



The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club

Pit Report

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Pit Notes from the Crew Chief



Saturday night, November 17 was another great night for our club! Those of you who were with us over at New Smyrna Speedway got to feel the excitement of watching “our car” blazing its way through the field in the “42nd Annual Governor’s Cup 200” as Jeff Choquette again dominated the track. It might have been a

bit cold, but I think we were all warmed up by the performance of Dick Anderson and his team, and by the reception that we again received at the Speedway. We’re now two-for-two with our sponsorship of Dick and his #92...it appears to be a match made in heaven, so to speak!

The growth and success of our club continues to amaze me, and we just continue to add incredible members to our group. We’re now 200+ strong, as we continue to build new relationships with fellow racing enthusiasts in The Villages. A year ago, we were wondering whether a club like this could be a suc-

cess...now we know!

As we’ve all said so many times, our growth and success is not only testimony to the enthusiasm of the members, but to the people we’ve partnered with, as well. Throughout the year, we’ve had fascinating speakers and presenters covering so many aspects of motor racing, and all of us have enjoyed hearing the thoughts and perspectives of people connected to the racing community. We’ll be honoring our first-year speakers at our December 5 meeting as we inaugurate our “Hall of Fame,” and I hope you’ll be there to join in the celebration!

Special points of interest:

- *Club sponsorship of Dick Anderson’s #92 continues as a charmed partnership*
- *Steve Griffin wins Citrus County Speedway Mini-Stock Crown*
- *Daytona trip packages announced*
- *Choquette takes 10th spot in 40th Annual Snowball Derby*

The Governor’s Cup—Another Win for the Club!

It’s difficult to describe the level of interest that race fans experience when they have a vested interest in a race entry. Let’s simply say it’s a great feeling, watching “our car”, in “our race”, driven by “our driver” take command of a highly competitive event. It felt like we were all right inside the car, helping Jeff muscle the car through the turns, weave through the lapped traffic,

and stay focused on the track ahead. It’s probably no understatement to say that he had an additional 90+ spotters working the race for him!

As Club President Carter commented after the race, “Well, there’s another one we couldn’t have scripted any better!” From the signatures on the hood, to the

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Jeff and Dick celebrate their incredible win in the 42nd Annual Governor’s Cup 200 event at New Smyrna on 11/17/07.



Jeff admitted that the club's support gives him "a little added pressure to do well."

The Governor's Cup—Another Win for the Club! (continued from page 1)

banner on pit wall, to the many announcements on the track's public address system, our club was highly visible at the Speedway, and not only because of the sea of yellow shirts or the two classy buses.

Also on the card for the Nov. 17 event was the 100 lap Florida Mini Stock Challenge, featuring another soon-to-be-inducted member of our club's "Hall of Fame"—Steve Griffin. Steve started in fifth position, and moved steadily toward the

front of the pack during the early laps. Shortly after taking over second place, though, a broken drive shaft sidelined him coming out of turn 2 midway through the race, and he was done for the night. Nevertheless, he received an ovation from the club's section of the grandstand after coasting to a stop in the pits. As they say, that's racing, and we'll all look forward to cheering for Steve in the 2008 season.

Special mention needs to go out to Wendy and Mike

Touchette and the "Special Events Committee." Once again, their incredible attention to detail provided the club with a well-organized and well-controlled experience for the 91 hearty members and guests making the trip. Those of you who may have been involved at some point in putting trips like this together can certainly appreciate what it takes to make things go so smoothly.

This month's insert page contains a series of photos of the night's activities.

December 5 Meeting—Our "Hall of Fame" Comes to Life!

On Wednesday, December 5 we will take the long-awaited step of officially creating "The Villages Motor Racing Hall of Fame." Come out and join us as we welcome back presenters who helped us achieve such a fantastic first year. These are the people who agreed to share themselves and their experiences with us, and who helped us bring topics of interest to the club each

month.

The inductees for our inaugural ceremony will be:

- Matt Vaughn
- Dick Anderson
- Buddy Pearce
- Buzz Wilkie
- Mike Peters & Lou Tremblay
- Dave Bockman

- Don Nerone
- Larry Croom
- Steve Griffin
- Sabrina Gardiner
- Tim Lake
- Dean Tillman
- Arthur "Buster" Burt

It's going to be a great night!

