



PIT NEWS
April, 2026
Editor: Donna Gross

Next Meeting: April 1, 2026

A Few Words from the President's Desk



I would like to thank everyone for your help in making the Hall of Fame Induction Celebration a huge success and a lot of fun. Many hours were spent to make that event come together.

I would also like to thank the car owners and club members that participated in the Car Show in Brownwood. It was a great night of talking shop.

Hoping to see all of you on April 1st (not an April Fool's Joke).

Our April 1st regular meeting is at 7 p.m. at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. We welcome our guest speaker Paul Diatlovich, who will tell us about his years in Champ Car and Indycar racing. This is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Sincerely,
Jeff Ing, Prez

Important Upcoming Dates

April 1, Wednesday	Monthly meeting, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 7 PM
April 11, Saturday	Citrus County Speedway, Tailgating. See details on page 6.
May 6, Wednesday	Monthly meeting, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 7 PM
June, July, August	No monthly meeting – summer break

Happy Easter to all and keep your basket full of eggs and treats!!!



QuotesIdeas.com

Next Meeting – April 1



Paul Diatlovich debriefing with John Paul Jr. at The Mickyard.

Our next club meeting is on April 1 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, with the green flag dropping at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Paul Diatlovich, a fellow Villager whose 40-plus years in Champ Car and Indy Car racing put him right in the middle of some of open-wheel racing's most exciting eras.

Paul's racing journey began on Long Island in the early 1970s, crewing on an SCCA Toyota Celica driven by trailblazing racer Janet Guthrie. A few years later, she called and asked him to join the crew of a Champ Car team preparing for the Indy 500, and from that moment on, open-wheel racing became his life.

After years as a respected mechanic in Champ Car, Paul launched his own team, PDM Racing, when the Indy Racing League began in 1996. The team competed full time through 2003 and earned its best finish in 2000, when Sam Hornish Jr. drove to a thrilling third-place finish at Las Vegas.

If you enjoy behind-the-scenes racing stories - from the garage to the grid - you won't want to miss this one.



Prediction Row

2026



After six races, we are almost halfway through the Spring Segment and have had three winner pickers so far. Our current standings are:

Bob Patterson – 2 wins 183 points
Jim Rezendes – 1 win 227 points
Pete Zaagman – 1 win 187 points
Craig Simundza – 0 wins 213 points
Larry Palermini – 0 wins 125 points
Bob Woodsford – 0 wins 102 points

Keep up with the latest standings by checking our website after each race.

I need one more Prediction Row participant for the Summer Segment, beginning Memorial Day. Contact me at silkysunshine@gmail.com.

Silky Meegan
Prediction Row Coordinator

Pictures from the February Club Meeting



President Jeff Ing with guest speaker Kelly Falls

Car Show at Brownwood – March 9

The TVMRC Car Show was held at Brownwood Paddock Square on Monday, March 9 and it was a great night for people to come and rub elbows with other car owners and swap stories.



Best Appearing: Mustang, Bill Stevenson



Best Race Car: '69 Barracuda, Pastor Paul Harsh



Travelled Farthest: Charles Poindexter



Old Stock Car



April 11 – Tailgating at Citrus County Speedway

There will be a signup sheet at the April 1st meeting with more details.

Citrus County Speedway
Celebrating
71 Years of Racing!
April 11th
Gates Opens @ 5:30pm Racing Starts @ 7pm
UARA Super Late Models
Make Their Long Awaited Returned To
Florida's PREMIER Short Track Venue!
UARA Super Late Model
FULL THROTTLE 125
Pits Open @ 1pm
Make Sure To Register
With The UARA!
71 YEARS OF RACING TRADITION Since 1955
April 10th Practice 6 - 11 pm
ALSO RACING
Crown Vic 30
Beginner Ford 25 Bandolero 15
Be There For History...
Be There For The FULL THROTTLE 125!
General Admission:
Adults = \$20
Seniors, Veterans & First Responders = \$18
Ages 7-17 = \$10
Kids 6 & under = FREE



No New Members

Hall of Fame Induction Celebration



Cake below made by First Lady Angie Ing





Inductee Alan Gross with President Jeff Ing



Inductee William "Bill" Taylor and President Jeff Ing



Inductee Gerry Greim, Past President with President Jeff Ing



L-R, William "Bill" Taylor, Gerry Greim and Alan Gross

**Glen Carter Memorial Crew Chief Award
Bob Woodsford**



**2025 Prediction Row Champion
Craig Simundza**



Craig was unable to attend. The next newsletter will have a better picture.

