



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report-March, 2009

March 1, 2009

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Big News...Our Club is Moving!



Those of you who were at our February 4 meeting heard the big announcement...we're moving to Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Those of you who were at the February 4 meeting also saw first-hand the reason for the move. With over a hundred members packed in, and with auction tables in front and administrative tables in the rear, we once

again experienced the overflow conditions that have plagued us for some time.

Your Pit Crew has been discussing this matter for some time, and has fully recognized that the move to a new location, coupled with a move to a new date, will disappoint some members. We regret that, but we also recognize that the new date may make others available to attend club meetings. Above all, though, our reason for considering the move was our continuing intent to make our meetings and club activities as comfortable and enjoyable as we can.

And so, we say farewell to our home at Laurel Manor, and we leave with sincere thanks to their staff for serving us so well for the past two and a half years. We'll look to see all of you at our new, enlarged meeting place on Wednesday, March 25. From that date forward, our regular meeting date will be the fourth Wednesday of each month.

We know Colony Cottage is further to travel for many of you. Think of it as adding a few laps to the event, or think of it as moving to a track with more room on pit lane! Either way, we hope to see you all on March 25.

Pit Notes from the Crew Chief

Thanks to all of you who participated in our third annual charity auction on February 4. Despite the economic situation that we're all hearing so much about, our premier auctioneer—Big Dave Bockman—turned in another masterful performance for the club, converting an assortment of racing-related "stuff" into an \$800 pile of cash that we then distributed to the three charities our club



Big Dave

supports. It was another great night for the club.

So, racing is back in full swing, your club is on the move, and all of us are looking forward to another great year of trips and events. At our March meeting, we'll take a look at yet another racing venue—Formula 1—with club member Duncan Paterson scheduled to provide a detailed look at this form of racing. We'll see you all out at our new quarters...Colony Cottage.

World Series Report—New Smyrna Speedway

New Smyrna Speedway’s version of Speedweeks—officially known as the “World Series of Short Track Racing”—featured nine straight days of intense competition at this imposing half-mile concrete oval. It also featured solid appearances by Wildwood’s famed Anderson family. Competing in the series’ premier Super Late Model class, the Andersons made their presence known repeatedly throughout the grueling nine-day schedule, taking on the strong competition offered by a field of Central Florida standouts like eventual World Series champion David Rogers, Tim Russell, and Jeremy Colangelo, along with former Floridian and now North Carolinian Jeff Choquette, 2007 ASA Late Model Series Champion.

Wayne Anderson turned in the most consistent performance for the Sumter County contingent, compiling a finishing average of 4th in the eight Super Late Model features. His results included third place finishes in the first four features and a commanding win in the seventh race, with a lowest finish of 8th. As a contender in every event, Anderson’s black number 84 provided a constant measure of pressure for the rest of the field.

Although not experiencing as strong a performance as his son, family patriarch Dick Anderson (a.k.a “The King of the Florida Short Tracks”) also turned in a solid run during the World Series. His two entries—the No. 84x driven by Mt. Dora’s Matt Bowers and the legendary No. 92 driven by NASCAR Nationwide series driver Cale Gale—also made their

presence known during the nine-day stretch. Gale posted an average finish of 7th for the two events he ran, while up-and-coming young star Bowers compiled an average 9th place finish for the four features in which he competed.

So, with all three Anderson cars averaging finishes in the top ten, it was a respectful World Series for the Wildwood delegation. The elder Anderson approached the series as a shakedown session for his recently re-built No. 92 entry, and as a training and experience

session for his 17 year old protégé, Bowers. But Dick is a proven winner, and the absence of a win for either of his cars left him, in his words, “Totally frustrated.” Bowers was a bit more philosophical about the experience, calling it “An enlightening week for all of us, with a lot of struggles and ups and downs.”

As our club knows, Dick Anderson may be frustrated right now, but he will be back in the Winner’s Circle in no time!



