



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

## Pit Report

MAY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 7

May 1, 2008

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### Special points of interest:

- *Horsepower at the Polo Grounds!*
- *Visiting a Racing Legend*
- *Some fantastic events coming up!*
- *Local Track Report (page 3)*
- *An Interview with Buzzie and David Reutimann*
- *Anderson/Choquette combination dominant again in Sunbelt Series*

### Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



Greetings, friends and fellow race fans! Can you believe it...we're two and a half months into the 2008 racing season and the months just keep blowing by like a green flag run at Talladega! Our club continues to grow and, after losing some membership due to non-renewals, we're again

approaching the 200-mark, after adding about ten last month. A hearty welcome to all who just joined us...we look forward to having you with us.

At our April meeting, we said good-bye to our dear friend and honorary club member Katie Evans. Katie has moved to Phoenix, Arizona to start the next phase of her life and, as the country song goes, "we're sure gonna miss her!" Most of you know that Katie played a key role in helping us get started as a club, attending many of our events and trips and writing those excellent articles for the Daily Sun. You'll recall, of course, that many of her articles were page 1 items, something

that helped spark a lot of interest in our club and what we're about. To make her a permanent part of our history, we celebrated an intra-year induction into our "Hall of Fame"—you'll see Katie's name engraved on our club trophy when we observe our 2008 induction ceremony later this year.

In the meantime, we welcome Matt Dixon of the Daily Sun as our media contact, and hope to have the opportunity to introduce him to you at an upcoming meeting. For now, "Let's go racin'!" (No, I'm not going to say the boogity, boogity thing!)

*Glen*

### Horsepower at the Polo Grounds Another great event for the Club!

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, April 27, we had a great turnout of club members and their carts on hand to participate in our second annual "Horsepower at the Polo Grounds" event. Our Special Events Committee once again organized a tremendous event for the club, with roughly 30 members in attendance, and with a total of 15 club-member golf carts

(many decorated with knock-your-socks-off racing themes!) leading the parade across the Pole Grounds. Here are some photo highlights of the event:



Dick and Mary Kepsel getting ready for the action

(Continued on Page 2)

# Horsepower at the Polo Grounds Another great event for the Club!

### SPECIAL NOTE

*We're still participating in the "Help Them Call Home" program, so don't forget to bring to the meeting any old cell phones you may have.*

(Continued from page 1)



Photos clockwise from top left: Wayne Nolan and Dave Bockman discussing strategy; Check out them carts!; Have poster, will travel; Jim Preis's sweet ride

## Visiting a Racing Legend!

In late March, several of us made a pilgrimage down to Zephyrhills, Florida to visit the race shop of Reutimann Racing. We had the opportunity to spend time with the legendary Emil "Buzzie" Reutimann and, of course, we extended an invitation to Buzzie to join us at a club meeting to share his racing story with us. At this writing, we are expecting Buzzie to be our guest speaker on May 7 for our regular club meeting...you won't want to miss this one!

Below are some highlight photos of our trip, and a recent Nascar.com interview with Buzzie and his son David (driver of the No. 44 UPS Toyota on the Sprint Cup circuit) is reprinted in part on pages 5 & 6 of this newsletter).



Clockwise, from top left: Buster Burt and Glenn talk about the old times; Out in the shop, discussing the dirt car set-up; Buster, ready to get in and drive; Buzzie's trophy room (one of them, anyway)

## Upcoming Events Roundup—2008 Style

Our Special Events Committee has been busy assembling another great series of activities for the club. Here are the highlights of what's in store, at least for now:

- **May 23**-Golf Scramble/ Dinner
- **June 13**-Open Wheel Modifieds at Ocala (Sponsorship of Buzzie)

- **July 4-5**-Coke 400 and Nationwide Race, Daytona Speedway
- **August 2**-Sunoco Sunbelt Series Race at USA International Speedway, Lakeland, FL
- **October**-Poker Run
- **October 5**-Bus trip to Talladega for AMP En-

ergy 500 Sprint Cup Event

- **November 22**-43rd FL Governor's Cup event at New Smyrna Speedway

Contact Wendy Touchette for details on any of these events. As always, we'd like to hear any suggestions you have for trips, activities, etc. Just send Wendy or any other Pit Crew member your suggestions. Thanks!

## Local Racing Corner

Here are the operating schedules and the contact info for our neighboring tracks:

Ocala Speedway—Friday nights, gates open at 6:00 pm.

