



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

April, 2013

Next *Regular* Meeting—Wednesday, May 1, 2013

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Another Style of Racing

April 3—We broke new ground at our April meeting, adding yet another racing type to our long list of monthly motorsports subjects. This time it was boat racing, and we were treated to an exhilarating lecture on the exciting events happening just to our southeast, in Tavares.



Our guest speakers were Bill John, president of the Classic Race Boat Association based in Tavares and his wife Gerri Prusko. Gerri, incidentally, is also the captain of the 635 horsepower vintage race boat she owns. Bill, incidentally, is the “Riding Mechanic” on the boat crew. Gerri and Bill (pictured above) graciously brought their boat, “My Precious” and spent time after their presentation discussing the boat in detail.

Bill and Gerri gave us a thorough review of their organization and the events they conduct on Lake Dora. Their major events take place in November, January, and March, and consist of regatta-style shows complete with exhibition racing on their one mile oval race course. The boats, Bill noted, are vintage and classic vessels, some real and restored entries and some reproductions, with hundreds of entries typically comprising each regatta.

Bill and Gerri extended a blanket invitation for club members to visit their group at any of the regattas, or at their monthly “Fun Runs” (first Saturday of each month). Since they always need volunteers for the regatta events, our group is encouraged to sign up to help in any one of a number of areas (parking, ticketing, course monitoring, etc.) Stay tuned for further announcements in this area!



The “My Precious” race boat on display at Colony Cottage...check out the power plant!

May Meeting Preview—A Visit From Legendary Sebring

Our May meeting will feature a visit from representatives of Sebring International Raceway, one of the most well-known motorsports venues in the world. Here's a bit of history on the track, courtesy of Wikipedia.org: Sebring Raceway is one of the oldest continuously-operating race tracks in the United States, its first race being run in 1950. Sebring is one of the classic race tracks in North American sports car racing, and plays host to the 12 Hours of Sebring, one of the legs of the unofficial triple crown of endurance racing.

The raceway occupies a portion of Sebring Regional Airport, an active airport for private and commercial traffic that was originally built as Hendricks Army Airfield, a World War II training base for the U.S. Army Air Forces. The course of the track is 3.74 miles (6.02 km) long. It is a seventeen-turn road course with long straights, several high-speed corners, and very technical slower corners. Many of the turns and points along the track are named for the early teams and drivers.

You're not gonna want to miss this one!



Prediction Row 2013 In Full Swing

Eight races into the first 13-race segment, and Syd Baker and Gary Civiletti are staying locked together at the top of the heap. The real battle so far has been in the final transfer spot, where Al Stone and Gerry Hafer have swapped the position for the past several races. Meanwhile, at the bottom of the ladder, Wayne Nolan and Jerry Conkle continue to slug it out for last place, with a mere seven points separating them.

The group has so far bagged three wins and 21 podium finishes, with a top-five percentage of 48%. And, in a first time ever happening, the six predictors scored a 1-2-3 finish in the Martinsville event, picking Johnson, Bowyer, and Gordon.

As we near the mid point in this first segment, watch for a fierce battle as the predictors jockey for the final transfer spot.

Meanwhile, the segment 2 predictors are watching the action closely, no doubt trying to determine how the various strategies play out week-to-week. As a refresher, here are the players this year:

Standings Thru Race 8			
Predictor	Points	Behind	Rank
Baker, Syd	308		1
Civiletti, Gary	299	9	2
Stone, Al	288	20	3
Hafer, Gerry	280	28	4
Nolan, Wayne	266	42	5
Conkle, Jerry	259	49	6

Segment 1 (Races 1-13)

- Syd Baker
- Gary Civiletti
- Jerry Conkle
- Gerry Hafer
- Wayne Nolan
- Al Stone

Segment 2 (Races 14-26)

- Mike Anderson
- Jim Carter
- Jim Dunaway
- Corky Eck
- Jon Neville
- Wendy Touchette

Officer Changeover Now History

Incoming President/Crew Chief Jerry Conkle took over the task of leading the April meeting, a step that marks the beginning of what promises to be an exciting tour of duty. Conkle exhibited his usual poise and good humor during his inaugural meeting, and generally appearing downright presidential as he commanded the podium.

One of Conkle's first actions was to call outgoing Gerry Hafer, Wendy Touchette, and Mike Touchette to the front, where they were presented commemorative plaques for their years of service. He then called on Wendy to conduct a

"special training session" for incoming Special Events Coordinator Gary Civiletti to prepare him for one of the more crucial tasks he'll face. As many of you are aware, Hafer and Touchette often were required to double-team race track officials in order to obtain discounted admission for our

group, and on occasion needed to resort to the "blond hair flip" in order to achieve agreement on terms. Accordingly, Civiletti was presented with a blond wig that he'll need to keep handy for future negotiations. He took it well, as you can see below.