In photo at left, Dick Anderson is pictured with his World Series drivers, Matt Bowers (left) and Cale Gale (right).

In photo at right, Cale Gale works on the grill of the No. 92 as Jason Meeks, Kevin Harvick’s Nationwide Car Chief, observes. Notice Buster Burt in the background, poised to jump in with consulting input at a moment’s notice!



Dick Anderson consults with his drivers in a pre-race strategy session, as Debra & Ned Bowers listen in. There’s even a portion of Crew Chief Carter in this photo!



Still More Club Members in the News...

During the month of February, we once again had club members figuring prominently in the local media, further proving that "we are everywhere" in The Villages. First up was a Monday, February 2 item in the Daily Sun showing Marlene and Bill Wilkie studiously following the competition in Super Bowl XLIII. Well, Bill is studying it...Marlene's simply having a good time. Judging from Bill's expression, this photo must have been snapped when Arizona took the lead late in the fourth quarter. Marlene evidently knew what the outcome would be!



That same Daily Sun edition also included coverage of the club's field trip to Daytona International Speedway on Sunday, February 1. The trip, as you'll recall, was a three-part event in which Buster Burt was making his dramatic return to the Speedway after a 50-year absence, while Wendy Touchette and Joan Rybacki each took "ride-alongs" with the Richard Petty Experience. Although the Daily Sun article focused solely on the exploits of Wendy and Joan, the main story of the day was Buster's nostalgic reliving of his competing in the Speedway's first event in 1959. (See page 8 for a recap of Buster's return.)



Locals voice ideas for home decorating club

By CAROLINE KLAPPER
DAILY SUN

THE VILLAGES — Ever since childhood, Linda Carter had a desire to decorate.

"My interest started when I started decorating my doll houses as a little girl," the Village of Summerhill resident said. "I have a passion for decorating."

Carter brought that passion with her to The Villages when she moved here four years ago. She said she hoped to find a decorating club to join, but no one had started one — until now.

"I've kind of waited for four years for someone to do this, but it never happened. So I decided to do it," she said.

The Home Decorating Club had its first meeting this month, and the turnout was much more than Carter expected.



Other club-member media appearances included an appearance by Silky Meegan and Ted and Diana Cahalane in the Daily Sun's 2/9 edition commemorating their leadership the Lady Lake "Help Them Call Home" program and Club Historian Linda Carter's role establishing a resident group to share ideas on home decorating. And, how about Steve Haumann grabbing a "People's Choice Award" at the 2/21 Cruise-In! These frequent appearances in the media further illustrate that our members are a vibrant part of the community!



Special Events Roundup



Now that the flurry of early season activities (especially the Daytona events) are behind us, we've begun to develop our plans for the remainder of 2009. Watch the newsletter and the website as announcements are made, and of course we'll keep you posted at our regular meetings. Speaking of meetings, don't forget that we have a new meeting date...we're moving to the fourth

Wednesday of the month at Colony Cottage, with one exception: our **May** meeting will be the **third Wednesday** due to holiday scheduling conflicts.

Our next trip will be the Friday, March 13 expedition to

Gainesville for the NHRA Gaternationals. We have a sold-out bus, and I know that everybody's looking forward to our first venture to a drag racing event. The bus leaves Laurel Manor at 7:30 am **sharp!**

We've also begun to plan for our annual Golf Scramble/Pot Luck Dinner. We intend to hold the event in May, but a firm date has not yet been set. As Glen mentioned

We've also started our long-range planning for sponsorship deals. At this point, we're considering at least two—one with Buzzie Reutimann up at Ocala, the other with Dick Anderson, most likely at New Smyrna. We'll announce details soon...stay tuned!

See you all on March 25!

