



## *PIT NEWS* *March 2021*

*Editor: Donna Gross*

**Next Meeting: April 7, 2021**

### *A Few Words from the President's Desk*



We are one of the first clubs to resume meetings in the month of January. Our attendance numbers have been very high and I thank all of our members for their support. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and **require that masks be worn not only entering and leaving the room, but also being worn the entire time while in the room.** This will allow us to have enough seats to accommodate more members.

Our club is having an outing on Saturday, April 24. This will be a late lunch/early dinner at Evans Prairie Country Club and then off to the Wheel Man Sportsman Series 50 laps at Citrus County Speedway. Please see all the information later in this newsletter. This will be a fun club event so please join us.

John Angiolo, Jerry Conkle and other club members were at Auburndale Speedway on March 13 where they presented third-place driver, Josh Todd, with a \$100 award on behalf of our club. Josh is also a member of our Hall of Fame.

Our guest speaker on April 7 is Paul O'Connor. Paul was Vice President of Kankakee Community College and was the promoter for Kankakee Speedway. See below for more information on Paul.

Please continue to enjoy our newsletter and if anyone has a suggestion for a guest speaker or anything else they would like to see the club do in the future, please let me know. My e-mail is [cbfla13@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbfla13@bellsouth.net).

Don't forget that everyone is welcome to join us every Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. for a fun breakfast get-together at Bob Evans on 466 to discuss racing and whatever else comes to mind. We meet in the back room, so just ask for the racing club.

I hope all of you can get out and enjoy Spring.

Regards, Chris Bleistein

## **Our Guest Speaker for April 7 Meeting**



Guest speaker Paul O'Connor with Buz McKim

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

Our guest speaker is club member Paul O'Connor.

Paul was instrumental in reopening Friday night racing at Kankakee (Illinois) Speedway in 1967. He served as racing promoter and track announcer at this iconic 1/3-mile dirt oval. He also contributed to the Midwest Racing Newspaper as a correspondent for the track.

O'Connor was a member of the championship Late Model team of his cousin, Jim O'Connor. They raced at Kankakee Speedway on Friday and traveled to other Midwest tracks every Saturday and Sunday. Jim O'Connor won six Kankakee Speedway championships in Late Models and is a member of our club's Hall of Fame.

Paul is a retired vice president of Kankakee Community College.

**\*\* IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL MEETINGS \*\***  
**Masks MUST BE WORN at ALL TIMES during the meeting and**  
**entering and leaving the recreation center**

## Prediction Row 2021



After six weeks of exciting racing (most recently at Atlanta Motor Speedway) and after Ryan Blaney's win, our Prediction Row competitors are ranked as follows:

Doug Baker - 0 wins 229 points  
Larry Hanna - 0 wins 213 points  
Melanie Scott - 0 wins 198 points  
Art Staus - 0 wins 193 points  
Jim West - 0 wins 175 points  
Shel Larsen - 0 wins 173 points

After six races there has been a different winner each week and no "predictor" has been successful. This weekend's race on Sunday, March 28 should prove interesting. The Bristol Motor Speedway has been filled with dirt for the Food City Dirt Race. Drivers, start your engines!

For the latest weekly predictions, follow Prediction Row in the Daily Sun on NASCAR Cup race day and look for the most recent updates on our website: [villagesracingclub.com](http://villagesracingclub.com).

**Silky Meegan, Prediction Row Coordinator**

*Some pictures from our March 3, 2021 meeting*



**Vice President Tony Kennea with Michael Hinde**



**Art Fehrman, Michael Hinde, John Angiolo**



**Michael Hinde from Hernando, FL**

# UPCOMING EVENT



Wheel Man Sportsman Series 50 laps  
Mini Stocks\* Outlaw Street Stocks\* Mod Mini\*  
Pure Stock\* Legend Cars

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Gates open 5:30PM Heat Races 6:30PM Green Flag Racing 7:30PM  
General Admission \$10.00 at the gate **CASH ONLY NO ATM ON PREMISES**

**Treat yourself to a day of fun, bring a friend AND don't forget to proudly wear your Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Shirt.**

Meeting at Evans Prairie Country Club at 3 p.m. for a bite to eat (we have reservations for outdoor seating). Lunch will be off the menu and at member's cost. We will then depart Evans Prairie Country Club to carpool to the race track.

To sign up for one OR both events please email Mike Gross, Special Events Coordinator, at [mikesg201@gmail.com](mailto:mikesg201@gmail.com) by Wednesday, April 21 so that we can hold enough space in the grandstands so we can all sit together and let Evans Prairie know approximately how many people to expect for lunch.

