



# The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club Pit Report

## June/July, 2012

(Remember—No Meeting in July)



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### Another Visit From Racing Royalty!



Wayne Reutimann Sr. addresses the club June 6

**June 6**—It was another night of great racing stories, this time led by none other than Wayne Reutimann Sr., Buzzie's kid brother and a highly acclaimed and accomplished veteran of stock car and sprint car racing in Florida and up and down the country's east coast. Wayne took us on a nostalgic tour of some of the days gone by in racing, from his career in Florida to the dirt tracks of the northeast, sharing a host of amusing tales of life in the "old days" of racing and especially life competing with (and against) his older brother.

For those of you who may not be aware, Wayne Reutimann has compiled a truly remarkable career in racing, achieving legend status and helping to keep the mystique of the Reutimann name in the forefront of racing history. For example, he's a two-time winner of the Florida Governor's Cup and he's captured a win in the 1979 running of the prestigious "Little 500" event at Anderson (Ind.) Speedway. Locally, he's a former Florida State Late Model Champion, and he's recorded 96 feature wins competing in the Tampa Bay Area Racing Association (TBARA) sprint car series.

One of the fascinating stories Wayne entertained us with dealt with the "Little 500" win...it seems he actually won the race while in the hospital being treated for injuries suffered during the closing stages of the event. Wayne had built a large enough lead that the crew was able to put the car back together and get a relief driver (Danny Smith) to finish, while Wayne was transported to the hospital for treatment. Smith maintained the lead when the race resumed, winning over the two other cars on the lead lap (one of which was Dave Scarborough of Brooksville, FL, another Florida racing standout).

Brother Buzzie opened the Reutimann segment of the meeting with a recap of David's upcoming stint in the James Finch No. 51 in "relief" of Kurt Busch, and then introduced Wayne Sr. He also observed that, since there was likely to be a serious round of story-telling ahead, he and Wayne had elected to bring their younger sister Joy along to help keep the record straight! Later in the meeting, Joy discussed her own racing career, which featured a stint driving "powder puff" events in local female racing circuits. She even confessed to having accomplished a few roll-over accidents during her time on the track.



Joy Reutimann makes a move to jostle Buzzie away from the mic

## Racing Royalty Visits Again! (continued from page 1)

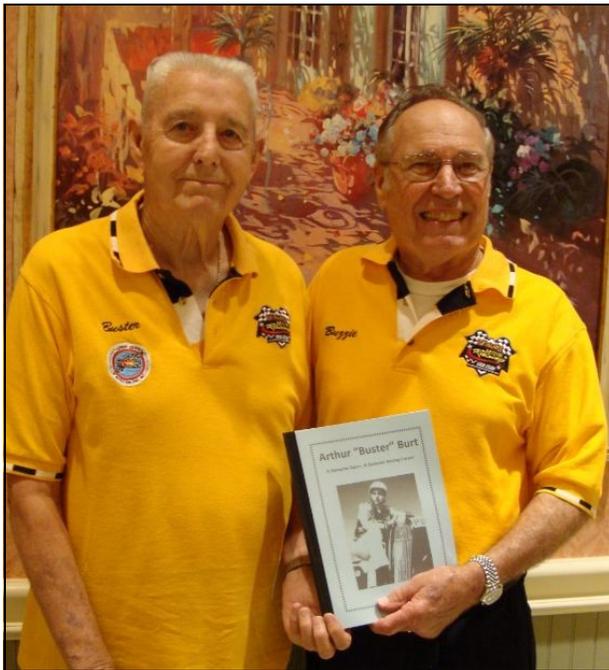
Wayne Sr., Buzzie, and Joy concluded their portion of the meeting with a question-and-answer session. The candid comments and exciting tales of racing activities through

the years gave us another great night of entertainment, as well as an even deeper appreciation for the Reutimann racing legacy and its place in motorsports history. Here are a few of the highlights of

the night's visit:



Buzzie, sharing a laugh during his introduction of Wayne Sr. (Note the yellow shirt!)



In photo at left, Buzzie proudly displays his personalized copy of Arthur "Buster" Burt's recently-published biography. In a special presentation during the Reutimann segment of the meeting, Buster presented a copy of the publication to Buzzie, noting that there are several references to their long-time relationship cited in the document.

In photo at right, Buzzie (seated at left), Joy (seated center), and Wayne Sr. (seated at right) answer questions from a contingent of club members following the meeting.



## Pit Crew Members Share Meeting-Leading Tasks

**June 6**—You may have noticed something different at the front of our last two meetings. What we're referring to here, of course, is the change in meeting format that we've adopted that has Pit Crew members sharing the task of leading meetings. This all started with the May 2 meeting, when Peter Tetrault handled the honors, followed by Silky Meegan at the June 6 meeting.