9050 NW Gainesville Rd  
Ocala, FL 34482  
(352) 622-9400  
(www.ocalaspeedway.com)



Citrus County Speedway— Regular season opened Saturday, March 29; Saturday nights beginning April. Gates open at 4:00 pm, first event runs at 5:30 pm.

U.S. Highway 41 Two miles south of Inverness at the Citrus County Fairgrounds.  
(352) 726-9339  
(www.citruscountyspeedway.com)



New Smyrna Speedway— Regular season opened Saturday, March 15; Saturday nights from 3/15 on. Gates open at 5:00 pm.

Corner of State Route 44 and 415.  
P.O. Box 1500  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170  
(386) 427-4129  
(www.newsmyrnaspeedway.org)



USA International Speedway—Special events  
ASA Southeast Tour Late Models  
Sears Auto Center 200  
Saturday May 3; Race at 7:30 pm.

(www.usaspeedway.com)



only...no regular series schedule.

Speedway Park—Fruitland Park (Micro 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)

Race Track Road and Rt.



Visit our website: [www.villagesracingclub.com](http://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)

## Websites of Interest

# MOTORSPORTS HALL OF FAME OF AMERICA

This quote from the site's homepage pretty much says it all, "The Motorsports Hall of Fame of America and Museum honors and preserves the achievements of the greatest legends of motorsports on land, a=sea, and in the air." The NASCAR page, for example, has a year-by-year list of inductees, with a full biography on each. There are similar pages for Open Wheel, Drag Racing, Motorcycles, Sports Cars, and more...even air racing! With some significant historical information, this site is a good one to check out. It also provides links to a variety of racing related sites, including links to Ford Racing, MOPAR, Chevy, and others. The url is: [www.mshf.com](http://www.mshf.com).

This site is a sort of dictionary about racers in a variety



of series, but mostly about NASCAR. In addition to individual driver stats, the site presents a variety of photos on the current week's racing venues, as well as some timely News Releases. The Stats page is worth visiting for its historical significance, and there are several blogs available on current issues (again, mostly NASCAR-related). Here's an interesting excerpt from the site concerning their name: That's Racin: expresses frustration or emotion. 1. When a small part costing just a few dollars fails and stops a \$150,000 race car, that's racin'. 2. When you race a competitor for 500 miles and lose to him by just a few feet, that's racin'. 3. When a hot dog wrapper blows out of the stands, gets caught across the air vent on the front of your car, and causes your engine to overheat, that's racin'. Like they said, it's a term that expresses frustration. The URL for this site is [www.thatsracin.com](http://www.thatsracin.com)

## So you don't need to look it up...

In a continuing quest to bring you the most obscure information possible—the stuff that keeps true racing fanatics awake at night—this month we share with you an analysis of the top 25 NASCAR drivers from the 2007 season and the amount of laps they've completed on the lead lap during points paying events. This is yet another example of the kinds of stuff you can find on the internet if you're inclined to spend time looking! (Stats compliments of NASCAR.com)

RANK	CAR	DRIVER	PERCENTAGE	ON LEAD LAP
1	24	Jeff Gordon	93.78	9924
2	17	Matt Kenseth	93.56	9900
3	48	Jimmie Johnson	93.06	9848
4	1	Martin Truex Jr.	89.55	9476
5	20	Tony Stewart	88.72	9388
6	11	Denny Hamlin	87.86	9297
7	2	Kurt Busch	87.82	9293
8	99	Carl Edwards	86.67	9171
9	8	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	86.45	9148
10	5	Kyle Busch	86.21	9123
11	07	Clint Bowyer	86.01	9102
12	31	Jeff Burton	85.62	9060
13	12	Ryan Newman	82.12	8690
14	16	Greg Biffle	79.56	8419
15	29	Kevin Harvick	77.03	8151
16	26	Jamie McMurray	72.55	7677
17	25	Casey Mears	71.89	7607
18	18	J.J. Yeley	68.26	7223
19	43	Bobby Labonte	67.69	7163
20	42	Juan Pablo Montoya	66.24	7010
21	40	David Stremme	65.67	6949
22	9	Kasey Kahne	65.45	6926
23	41	Reed Sorenson	62.72	6637
24	22	Dave Blaney	58.51	5611
25	88	Ricky Rudd	57.35	5210

And here's an even lesser known set of statistics...the top 10 "closers" in last season's NASCAR Cup events. "Closers" is a term used to describe the drivers' improvement in position over the final 10% of the race. For example, Jeff Gordon gained, on average, 2+ positions during the last 10% of every event. So, if you're into dynamic betting, these are the ones to watch! (Stats also compliments of NASCAR.com)