Forever Young entertained us



Oh, what a night! Many members said this was the best Hall of Fame Celebration. Pasta Faire was the caterer and Forever Young closed out the night with *God Bless the USA*.



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



TOO TIRED TO TELL A JOKE



EVERY THURSDAY We order at 8 a.m. Club members and guests meet at Bob Evans Restaurant, 2199 Parr Drive, corner of CR 466 & Tall Trees Lane.

EVERY FRIDAY We order at 7:30 a.m. Club members and guests meet at Toasted Yolk Cafe, 657 Kristine Way, Lake Deaton Plaza.

Come join the fun. Sit with fellow members and have a coffee or have breakfast and chat about all things racing.

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 your updated information in the event we need to reach out to members.

Club Apparel



Get ready to rock your club pride with our exclusive “crew uniform” apparel, featuring the iconic club logo! From shirts to caps to totes, show the world you are part of the action. Check out the full collection now at VillagesRacingClub.com!

These top-quality items are available for viewing at every club meeting, and some items – without your personalized embroidery – are "cash and carry" for your convenience. Need your name embroidered? No problem! Orders for personalized gear are taken at every meeting, but we do require a minimum of six items per order (total from all members). Remember, cash or check is needed at the time of purchase.

Got questions or ready to place your order? Catch Mike Gross at a club meeting or reach out via email at mikesg201@gmail.com. Let’s gear up and represent the club in style!

Get Well and Thinking of You

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



PIT CREW

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

Name	Position	Duties	Phone
Board of Directors, Elected Officers (2026-2028)			
Jeff Ing	President and Car Shows Coordinator	Crew Chief	(631) 897-6263
Art Fehrman	Vice President and Special Tours Coordinator	Car Chief	(708) 254-5196
Craig Simundza	Secretary	Crew Coach	(708) 744-7292
Rich Benitz	Treasurer	Fueler	(908) 625-5522
Board of Directors, Appointed by President (2026-2028)			
Mike Anderson	Media Coordinator	Fabricator	(217) 714-2245
Lois Taylor	Membership Coordinator	Front Tire Carrier	(352) 633-5624
Donna Gross	Newsletter Editor	Spotter	(401) 323-1334
John Angiolo	Sponsors Coordinator	Rear Tire Carrier	(414) 305-8094
Chris Bleistein	Past President	Team Owner	(954) 729-3050
Tony Kennea	Past President	Team Owner	(352) 603-9197
Non-Board Members			
Bob Woodsford	50/50 Coordinator and Camp Villages R/C Car Racing Coordinator	Rear Tire Changer	(352) 430-5249
Mike Gross	Crew Uniform Coordinator	Jack Man	(401) 323-1313
Silky Meegan	Prediction Row Coordinator	Front Tire Changer	(352) 430-6042

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

Thank You

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors for helping to keep the engines running! When you have the chance, please support their businesses – they're a big reason our club continues to thrive.



Mike Scott Plumbing
Wildwood, FL
(352) 748-9111



Village Kart Aide
The Villages, FL
(352) 409-5853



TriLine Services
The Villages, FL
(217) 433-1394



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



Mammoth Machines
Leesburg, FL
(407) 235-5282



Historic Attractions
Roscoe, IL
(815) 389-7917



Ultrex Printing
Lady Lake, FL
(352) 205-8222



Choice Awards
Bellevue, FL
(352) 245-4496



Fox Pest Control
Orlando, FL
(407) 863-3592



Kokomo Speedway
Kokomo, IN
(765) 459-3877



Sheppard Racing
Enterprises
DeLand, FL
(352) 771-0055



Golf Central
The Villages, FL
(352) 633-5059



A-1 United Tree Service
The Villages, FL
(352) 460-3763

Benefactors

John Angiolo
Pat Fehrman
Angie Ing
Sue & Richard Poindexter
Jimmy Schumacher
Benefactors do not have a business to promote but they donate money and services to help support us.