The intent of this format change is to provide some additional variety to our meetings, and to give our talented Pit Crew members more of a voice and increased visibility in running the meetings. It's something that we plan on continuing in the future, with Wendy Touchette on tap to run the August meeting, followed by Mike Touchette handling the September meeting and Glen

Carter leading the October meeting.

We think this change will liven things up a bit and, of course, we welcome any other suggestion you might have for changes to the way we do things in the club. Likewise—and this is a standing request—if you have any thoughts or suggestions for activities we might try, please let us know!



Peter Tetrault (Left) leads the May 2 meeting; Silky Meegan (Right) covered the June 6 meeting.



## Jerry Conkle Takes 2012 Prediction Row Segment 1

**June 3**—Known around the club as our resident Indy/Open Wheel expert, Jerry Conkle proved he has some insight into what goes on in the NASCAR ranks as well. Out of the 13 segment one predictions Conkle made, seven wound up in the top 5 (along with one win), while only 4 were outside the top 10. As a result, he finished a whopping 31 points ahead of Fred Coenen and top-three newcomer Bob Giles. Conkle, Coenen, and Giles now take a break to rest up for the Chase segment, while the second segment predictors sharp-

en their pencils for races 14-26.

Overall the segment one group performed admirably, with six winning predictions (7.6%) and 25 top-five predictions out of a possible 78 (32.1%). In fact, over 50% of the segment one predictions came home in the top 10 finishing order.

The final rundown for segment one looked like this:

- Jerry Conkle (467)
- Bob Giles (436)
- Fred Coenen (436)
- Gary Civiletti (435)
- Jim Carter (424)
- Wendy Touchette (408)

The segment two predictors are also off and running, having (as of this writing) moved through the first 3 races of their portion of the competition. Rookie Jon Neville and veteran Connie Scalzitti share the top spot on the leader board, a mere two points ahead of rookie Wayne Nolan. Defending Champion Al Stone has begun to build momentum, and sits 13 points back from the lead. Meanwhile, rookies Corky Eck and Matt Patterson slug it out for fifth and sixth, respectively. But then, it's still early in the race!

Follow the Predictors' progress on our website.

## New Club Website to Launch August 1



**June 6**—It's just about ready to go! After several months of work by club member Mike Anderson, our newly-designed club website is scheduled to launch August 1. After that date, when you access the club's site ([www.villagesracingclub.com](http://www.villagesracingclub.com)), be prepared for a treat! You'll be greeted by a totally new homepage, a new easier-to-use navigation panel, and a host of new features that we feel will add quite a bit to the usefulness of our site. For example, the site will give you an expandable calendar of events, a variety of photo and video galleries, and homepage snippets on upcoming events and club highlights. Full access to all club newsletters dating back to 2006 will be provided, and we'll even have an online catalog of club logo items available for you to examine!

Our current website has served us well, with going on 28,000 hits to-date. Indeed, it has served as the base for the new version. Looking ahead, we are intending to make the website the main focal point for club communications, to the extent that individuals heading up specific projects and club functions will be able to dynamically provide up-to-date information on their areas. As always, if you have any suggestions to improve the site, just let us know!

## August Meeting Preview

Our August 1 meeting will feature a return visit from last year's Scholarship winner Amanda Lynn Ferguson of Montverde, Florida. Amanda will give us a recap of her developmental experiences racing up in the Midwest last year (Dells Raceway Park— Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin and Sands Speedway— Marquette, Michigan), as well as her progress on the local tracks (Citrus County Speedway, Punta Gorda Speedway, New Smyrna Speedway, and Orlando Speedworld). She'll also review her plans for the remainder of 2012, and bring us up-to-date on how her academic career is unfolding.



## Randy Anderson Leads CCS Points Race

Seven races into the 2012 Super Late Model points race at Citrus County Speedway, club Hall of Famer Randy Anderson finds himself atop the chart with a two-point lead over veteran Herb Neumann Jr. With three second-place finishes and a pair of third-place spots, Randy has compiled an average finishing position of fourth. Along the way, he's also recorded two qualifying heat wins against the talented field of CCS regulars and visiting competitors.

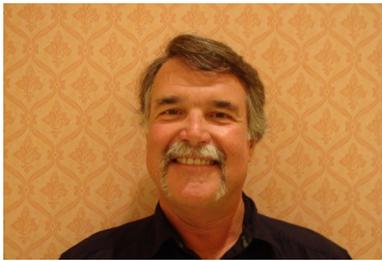
Randy also competes in CCS's Open Wheel Modified series, although not regularly. He's recorded one feature win and one heat win in this series, currently standing 19th in the points race.