- Wendy

Local Racing Corner

Location	January Event Schedule
Ocala Speedway 9050 NW Gainesville Rd Ocala, FL 34482 (352) 622-9400 (www.ocalaspeedway.com)	Season Opens Friday, February 27 Racing every Friday night for regular classes; Sprint car events March 20
Citrus County Speedway U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds. (352) 726-9339 (www.citruscountyspeedway.com)	Season Resumes Saturday March 28 Racing every Saturday night for regular classes;
New Smyrna Speedway Corner of State Route 44 and 415. P.O. Box 1500 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170 (386) 427-4129 (www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)	Regular Season Opens Saturday, March 14 Racing every Saturday night for regular classes; Super Late Models run 3/14 & 3/28
Orlando Speedworld 19164 East Colonial Drive (Highway 50 just west of 520 Cocoa cut-off) Orlando, FL 32833 407-568-1367 (www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org)	Regular Season Opens Friday, March 13 Racing every Friday night for regular classes; Super Late Models run 3/20 (Orange Blossom 100)
Speedway Park- Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 466A near The Villages) Florida's oldest 1/8th mile clay oval Go-Kart track; less than a mile from The Villages! See website for schedule (www.speedwaypark.net)	Regular Season Opens Saturday, March 7 Racing the first and third Friday of each month

Welcome, New Members!

Our club continues to grow! At the February meeting, we added 19 new members, bringing our current 2009 registered member count to a healthy 192. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2009 yet, please see Bob and/or Camille Sherman at the March 25 meeting so we can get you in the count!

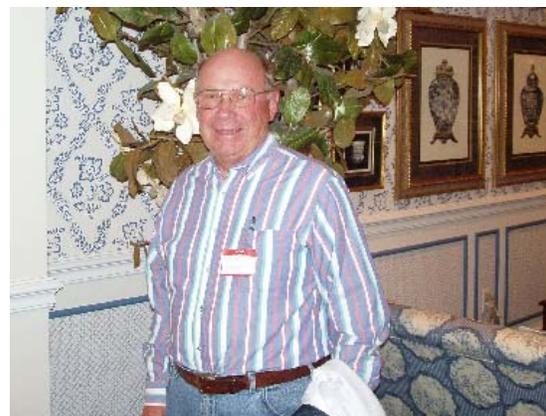
Here are some of the new members from the February meeting (due to the chaos that typically accompanies our annual charity auction, I missed quite a few). I'll try to pick them up at the March meeting. If you were one of those that I missed, grab me for a photo at the March meeting.



(Left) Bob Brodner, Rochester NY; (Right) Cornel West, Streamwood, IL



(Left) Terry & Carol Powell, Tipp, OH; (Right) John Snowden, Hershey, PA



(Left) Don Eberhardt, Toms River, NJ; (Right) Brooks Crum, St. Louis, MO

Buster Rides Again...50 Years Later!

Those of you who were able to join us over at Daytona on February 1 witnessed a piece of history...Buster Burt strapping into a race car and heading out on the famous Speedway fifty years to the month after he competed in the track's first NASCAR event. Here's the story...

In February of 1959, Villages resident Arthur (Buster) Burt entered the Modified/Sportsman series race at Daytona International Speedway. It was the first event on the brand new super speedway, and Buster made history along with 99 fellow drivers as they took the green to inaugurate the spectacular "world center of speed." A six-year veteran of local stock car venues at the time, Buster had built an impressive set of credentials as a quiet, methodical competitor who could get the job done. His credentials included regular competition on the Speedway's predecessor track—the four mile combination beach/road course at Daytona—and weekly combat on short tracks like Orlando, Lakeland, and Eau Gallie. A frequent winner, Buster came to be known as one of the sports true gentlemen and a pioneer of the early days of stock car racing in Florida and his home state of Maine.

Later in life, Buster re-emerged as a Legends-series driver in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, eventually being named NASCAR Legend Car Director in 1996. As evidenced by his two-year stint as a show-car specialist for Roush Racing on the NASCAR Cup circuit, he kept his hand and his heart in racing at many levels, and was named to the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2006. After a 55+ year love affair with motorsports, Buster stepped out of that world and into the world of retirement, moving to Florida and then to The Villages in 2003. He thought he'd put the roar of the stock car behind him. He was wrong.