## Important Upcoming Dates

April 7, 2021-Wednesday    Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm  
May 5, 2021-Wednesday    Monthly Meeting-Colony Cottage Rec Center 7pm

January 30, 2022-Sunday Awards Celebration (Details will be forthcoming)

### FROM MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR LOIS TAYLOR

It's that time of year! 2021 dues are due and, in an effort to eliminate congestion at the membership tables, I would like to request that if you are paying your dues this month you can download the renewal or new membership form from the website. Fill it out and place payment with it in an envelope and just turn it in at the sign-in table. If you are paying by cash, it helps speed up the process if you have the form completed and just give it to the club members at the table.

By paying your dues, you help us get quality speakers that you will enjoy and our club officers are doing a good job at that.

You can also pick up your membership card if you are new and your 2021 renewal sticker for your membership card, so please don't throw away your previous membership card. Your renewal sticker just goes on it.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED EARLY AND THE NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED!

## *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.*

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## In Memoriam



We are saddened to report the passing of one of our own. Ted Cahalane was the club's first treasurer. He and his wife Diana were very active until he developed health issues.

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## Paul Bova Featured in Daily Sun



Club member and Hall of Fame inductee Paul Bova and his wife, Darry, enjoy high performance cars. Over the years, they have shared their passion with family and friends.

When each of their three sons approached driving age, Paul tackled the restoration of their first car with each son.

As their sons grew up, Paul's passion for cars progressed into racing vintage sports cars. It didn't take long for Darry to join her husband on the racing circuit.

Today, their shared passion is focused on a new 2020 Corvette C8 Z51.

Visit the club website to download the full Daily Sun article.

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



- Banging your head against a wall for one hour burns 150 calories.
- 7% of American adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows.
- Approximately 10-20% of US power outages are caused by squirrels.
- There are a total of 1,710 steps in the Eiffel Tower. AND NOW YOU KNOW!

## Jerry's Joke

A man and a woman were sitting at a bar and watching the news on TV. A man was getting ready to jump. The man says, "I bet \$5 he jumps." The woman says, "I bet he doesn't." The man jumps. The man says, "I have to admit. I saw this on the news earlier." The woman says, "So did I, but I didn't think he would do it again."

## Jerry Conkle's Trivia Continues.....

- 1) What is the name of the lake in the Daytona international Speedway?
- 2) What is the name of the golf course at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway?
- 3) Before Denny Hamlin won two Daytona 500's in a row, who was the last one to do it?
- 4) Who was the last driver to win the Daytona 500 from the Pole?

GOOD LUCK. ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 9. NO PEEKING.





*Let's Welcome our New Members!!*

**Len Pouncey from Illinois**

**The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Announces  
a New Sponsorship Opportunity**



The Club's Sponsorship Program is "revving" 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, Chris Bleistein, 954-729-3050 or [cbfla13@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbfla13@bellsouth.net).

Here Are the Trivia Answers

1. Lake Lloyd
2. Brickyard at the Crossing
3. Sterling Marlin
4. Dale Jarrett

## Club Apparel

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](http://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 and are available for pick up at the next meeting. 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](mailto:mikesg201@gmail.com).



We are searching for helpers to assist social media coordinator Mike Anderson with activities that he handles. They are quite varied: email blasts, print member badges, PowerPoint at meetings, Word, club website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

We aren't looking for one person to learn all this. This is about sustainability and continuity. About half of these things are done online, each requiring a user name and password at a specific website. If Mike were to become unavailable, the club could experience immense difficulty.

If you would like to talk about this opportunity, please call or email Mike, 217-714-2245 or [mike.mag70@gmail.com](mailto:mike.mag70@gmail.com). If you have experience in any of these areas, great – he wants to talk to you! If you are interested in learning how to handle any of these areas, he is a willing and patient teacher.



# PIT CREW

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

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Chris Bleistein	President	Crew Chief	954-729-3050
Tony Kennea	Vice President	Car Chief	352-603-9197
Silky Meegan	Corresponding Secretary	Front Tire Carrier	352-430-6042
Gerry Greim	Recording Secretary	Crew Coach	215-630-1402
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
John Angiolo	Hospitality Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	414-305-8094
Mike Anderson	Social Media Coordinator	Fabricator	217-714-2245
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Manager	Logo Mart	401-323-1313
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Rear Tire Changer	401-323-1334
Art Fehrman	Member At Large	Front Tire Changer	708-254-5196
Tom Horrmann	Member At large	Mechanic	352-430-0195
Janine Woodsford	Member At Large	Mechanic	352-430-5804
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



ARCA Midwest Tour



Parts Geek  
Doylestown, PA  
800-541-9352



Ultrix Printing  
Lady Lake, FL  
352-205-8222



Lefthander Chassis  
Roscoe, IL  
815-389-9999



Triline Services  
The Villages, FL  
217-433-1394



Kokomo Speedway  
Kokomo, IN



Mike Scott Plumbing  
Wildwood, FL  
352-748-9511

### Benefactor

Pat Fehrman  
The Villages, FL

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