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

## Welcome, New Members

At our March meeting, we added three more racing enthusiasts to our group! Be sure to greet them next time you see them and strike up a conversation about their interest in the wide world of motorsports!



Left-to-right: Daryl Ware, Jackie Bird, and Don McGinnis

## Local Racing Corner

Watch your email and the club website for periodic announcements of trips and car pools being formed to visit these great, relatively local racing venues. We frequently visit our "home tracks" (Original Speedway Park and Citrus County Speedway), and of course Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala whenever we hear of Buzzie Reutimann planning to make an appearance. Remember that Randy Anderson frequently races at Citrus County Speedway, and that Amanda Ferguson and Wayne Anderson regularly run at Punta Gorda Speedway. Also, as Amanda will discuss when she meets with us August 1, she is planning to run a few races at Citrus County Speedway later this year.

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  |

## Special Events Roundup



As NASCAR nears its 2012 midpoint with the Coke Zero 400, it's time to re-focus for the second half of the racing season. We've got some great meetings lined up, beginning in August with Amanda Ferguson's visit, and continuing in September with an Indy 500-focused session conducted by Bill Clements and Jerry Conkle. In October, we're planning a field trip to Wayne Anderson's full-service race shop in Wildwood instead of a regular meeting. We'll have the opportunity to see real race cars in various stages of preparation, and we'll be able to learn some key insights into race car set-up, including use of Wayne's state-of-the-art dyno room.

Some of the events and activities on tap for the next few months are shown below. As always, though, we'd love to hear your suggestions for trips and events... just give me a call!

*Wendy*

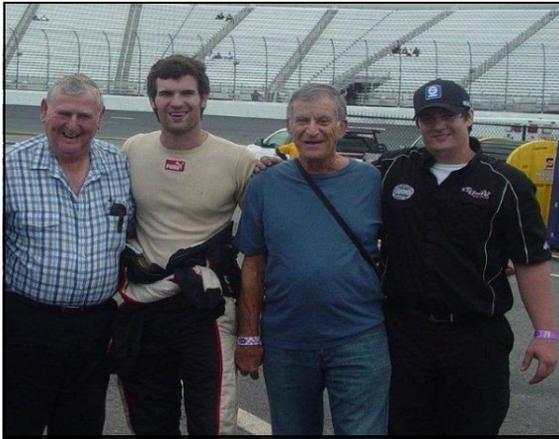
| Date/Event  | Event Details   |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, July 4   |  <b style="color: red;">NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING IN JULY!</b>    |
| Wednesday, July 11<br>Colony Cottage                          | Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!   |
| Saturday, July 7<br>Coke Zero 400 at Daytona                  | See website homepage for details and downloadable flyer   |
| Saturday, July 7<br>Coke Zero 400 on the big screen at Colony | We'll be showing the race on the big screen at Colony Cottage Rec Center, starting at 6:30 pm. BYOB, BYOC, and bring a snack to share. Let Wendy know via email ( <a href="mailto:mrswmt@comcast.net">mrswmt@comcast.net</a> ) if you plan to attend.                           |
| Thursday, July 12<br>Camp Villages R/C Racing Event           | Our club will again be hosting this event at La Hacienda Rec Center. Don Day is coordinating for us, and will need volunteers to staff the crew. Call him at 508-954-8752 to sign up. Time is 8:00 am to noon.  |
| Saturday, July 28<br>Colony Cottage                           | Our radio-controlled racers will be in action on the side parking lot at Colony Cottage, from 9:00 am to noon. Come out and watch (or join in) the fun!   |
| Wednesday, August 1<br>Colony Cottage                         | As noted on page 4, Amanda Ferguson will make a return visit as our August guest speaker. In conjunction with this meeting, we're also sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Caring Hands Ministry's Wildwood Food Bank. More information will follow on this...see you there! |
| Thursday, October 25<br>Colony Cottage                        | Bingo fund-raiser—details TBA!  |
| Saturday, December 8<br>Polo Grounds                          | 2012 Villages Christmas Parade—Details TBA!   |

## Corey LaJoie Shines in K&N East Racing

**June 23**—Many of you will recognize the last name, since his father is none other than Randy LaJoie, two time NASCAR Busch Grand National series Champion. You may also have recognized the name as being associated with NASCAR safety advocacy and the manufacture of custom-designed seats for many of the more prestigious, safety-conscious race teams. But what you may not know is that there is a direct connection between the LaJoies and our club: Randy LaJoie's wife Lisa—Corey's mother—is the daughter of club member **Ernie Battee**. If you're good with genealogy, then, you know that Corey LaJoie is Ernie's grandson. And, like most grandparents, Ernie's real proud!

