



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report-September, 2008

September 1, 2008

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Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



Saturday, August 2, 2008 was another great night for our club. It was our fifth sponsorship deal (third with Dick Anderson), but it was our first at the USA International Speedway down in Lakeland, Florida. It was a night of good racing, even though the car we supported didn't win (see recap below), but it was a bittersweet night

for Florida's stock car racing community. As most of you know by now, this was the final event at this beautiful 3/4 mile racing facility. This had been rumored for some time, but we were all shocked and saddened to see the news release three days before the August 2 event reporting that it was a "done deal". Ware-houses...can you believe it?!

The closing of USA Speedway is an indication of what many of us have been fearing for some time...that local stock car racing is in trouble. Not only the tracks, but the race teams as well. As a club, we're trying to do our part to keep this sport alive here in our area, and we've made a great contribution

with our trips, sponsorship deals, publicity, and so on. But we need to do more, and I encourage all of you to consider supporting our local tracks by attending events. Page 3 of this newsletter provides information on our closest tracks...go out and see some good racing before it's gone forever!

OK....off the soapbox now. I hope all of you are having a great summer, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our September 3 meeting. Our tentative plans are for Ms. Angie Clifton, co-owner of Ocala Speedway, to be on hand to share her perspectives on managing a racing venue. This will be another great meeting.

Glen

Anderson's No. 92 Grabs a Top-5!

More than 60 members of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club were on hand Saturday, August 2 for a history-making event—the final races on the famed 3/4 mile oval at USA International Speedway in Lakeland, Florida. Although it was a night saddened by the announcement of the sale of the track and its scheduled closing, fans were captivated by the quality of competition in the two events that made up the racing card—the sec-

ond leg of the 125-lap Sunbelt Triple Crown series for Super Late Models and the FASCAR Pro Trucks 50-lap event.

Our club was on-hand to root for "our club car" the No. 92 Super Late Model entry owned and built by the legendary Dick Anderson of Wildwood, Florida and piloted by his son, noted Florida driver Wayne

Anderson. The No. 92 was carrying The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club's logo on its hood, and was expected to be a major factor in the event. Starting 7th in the 32-car field, Wayne raced with the lead pack through the first 52 laps, moving into 4th position on lap 43. He made a move on lap 53 to take third place from Matt

(Continued on Page 2)...



Anderson's No. 92 Grabs a Top-5!

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Dick and Wayne...ready to fire it up!

Bowers in the No. 84, but wound up in a "racing incident" that affected the car's handling. The No. 92 was not a factor from that point on, struggling to a fifth-place finish with suspension issues from the lap-53 incident. The race was slowed by ten caution flags, with just 12 of the original 32 cars running at the end. David Rogers won the event, with Jeremy Colangelo beating Travis Cope to the line for a second-place finish. Colangelo put on an exciting show for the fans, coming from the rear of the field after a pit stop to replace a rear spoiler early in the race.

Despite the fifth-place finish, it was truly a great night for racing. The photos below will give you a feel for the highlights of the trip:



The group, upon arrival at USA Speedway, enjoying the Florida sunshine!



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club surrounds the No. 92.



The fully-signed hood...the car is now officially ready to go.



Those gold shirts rally do make a statement...even if they are too hot for Florida!



Special Events Roundup for 2008

The remainder of 2008 will feature more exciting events for club members, including a poker run, another major sponsorship deal, and exciting speakers at our monthly meetings. Also, as noted below, we're moving right along with plans for our 2008 Hall of Fame event. Here are the highlights for the coming months:

- **October**—Although we haven't set an exact date, we are beginning to plan for our club's annual Poker Run event. We'll discuss this in greater detail at the September 3 meeting, and will be forming a committee to plan and oversee the event.
- **November 22-43rd** annual FL Governor's Cup event at

New Smyrna Speedway. This will be another sponsorship deal with Dick Anderson's New Dixie Racing Team...they'll be gunning for a second straight win in this prestigious event. We'll start taking reservations for this trip at the September 3 meeting...the bus is likely to fill quickly!

- **Tuesday, December 2**—Hall of Fame Night at Colony Cottage Rec Cen-

ter. This will be our 2nd HOF induction ceremony, and will feature a dinner and conversation with our new inductees. See related article on page 5

- **Saturday, December 13**—Hold this date for our club's participation in 2008 Christmas Parade @ the Polo Grounds.

See **Wendy Touchette** or any Pit Crew member for details on any of these events.

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— Saturday nights; 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— Saturday nights; 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)



Orlando Speedworld- Friday nights at 8:00 pm, Saturday nights at 7:30 pm.

19164 East Colonial Drive (Highway 50 just west of 520 Cocoa cut-off)
Orlando, FL 32833
407-568-1367
(www.OrlandoSpeedworld.org)



Speedway Park—Fruitland Park (Micro Race Track Road and Rt. 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)

SPEEDWAY PARK

Visit our website: 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)

Take a Look at Jay Leno's cars!