RANK	CAR	DRIVER	AVERAGE SPOTS GAINED
1	24	Jeff Gordon	2.167
2	38	David Gilliland	1.611
3	07	Clint Bowyer	1.583
4	29	Kevin Harvick	1.417
5	7	Robby Gordon	1.400
6	25	Casey Mears	.972
7	31	Jeff Burton	.944
8	19	Elliott Sadler	.833
8	55	Michael Waltrip	2.143
10	01	Mark Martin	1.208

## It's Story Time!

### An Interview with The Reutimanns

(Editorial Note: This interview appeared on NASCAR.com on 2/20/08, and is being reprinted here to give all of you a preview of our scheduled May meeting speaker—Buzzie Reutimann. The discussion provides a balanced insight into a highly successful racing family, and the father-son relationship that has helped further establish this family name at racing's most highest levels.)

By Dave Rodman, NASCAR.COM

Love, respect, pride and commitment are just a few of the labels that top the list when you're talking about a father and son -- and they certainly fit Nextel Cup and Busch driver David Reutimann and his father, short-track racing legend Emil "Buzzie" Reutimann.

To steal a cliché, they say the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree, and that's especially appropriate when talking about the Florida native Reutimanns, with David being a devoted family man and a third-generation racer.

#### **Q: What's a moment when each of you was most proud of the other?**

**David:** In the early days, like for his big victories at Syracuse and the Eastern States races, I was so young that I don't really hardly remember any of that. But I think for me it was probably a couple years ago -- not more than two years ago -- down at East Bay Raceway [in Gibsonton, Fla., near Tampa] where he and I were in the same Modified race. We were all racing in a pack, and I was running fourth or fifth and he was running second, racing hard and having a good time. He's working the guy, and working the guy and I'm watching him do what I've seen him do so many times before. He was working the bottom of the racetrack and working the bottom of the race-track and getting the guy to commit, thinking he's going to get passed on the bottom if he gets off the bottom. And then with one to go, he drops by the guy and blows by him getting into 3 and goes on to win the race. And I remember it because I saw him doing it, and I'm out there trying to race and at the same time I'm watching what he's doing. And to see him still doing it at 65 years old -- the same things I saw him do as I was growing up -- and to do it as good as I've ever seen it done was probably one of the coolest moments for me. I know I'm proud that he's won all of the big races that he's won, but a lot of them were a little early in my time to really remember all of that stuff.

**Buzzie:** I've never told David this -- I don't think I've ever told anybody this -- but one of my proudest moments with David was when we were at an All Pro banquet. Before the banquet, the race director, Les Westerfield came up to David and said, 'The preacher can't be here to say the blessing before the banquet.' So they asked David to do it -- and that was a proud moment for me.

**David:** That was nerve-wracking. I remember that and I think I was more nervous doing that than I ever was getting into a racecar.

**Buzzie:** But there have been so many proud moments.

**David:** It's hard to single out just one, because there have been a lot of good ones.

**Buzzie:** The first time he ever won with his Mini Stock, at the Florida State Fairgrounds, was another one. And one of my proudest moments was when I first saw him drive his Mini Stock. We'd finally got this little car done that we built -- a little four-cylinder Pontiac Sunbird -- working on it on Saturdays and Sundays. So we said, 'Here we go,' and we took him down to the Fairgrounds. The track was all muddy and they were running it in, so my brother Wayne and I said we better walk down to the first corner and see how David does. So pretty soon they drop the green flag to start practice and here he come down the front straightaway with that little old Pontiac just as wide open as it would go, and he thumped her off there into the first corner with the back end hung out and 'round the corner he went, just like he'd been doing it for a hundred years. So I looked at Wayne and Wayne looked at me, and we didn't say nothing. We just walked back to our racecars. He knew how to do it and we didn't worry no more.

## An Interview with The Reutimanns (Continued)

**Q: Was there any choice for each of you guys but to go into racing because each of your dads raced and was successful at it?**

**Buzzie:** It was just what we wanted to do. I guess some people like to golf, and some people like to fish. We just like to race. My dad raced, and we just grew up around racetracks and tinkering with cars. My dad had a Chevrolet [dealership] and we had a junkyard out back, so we were always going out there and fixing something up, or siphoning the gas out of an old junk car to put it into something we had running, to get it going. Of course, David's mom wanted him to be a doctor or a lawyer, but I don't think she had a chance on that.

**David:** I definitely had the option not to do it, but I never thought it was an option. It was just kind of a no-brainer for me and I felt it was what I wanted to do.