Twenty year-old Corey is a 15-year racing veteran, having started in go-karts at age five, then moving to Bandoleros, Legend Cars, and the Aaron's Pro Challenge Series (where he won 10 of the 12 races he entered). In 2007, he stepped up to the UARA-Stars Late Model Touring Series, where he compiled an impressive record of one win (Rockingham), five top fives, and 10 top tens in 17 races between 2007 and 2009.

Now competing in the K&N East Series, Corey has begun to make a name for himself at the higher levels of motorsports. The K&N series is regarded by many to be the last step before entering the rare air of the NAS-



Corey with two proud grandparents and brother Casey. Ernie, in blue t-shirt, looks pretty happy!

CAR Nationwide series. On June 2, he recorded a breakthrough win at Bowman Gray Stadium and then became the series' first repeat winner with a win at Langley (VA) Speedway. The win moved him to just one point shy of series leader Chase Elliott, halfway through the 2012 schedule.

The next K&N East race is Saturday, July 14 at CNB Bank Raceway Park in Clearfield, PA. A replay of Corey's win at Langley will be broadcast on the Speed channel Thursday, June 28 at 3:00 pm. I expect Ernie will be watching!



Upper—Corey LaJoie celebrating his Rockingham win; Lower—The LaJoie family (L-to-R—Randy, Lisa, Corey, and Casey)

## Camp Villages Set for July 12

The "pit crew" being assembled to manage the 2012 edition of the R/C model car racing segment of Camp Villages is getting ready to go. Event Chair Don Day has put together another talented team of mechanics, fabrication specialists, and operations personnel to assist in this event, and we're all looking forward to a repeat of what was an action-packed, fun-

filled event for kids and adults alike last year. Who could forget the excitement of 18 eager racers lining up for the heat races? Who could forget the tension as these young racers received their initial training on handling the finicky R/C cars? Who could forget the look of awe in the kids' eyes as they listened to Buster Burt sharing his years of experience and

motorsports knowledge? And, of course, who could forget the excitement as overall champion Kaley Kelly cheered her grandmother around the track in the "exhibition" races?

Really, you don't want to miss this one, so give Don a call (508-954-8762) to sign up for the pit crew? You won't be disappointed...guaranteed!

## Your Pit Crew

Gerry Hafer, President (751-3643)  
 Mike Touchette, Vice President (430-0239)  
 Silky Meegan, Corresponding Secretary (259-2029)  
 Gerry Greim, Recording Secretary (215-630-1402)  
 Tom Horrmann, Treasurer/Official Photographer (430-0195)  
 Wendy Touchette, Special Events (430-0239)  
 Bob & Camille Sherman, Membership (751-1771)  
 Wayne Nolan, Member at Large (750-9082)  
 Buster Burt, Technical Consultant (751-4346)  
 Jerry Conkle, Technical Consultant (750-1185)  
 Peter Tetrault, Member at Large (205-8503)  
 Glen Carter, Immediate Past President (751-6442)  
 Ed and Janet Ott, Hospitality Coordinators (753-6872)  
 Buster & Zoe Ann Burt, Honorary Members (751-4346)

## A Visit with Joey Gibbs



**June 16**-As announced at our June 6 meeting, our Contributions Committee, along with a contingent of 14 club members, traveled over to Original Speedway Park in Fruitland Park to present a check for \$500 to Joey Gibbs. The young racer, you'll recall, was injured in a 2008 Motocross accident, and since then has been going through extensive surgical procedures and rehabilitation work that has left his family with a substantial financial burden. In its discussions with the Pit Crew, the Contributions Committee cited the importance of recognizing the plights of local racers, and directing our group's contributions toward local needs closely related to motorsports. "We not only support local racing," Crew Chief Gerry Hafer commented to the crowd at the track, "But we support local *racers*, as well." Gibbs is pictured at right, wearing a club hat donated by Tom Horrmann.



## Conkle's Corner...

Jerry's back at it, with a few items designed to make you think (and maybe to make you laugh, or at least chuckle a bit!).



- First, some race-related observations... The Indy "500" was a great race, it was a shame it finished under the yellow. The pre race ceremony was the best I've seen. The charlotte race is much too long, something needs to be changed. OK...got that out of my system!
- A man and a blonde were sitting at a bar watching the 11:00 o'clock news and a man was about to jump off a building. The man said "I bet \$20 he jumps." The blonde says "I'll bet \$20 he don't." The guy jumps and the blonde says "Here is your \$20." The man said "I can't take your \$20...I saw him jump on 5:00 o'clock news." She said "So did I, but didn't think he would do it again."
- And here are some PARAPROSDOKIANS (figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected) for you to ponder:
  - Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
  - Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
  - I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
  - We never really grow up; we just learn how to act in public.
  - Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
  - A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
  - You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
  - To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
  - You're never too old to learn something stupid.
  - I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