Whether or not you're a Jay Leno fan (I personally still miss Johnny Carson), and whether or not you watch the "Tonight Show," you'll still enjoy taking a look at this website. Despite the annoying ads, the site contains a wealth of entertaining pages dedicated to the exotic car collection Leno maintains, as well as video segments showing cars from other collections around the collection. For example, right now there's a fascinating five-minute video about a **1964 Shelby Cobra Daytona** (A REAL ONE!), with an interesting story about its ownership history and its restoration. (Incidentally, this portion of the site is Leno's tribute to "Other guy's stuff way cooler than the stuff I got!")

While on the site, you can view the cars in Leno's "Big Dog Garage" collection. The garage, by the way, is not just any old garage...its 17,000 square feet of automotive arcade space, housing a tremendous collection of vintage, muscle, and exotic cars. You can even pick one from a list and do a ride-along with Leno as he puts the car through it's paces.

Be careful with this one...you can wind up spending a whole lot time here, and it could cause you to miss a lot of happy hours. (www.jaylenosgarage.com).

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

Now, here's a really useless (but interesting nevertheless) set of statistics about the 2007 NASCAR season. We all know what the "Lucky Dog" award is, but don't you wonder how many "Lucky Dog" awards certain drivers accumulate during a season? It seems like some drivers are always named as the "Luck Dog" and while the award frequently goes to a back marker, that's not always the case, and sometimes eventual winners can credit receiving the award as the reason for their success that day. Anyway, here's a recap of the 2007 season, courtesy of Jayski's@Silly Season site, showing drivers who received this award five or more times last season. Also, here's a recap of the best finishes in 2007 among Lucky Dog recipients.

Driver	Awards
T. Labonte	13
Menard	11
K. Petty	11
Gilliland	10
Ragan	9
R. Gordon	9
Vickers	9
K. Wallace	9
Riggs	9
Ku. Busch	8
Yeley	8
Montoya	8
Sadler	7
Mears	7
Waltrip	7
Allmendinger	7
Raines	7
Biffle	6
Sorenson	6
Reutimann	5
Marlin	5
Kahne	5
Stremme	5
Andretti	5
Nemechek	5
Rudd	5

Best 2007 Finishes for a Lucky Dog	
K. Petty (Charlotte, 5/07)	3rd
Earnhardt, Jr. (Dover, 9/07)	3rd
Sorenson (Charlotte, 5/07)	4th
Vickers (Charlotte, 5/07)	5th
McMurray (Texas, 4/07)	5th
Ku. Busch (Richmond, 5/07)	5th
Ky. Busch (Dover, 9/07)	5th



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.

RAFFLE SALE COMING TO A CLOSE!

We're down to less than 40 tickets remaining on our 2008 Raffle to win one of three **Richard Petty Experience** prizes. The final tickets will be on sale at our September 3 meeting...don't miss your chance!!!



Breaking News—Second Annual “Chase Pool” Getting Set to Launch!

The 2008 “Race for the Chase” is winding down, with the September 6 Chevy Rock and Roll 400 at Richmond marking the cut-off for the 12 drivers to run for the Sprint Cup. At the same time, Bill Wilkie is preparing to launch the club’s 2008 Chase Pool, and will be ready at the September 3 meeting to begin selling reserved spots in the 12 X 12 grid. Just like last year, this will be a “blind draw,” meaning you’ll need to simply select a space on the grid without knowing who your drivers will be. That’s the fun of it! Also just like last year, each space on the grid will cost you \$5, but you’ll be in line for a great rate of return, with ten weekly winners and a grand prize going to the holder of the Cup and Runner-up grid space. Don’t miss this chance to be a part of this electrifying event...the grid spaces will be on sale at our September 3 meeting. Bill’s lovely wife Marlene will be stationed near the refreshment table coordinating the sign-up process...just look her up and grab your spots in the pool!



2008 “Hall of Fame” Event Shaping Up

As noted under the “Special Events” column on page 3, plans are moving right along for our 2008 Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This year’s event will take the form of a three-course catered dinner at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, with an after-dinner program designed to honor our new inductees and welcome back our inductees from 2007. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Barbara Nolan, we’ve been able to secure the services of Vic’s Embers of nearby Leesburg to prepare the meal for us, and we all anticipate a great evening of food, fellowship, and racing conversation. We also plan to do a “year-in-review” recap of our activities for the past year, with Club Member Pete Tetrault serving as our Master of Ceremonies. Cost for the event will be \$20 per person, and sign-ups will begin at our September 3 meeting. In the meantime, just contact any pit crew member with any questions you may have. This is going to be another great milestone event for the club!



Special food Drive to Benefit Jamaican Elderly

Our continuing support of the “Help Them Call Home” cell phone recycling project has brought us in contact with the chef at the El Santiago Club in The Villages. His name is Brian Webster and, along with El Santiago Club, he has been quite supportive of our cell phone project. Brian is Jamaican, and is organizing a non-perishable food drive for the needy and elderly in his native country, and has reached out for our help in this mission. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please bring any non-perishable food items to the September 3 meeting. We will see that the items are added to the El Santiago Club collection for transport to Jamaica. If you have any questions about this project in the meantime, feel free to contact Brian at 352-348-9473 or pit crew member Ted Cahalane at 352-751-2638.