"We've been extremely fortunate to have so many interesting speakers during our first year as a club."

..Glen Carter

Special Events News

As Wendy pointed out during her remarks at the last meeting, Wayne Nolan has assumed responsibility for coordinating club apparel orders. Contact him at tobiasroyal@earthlink.net or 750-9082 with any questions.

Wendy also reported that a new clothing item has been added to the club's list...long- and short-sleeve

denim shirts with the club's logo and your name. Available sizes are:

- Ladies short-sleeve (S to 7X)
- Ladies long-sleeve (S to 4X)
- Men's short- & long-sleeve (S to 7X)
- Men's Tall (Lg to 7X)

Regular club polo shirts and hats are also available for order anytime...just get in touch with Wayne and let him know. Also, club logo stickers are available for golf carts (and cars, house windows, or anywhere your spouse will let you place them) for \$3.00 each. Wendy and Mike will have a supply available at each meeting.

Looking Ahead to 2008—Daytona Packages Announced

Wendy Touchette announced on November 7 that Sabrina Gardiner of ISC has structured some great NASCAR race packages for our club for 2008. The first of these, of course, is for February at Daytona, and the packages include both the Nationwide (formerly Busch) series and the Sprint (formerly Nextel) Cup events on February 16 and 17. These and other planned trips will be discussed in greater detail at future meetings.

For the February, 2008 trips, two pricing options are available:

Option #1

FRONTSTRETCH

Lockhart Tower tickets for both races

Bus Transportation to and from The Villages

Fan Zone access on Saturday

Tailgate party prior to race each day

Welcome bags

Price—\$455.00 per person

Option #2

SUPERSTRETCH

Lund Tower tickets for both races

Bus Transportation and from The Villages

Fan Zone access on Saturday

Tailgate party prior to race each day*

Welcome bags

Price—\$355.00 per person



Local Racing Corner

Many of you are already aware of this, but Steve Griffin was officially crowned 2008 track champion in the Mini-Stock Division at Citrus County Speedway. With three feature wins and three heat wins, Steve won the division by 25 points over second place George Neumann (those of you who were with us at the October 20 event at CCS remember George...he's a good friend of

Steve's and pits right next to him.)

A hearty "Congratulations!" goes out to Steve.

Racing at most of the local tracks is pretty much wrapped up at this point, although there are events scheduled for 12/8 and 1/19 at Citrus County Speedway (for additional details see www.citruscountyspeedway.com.)

Other 2008 start-up dates for local tracks are:

- Ocala Speedway-March
- New Smyrna-March
- USA (Lakeland)-Jan 24 (Speedfest)
- Orlando Speedworld-March

As definite dates are set and the various websites are updated, we'll post the schedules in the newsletter.

One of the best things about living in The Villages is the availability of a wide variety of racing venues within a relatively short drive.

Websites of Interest

We were looking for something new to add to the newsletter format, since we're going into our second year, and someone suggested adding information on racing-related websites. So, each month for the next several months, we'll be profiling a website that presents news and background data on the world of racing. This

month, we're reviewing www.theinsidegroove.com, the site that contains a vast array of statistical data about racing of all types. You may recall from previous newsletter editions that this site has been the source of many of the "So you don't need to look it up" segments throughout the year. This interesting and entertaining

site will give you just about any piece of trivia you can think of about NASCAR, its tracks, its drivers, and its race teams, and you can even link out to a bunch of places to spend money! When the NASCAR season resumes in February, you'll also find a race-by-race analysis of each event, including facts about the track.



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)

Snowball Derby Recap

In case you weren't aware, Dick Anderson and Jeff Choquette are entered in the Snowball Derby this weekend in Pensacola. This is a major, 300-lap event for the Super Late Model series, and features an entry list of over 70 teams, with some fairly big names. Jeff has been carrying the Club's logo around the track in admirable fashion during early testing sessions, and has placed well on the speed charts. Qualifying concluded Friday night, with "OUR CAR" taking the 13th spot (many of the "big names" failed to qualify in the top 30.) Also, Wayne Anderson again finds himself chasing his dad's entry, this time from his 16th starting spot.