Hafer, Wendy Touchette, & Mike Touchette with their awards; Civiletti looking good!

Club Hall of Famer Dominating 2013 FUPLM Series

Club Hall of Famer Wayne Anderson continued his domination of the 2013 Florida United Promoters Late Model Series (FUPLMS), handily winning the April 6 feature event at Citrus County Speedway over a 23-car field of talented Super Late Model entries.

It was another family affair for the Andersons, with Wayne's son Randy starting inside row six, alongside well-known No. 92 owned by Florida stock car racing icon Dick Anderson, Wayne's father. The No. 92 was piloted by Zephyrhills driver Devin McLeod, a rising star on the Florida racing scene. Neither Randy Anderson or McLeod were factors in the April 6 race, finishing 7th and 9th, respectively.

Wayne's win in the April 6 event was his third in the FUPLMS series. He went on to win the fourth event in the series April 20 at Auburndale Speedway, and now owns a 40-point lead in series points. It's a family affair there too, with Randy in third place, a mere 42 points behind Wayne.

Also in the field on April 6 over at CCS was another club Hall of Famer, Mont Verde's Amanda Ferguson, making a Florida appearance before heading north to race in the Michigan area later this year. Ferguson was forced to enter a back-up car in the main event after damaging her primary car in a practice accident. She started outside row 12 and turned in a solid performance, finishing 13th.

Our group was well represented at the April 6 event, with a contingent of more than a dozen yellow shirts in the grandstands to cheer for Wayne, Randy, Amanda, and Devin.



Top left—Wayne Anderson with another checkered flag; Top right—The Yellow shirts at CCS 4/6; Right—Amanda Ferguson getting set to climb in backup car



New Driver of Our Car Will be With Us June 5



Our June 5 meeting will feature a visit from Devin McLeod, the 2013 driver of our “club car,” the No. 92 Dick Anderson-owned and prepared Mustang. Our gang of short-track enthusiasts has had the opportunity to watch this 19-year old rising star in action, and we’ve been impressed with his style of driving. As is the case with most of the younger drivers these days, at age 19 Devin already sports an 11-year racing career, starting in Champ Karts in 2002, then moving to Mini-Cup cars in 2006, then Legends Cars in 2009, Pro Late Models in 2012, and Super Late Models in 2013. He also races Open Wheel Modified.

His honors so far include multiple championships in the Jr. Sportsman Kart ranks, a Mini-Cup Pro Division Championship, multiple Legends series Championships, and a Florida Pro Late Model Challenge Championship.

We’re proud to have Devin carrying our logo!



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

Welcome, New Members

We welcomed another batch of new members at our April meeting, but we were only successful in getting one of them to stand still for a photograph. and, based on the descriptions of their racing interests they shared with us, we're looking at some pretty well-versed motorsports enthusiasts. Make sure you chat him up at the next meeting!



Linwood Galeucia, from Bedford, New Hampshire

R/C Group Continues to Grow

Incoming Club Vice President Dave Allen gave us an update at the April meeting on the phenomenal growth in our Radio Controlled Racing program, and described the current classes now running (Stock, Modified, and NAS-CAR). Addition of the NASCAR class, with its Sprint Cup lookalikes, has generated a tremendous amount of interest among the R/C aficionados, and has generated some great spectator events. As a reminder, here's the group's racing schedule: Every Sunday at La Hacienda Recreation Center @ 9:30am (lot near the pool), 2nd Wednesday & 4th Saturday of each month at Colony Recreation Center @ 9:00am (lot near the pool), and 1st & 3rd Wednesday at Oxford Baptist Church gym @ 9:00am.

Here are the results from competition on April 10 at Colony:

Fast Times: Keith Moldenhauer 13.820, Dave Allen 13.826 & Jim Courtwright 14.269

Stock: 1st - Don Day, 2nd - Daryl Davis, 3rd - Don McGinnis

Modified: 1st - Keith Moldenhauer, 2nd - Tony Cahl, 3rd - Dave Allen

Tour: 1st - Daryl Davis, 2nd - Tony Cahl, 3rd - Jim Courtwright



Special Events Roundup



OK, now that I've got the blond wig, I really feel I'm set to handle the responsibilities of Special Events Coordinator for the club. I've promised Gerry and Glen that I'll practice the hair flip so I'm ready when they need leverage at the ticket window!

The events and activities now on the schedule are listed below. As always, if any of you have any suggestions for trips, events, or activities, please let me or any of the Pit Crew members know so we can do some research and lay out a plan. We've covered a lot of motorsports ground over the past six years, and we have every intention of maintaining the momentum...maybe even ramping it up a bit! Just let us know what's of interest to you.