**Q: What was the big attraction for you guys? Was it the sound, the smell, the color or what?**

**David:** I can remember sitting in the stands and watching him win races and how people would cheer for him and react to him. The fact that he could give some little kid in a wheelchair a trophy after a feature win and just make the kid's day, I thought was pretty special. I kind of identified right away that that was something that not everybody had the opportunity to do. But I've always just enjoyed the driving part, just you and the car and you're trying to make it do something it doesn't want to -- especially on the dirt tracks. So part of it was that, but a large part of it was just that I loved to drive anything.

**Buzzie:** I think, back then, it was being able to put something together yourself -- to put it together and build something, because we used to get everything out of the junkyard and go out and win with it. It would give you a greater feeling of accomplishment when you could do something like that.

**Q: You guys got a fix on how many feature races you've won?**

**Buzzie:** I had a friend of mine who'd come down to Florida each year and he'd get out all my old scrapbooks and have 'em all over the table and try to document how many I'd won. And he come up with a deal I think that was close to 1,200 times that I'd won. Of course, I started when I was 13 years old so I drove in a lot of races. I think at one time I won 20 in a row at Phillips Field in Tampa. No, they didn't put a bounty on me, but they used to try to beat me pretty regular.

**David:** I'm probably in the neighborhood of 212 or 215. I've got a pretty good ways to catch him, because he's about a thousand ahead of me.

**Q: If you weren't in racing, what do you think you'd be doing?**

**Buzzie:** That's a hard question, because I don't think we know anything else.

**David:** I think both of us are good fabricators, so we could probably do something like be machinists. But I don't know. I think I'd be in trouble if I didn't race.

I think, for me, I'd be building racecars or chassis or doing stuff like that, because I ended up being pretty decent at it. But that was because [dad] was in the business already, so if he hadn't of been in the business to start with, I don't have a clue what I'd be doing.

**Buzzie:** It goes back so many years and I think it was just that we enjoyed building things, fabricating it and putting something together. We could build whole cars.

So it would have to be something where you could build something and then to see what you had accomplished after you were through.

## Anderson/Choquette at New Smyrna Beach—April 26, 2008

### *The Domination Continues!*

The incredible combination of Dick Anderson engineering and Jeff Choquette driving created another night of spectacular racing at New Smyrna Beach Speedway. Starting from the outside pole in the 125-lap Billie Harvey Memorial Sunbelt Series event, Choquette took Anderson's No. 92 Super Late Model entry to the front on the first lap and dominated the field en route to another impressive win in this premier series. Despite a persistent mid-race challenge from Clermont driver Patrick Conrad, Choquette never relinquished the top position, leading all 125 laps in a show of power and extraordinary driving skill.

The race was slowed by six cautions, with 25 laps run under the yellow. On each restart, Choquette handily assumed his command of the field, running a strategic race that allowed him to build a comfortable lead over each green-flag stretch. With Anderson looking on and providing real-time coaching, Choquette's smooth driving turned in a performance worthy of his steadily-building reputation as one of the best of the best. In fact, Speed 51 earlier in April announced that Choquette had been named #1 in their "Short Track Power Rankings" following voting by a national panel of racing experts and short track specialists. Here's an excerpt from Speed51.com outlining the basis for Jeff's selection:

**1. Jeff Choquette (SLM), 6.80 Rating** - Choquette came out of the box strong this year with victories in Speedfest 2008 at Lakeland and a championship at New Smyrna the next month. He also started out strong in the PASS South opener at Hickory, stinking up the show before getting tangled with a lapped car. Choquette has been great in the Florida SLM ranks for the past few years, but now that he is traveling more he is grabbing the notice of more people - including our panel of experts. Choquette received five first-place votes.

It looks like this is going to be another great year for Choquette: he's won nine of the 19 events he's entered so far this year, and placed in the top 10 in 15 of those events. With 6 poles to his credit, he's clearly a dominant force on the Florida short track circuit.

A small contingent of club members was on hand at the 4/26 event. Here are some of the highlights from this great night of racing:



Our new hood prior to its first race!



OK...time to hit the track for qualifying



Dick Anderson's patented, but effective, car relocation system...hey, it saves gas!

## More Photo Highlights from 4-26-08



Crew Chief Carter—close to the action



Our driver and our hood...good looking combo!



This is how Dick Anderson “watches” a race. (Left). This is how Mary Anderson “watches” a race. (Right)



Seeing the No. 92 in the Winner’s Circle at New Smyrna is nothing new. Here, Mary, Dick, Jeff, and Chris (Jeff’s friend) pose for media photos. Note club shirts in the stands.