In 2006, at the suggestion of a friend, Buster joined The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club, and quickly proved that "once a racer, always a racer." With his blood once again boiling, he began to take field trips with the club to local tracks, often fighting the urge to jump in a race car and take off. Then, late last year, Buster won first place in a club raffle—a ticket to join the Richard Petty Driving Experience at—where else—Daytona International Speedway. After pondering his options—tear up the ticket, give it away, forget about it, or use it—his love of motorsports got the best of him and he scheduled his return trip to the Speedway for February 1, 2009...fifty years to the month after last setting foot on the track!

So, on February 1, at the tender age of 79 (very soon to be 80), Buster, accompanied by 30 fellow club members and supporters, made the trip. In the pre-event training session, officials commemorated the history-making event, with Buster basking in an ovation from fellow participants and spectators. His support group added to the excitement with cheers as he took to the track, and afterward presented him with a plaque memorializing the day.

It was a great day for everyone involved, and clear proof the blood of a racer is always high octane!



And, Speaking of Daytona...

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club was well-represented at this year's Daytona Speedweeks events, with club-sponsored trips to two of the major competitive events—The Budweiser Shootout on February 7, and the “big one,” the Daytona 500 on February 15. Here are some photo highlights from the two trips.

The Budweiser Shootout



Our host, Sabrina, getting ready to “herd the cats” for the trip into the track



The “cats,” ready to be herded.



Left—Getting ready to head into the track...from left, Joanne Howard, Laura Marcille and Ted & Diana Cahalane

Right—Tom Horrmann (foreground, obviously happy) enjoys the racing action, while Butch Blasko (green jacket) tries to stay warm



The Daytona 500

What's a race without some yellow shirts from The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club? Olyn and Janice Guice were among the 36 or so members who made the trip to *The Great American Race*.

Photos by our own Wendy Touchette



Here's a great shot of the Corvettes lining up to escort the drivers as they're introduced to the crowd.

Our guys had a great vantage point to see the chaotic pit road action that is NASCAR racing!



Visit our website: www.villagesracingclub.com

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club—Officers

- Glen Carter, President (751-6442)
- Gerry Hafer, Vice Pres./Newsletter (751-3643)
- Ted Cahalane, Treasurer (751-2638)
- Silky Meegan, Secretary (259-2029)
- Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)
- Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
- Linda Carter, Historian (751-6442)
- Mike Touchette, Member at Large (430-0239)
- Dave Bockman, Member at Large (751-0381)
- Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
- Bill Wilkie, Member at Large (350-2080)
- Dave Colbert, Technical Planning (751-3851)
- Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Senior Advisors (751-4346)
- Tom Horrmann, Official Photographer (430-0195)
- Peter Tetrault, Member at Large ()

**Website Review
NASCAR on ESPN**

Here’s a website that’s often overlooked in our quest for relevant racing information. Whether or not you enjoy the racing coverage ESPN provides, it’s fair to say their website offers an interesting array of background information on Cup-, Nationwide-, and Camping World Truck-series racing. To get to the site, you can Google “ESPN Nascar”, or use this URL: <http://sports.espn.go.com/rpm/nascar/index>.

Once you get there, you’ll find a variety of headline articles, editorial opinions, statistics, current standings, schedules, polls, blogs, and media links...in short, just about everything you might want. Their NASCAR NOW item also provides advance notice of upcoming broadcasts featuring topics of interest to racing fans. In case you get overwhelmed reading about NASCAR while on the site, there are convenient links to virtually any of the other lesser sports (like NFL, NBA, etc.) Of course, the site gives you the opportunity to buy stuff but, then, what website doesn't?

Anyway, it’s a pretty good site for balanced reporting on NASCAR and it’s players. Give it a look-see!