Gary

Date/Location	Event Details
April at Colony, Hacienda, and Villages Hospital Campus East	R/C racing on the second Wednesday, fourth Saturday, and every Sunday (Call Dave Allen (205-7985) or Mike Roemer (633-0134) for details)
Wednesday, May 1 Colony Cottage	Regular club meeting; Guest Speaker will be David Gourley, representing Seabring International Raceway
Thursday, May 2 Saddlebrook	Night Golf scramble event at Saddlebrook. Pot Luck social scheduled at Saddlebrook before the event.
Wednesday, June 5 Colony Cottage	Regular club meeting; Guest Speaker will be Devin McLeod, the new driver of "our club car." As an added attraction, Dick Anderson has agreed to bring the legendary No. 92 along for the night, and the club is planning on arranging a cookout...more details on this will be discussed at the May 1 meeting.
Saturday, July 6 Daytona International Speedway	Coke Zero 400...Details TBA.
Thursday, July 11 La Hacienda Rec Center	Third Annual R/C Cars for Camp Villages event; Volunteers will be needed; Details TBA; Contact Gary Civiletti at 751-4030

Update on Ernie Battee

Club member Ernie Battee continues to struggle with his paraplegic condition down at Lake Harris Health Center, 701 Lake Port Blvd., Leesburg, FL. For those of you who are not aware, Ernie was injured in a Dec. 2 auto accident at the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd. and CR 466. Ernie had very severe injuries, including a severed spinal cord and 120 lacerations, including part of his scalp. As a result, he remains paralyzed from his neck down. Ernie's daughter Lisa, wife of NASCAR Champion Randy Lajoie and mother of K&N East driver Corey Lajoie, is with him virtually everyday, having relocated from North Carolina for the time being to oversee his care. Please consider carving some time out of your schedule to pay Ernie a visit...he really appreciates it!

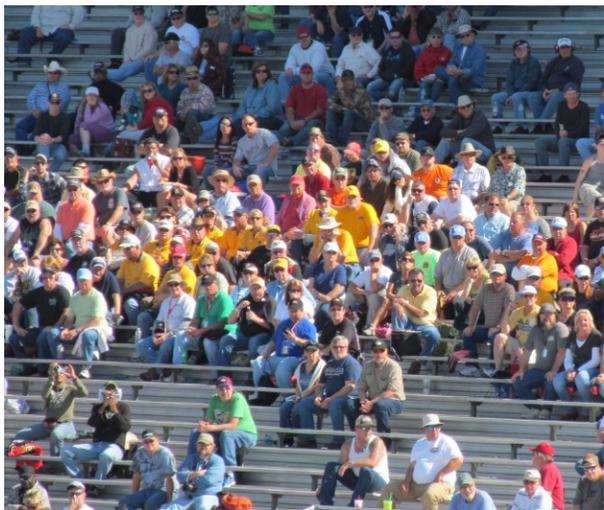


Your Pit Crew

Jerry Conkle, President/Crew Chief (750-1185)
 Dave Allen, Vice President (205-7985)
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)
 Mike Anderson, Webmaster (217-714-2245)
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)
 Gary Civiletti, Special Events (751-4030)
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)
 Gerry Hafer, Immediate Past President (751-3643)
 Glen Carter, Past President (751-6442)

The Yellow Shirts at Gainesville!

We've said it before, and we'll say it again...those yellow shirts really do stand out in a crowd. Just check out this photo from Don Day, taken from across the track at this year's NHRA Gator Nationals at Gainesville Raceway.



Our busload of motorsports enthusiasts had a great day! And, as you can see below, got pretty close to the action in the pits...



Conkle's Corner...

OK...the people have spoken. There was an overwhelming response from members, with both of them suggesting that "Conkle's Corner" continue in effect. I was hoping to retire from this, but I'll respect your wishes and continue serving up some lighthearted material for your consumption.



So, here goes...

- There is a rumor out there, that Tony Stewart is going to be in the next Rocky movie which is Rocky IVX. He is to play Rocky Balboa.
- A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of his Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was there, waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his bike. The mechanic shouted across the garage. "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a Question?" The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at that engine. I open it's heart, take the valves out, fix'em, put 'em back in and when I finish, it works like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get big bucks when you and I are doing the same thing?" The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic..."Try doing it with the motor running."
- An Artist heard the door bell ring. He looked outside, a big car was sitting in the driveway. He opened the door, a nice looking Lady was standing there. She asked if he did portrait's. "He said, yes I do." She asked, "Could you paint me?" He replied that he could. She asked, "Do you paint in oil's?" He answered that he did. She said, "Can you paint me in the nude?" He said. "I'm not to sure about that." She said. "I will pay you \$10,000.00." He said, "I'll have to ask my wife." She said, "It'll be ok, but I will have to leave my sock's on so I will have something to wipe my brushes on.
- A fundamental rule of golf: Your best round of golf will be followed almost immediately by your worst round ever. The probability of the latter increases with the number of people you tell about the former.