The field of 39 cars took the green at 2:11 pm today (Dec. 2) and, after five yellow flags in the first 87 laps, Choquette found himself a lap down to the leader. Until we talk to Dick (he'll most likely give us a vivid recap on Wednesday night), we're not sure what happened, but he rebounded over the remainder of the race to finish in 10th spot. Not a bad showing for the local guys!

We're also not sure what happened to Wayne, but somewhere around lap 200, he was reported to be out of the race. He was credited with a 29th place finish. (Incidentally, Wayne was one of eight former winners of the event entered in today's race.)

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

Not much has changed since the 2006 top ten was compiled, with the exception of Jeff Gordon moving past Dale Earnhardt into second place in modern-era wins.

Modern Era Race Winners

AFTER: > Ford 400

RANK	DRIVER	TOTAL	SUPER SPEEDWAYS	SHORT TRACKS	ROAD COURSES	THIS YEAR
1	Darrell Waltrip	84	16	47	5	0
2	Jeff Gordon	81	17	15	9	6
3	Dale Earnhardt	76	21	27	1	0
4	Cale Yarborough	69	17	29	3	0
5	Richard Petty	60	21	23	3	0
6	Bobby Allison	55	18	12	5	0
7	Rusty Wallace	55	7	25	6	0
8	David Pearson	45	14	1	3	0
9	Bill Elliott	44	12	2	1	0
10	Mark Martin	35	6	7	4	0

This set of statistics is kind of interesting, in that shows some painful realities of drivers who can run at the front, but have difficulty "sealing the deal." The rack-up shows the number of races since their last win, as well as the number of laps they've led during the drought.

RANK	CAR	DRIVER	RACES	LAPS LED	LAST WIN
1	21	Ken Schrader	528	1261	06/02/1991
2	36	Mike Skinner	245	1026	No Wins
3	8	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	62	789	05/06/2006
4	09	Sterling Marlin	188	737	03/17/2002
5	19	Elliott Sadler	119	595	09/05/2004
6	5	Kyle Busch	31	591	03/25/2007
7	12	Ryan Newman	81	530	09/18/2005
8	9	Kasey Kahne	41	466	10/14/2006
9	01	Mark Martin	66	446	10/09/2005
10	55	Michael Waltrip	126	380	09/28/2003
11	45	Kyle Petty	391	364	06/04/1995
12	1	Martin Truex Jr.	23	349	06/04/2007
13	49	John Andretti	188	320	04/18/1999
14	29	Kevin Harvick	35	267	02/18/2007
15	66	Jeff Green	265	265	No Wins
16	2	Kurt Busch	13	257	08/21/2007
17	88	Kenny Wallace	342	255	No Wins
18	22	Dave Blaney	268	246	No Wins
19	21	Bill Elliott	46	234	11/09/2003
20	4	Ward Burton	106	218	07/21/2002

Our Chase Pool was a Huge Success

Congratulations to all of the weekly winners in our "Chase Pool", and special congratulations to the big winner—Dave Bockman! Despite the Hendrick cars dominating the Chase, our pool event was an interesting way to track the path to the Championship. Kudos to Bill Wilkie for setting up the process, and we look forward to a repeat of the event in 2008.

The 42nd Annual Governor's Cup 200
November 17, 2007—New Smyrna Speedway



Here are some snapshots of the members getting ready to enjoy the night of racing. Yes, it got sort of cold, especially when the sun disappeared, but it was a great night for racing! The track announcer did refer to our group as “the Village People” on at least one occasion, but we let it pass.



Eventual race winner Jeff Choquette spent time with our group at our tailgate party. Here are a few shots of club members wishing him success for the event.



More Highlights from The Governor's Cup Event



If you look through a magnifying glass, you can see some yellow shirts on the bus!



Steve and Erika Griffin relaxing before the 100-lap Mini Stock Event



Close-up of the banner that Dick Anderson had prepared for pit wall.



Steve Griffin gets a pre-race briefing from Al Stone, with Katie Evans looking on (left), Jeff Choquette accepting the trophy in Victory Lane (center), Daily Sun Reporter Katie Evans gathers info for her article (right)

Some miscellaneous shots!

