triline Services
The Villages, FL
217-433-1394



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN
765-459-3877



Platinum Sponsor
Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
352-748-9111



Parts Geek
Doylestown, PA
800-541-9352



Fox Pest Control
Orlando, FL
407-863-3592



Benefactors
John Angiolo
Pat Fehrman
Alan Stone

Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money and services to help support us.