So you don’t need to look it up...

We haven’t updated you on NASCAR *modern-era* career stats lately, so let’s take a look at some numbers. With his win in the 2009 Daytona 500, Matt Kenseth moved into the top 25 in career wins, passing Carl Edwards. It will be interesting to see if this is the year that Jeff Gordon catches Darrell Waltrip for top spot. (Note that these stats are only through the Daytona 500; with his win in the 2/22 California event, Kenseth is now in a 6-way tie for 24th).

Modern Era Race Winners

AFTER: ▶ Daytona 500

RANK	DRIVER	TOTAL	SUPER SPEEDWAYS	SHORT TRACKS	ROAD COURSES
1	Darrell Waltrip	84	16	47	5
2	Jeff Gordon	81	17	15	9
3	Dale Earnhardt	76	21	27	1
4	Cale Yarborough	69	17	29	3
5	Richard Petty	60	21	23	3
6	Rusty Wallace	55	7	25	6
7	Bobby Allison	55	18	12	5
8	David Pearson	45	14	1	3
9	Bill Elliott	44	12	2	1
10	Jimmie Johnson	40	2	8	0
11	Mark Martin	35	6	7	4
12	Tony Stewart	33	3	6	6
13	Dale Jarrett	32	9	4	0
14	Ricky Rudd	23	1	5	6
15	Terry Labonte	22	4	9	2
16	Bobby Labonte	21	3	1	0
17	Jeff Burton	21	2	3	0
18	Benny Parsons	20	6	7	1
19	Davey Allison	19	8	4	1
20	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	18	7	4	0
21	Geoffrey Bodine	18	2	8	3
22	Kurt Busch	18	0	7	0
23	Harry Gant	18	2	5	0
24	Neil Bonnett	18	8	3	0
25	Matt Kenseth	17	3	3	0

And, while we’re at it, how about the all-time Top 10 winners in the Nationwide series?

Rank	Driver	Wins
1	Mark Martin	48
2	Kevin Harvick	32
3	Jack Ingram	31
4	Jeff Burton	27
5	Tommy Houston	24
6	Matt Kenseth	23
7	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	22
7	Sam Ard	22
7	Tommy Ellis	22
10	Dale Earnhardt	21
10	Harry Gant	21
10	Kyle Busch	21

(Data Source = NASCAR.com & www.SportsNetwork.com)

Classified Ads

Many of you are aware that we frequently have members with race tickets that, for one reason or another, they are not able to use, or that they do not wish to renew. Likewise, we often have members wishing to offer racing-related memorabilia for sale from their personal collections. While we often announce these items during the regular business portion of our meetings, we thought it would be a good idea to include them as part of the newsletter so nobody misses them. If you have any racing-related items you'd like to post for sale, just send an email to ghafer@comcast.net, and I'll see that they get included next time around. Over the next month or so, the classified list will be added to our website.

So, here are some that we're aware of right now:

BRICKYARD TICKETS

Four tickets for Brickyard 400. Seats are in Paddock Penthouse, Box 32, Rows J and K, seats 5 through 8, along the front stretch three rows from the top. Price \$150 each, If interested contact Gerry Hafer (ghafer@comcast.net or 751-3643)



Left—View from seats of Turn 4

Right—View from seats of track and pits



SOUTHERN 500 TICKETS

Two tickets for May 9 (Mother's Day) Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway. Seats are on start/finish line, row 43 (near top), Price \$95 each. If interested, contact Dave Bockman (dmbockman@comcast.net or 751-0381)

HUGE NASCAR COLLECTION FOR SALE

Over 2500 die cast cars, transporters, multiple car sets, plastic kits (unassembled), posters, racing programs, collector cards. All items stored in plastic bins. All items are in like new condition, many in original packaging, and are available individually. Items are stored locally and available for inspection upon request. If interested, contact Brooks Crum (352-205-7520)