



# Vintage Views

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History  
July/August 2002

About 25 former drivers, car owners and officials turned out for the Garden State Classic Reunion July 20, 2002 at Wall Twp. Speedway.



Jerry Cranmer and Gil Hearne at the GSVSCC Museum



Left to right. Joe Severage, Tommy Comerford, Robert Schlectweg and Dan McLaughlin, Sr.



Former drivers Tom Green and Bob Rossell



Above... left Autograph session. Above...right former starter Pete LaVance with former driver Artie Fillbrunn. N.Shea photos



Jack Capor Collection

**Harmony Speedway**, located near Phillipsburg, NJ in the town of Harmony was built and originally owned and promoted by Modified driver Carl Van Horn and presented modified, sportsman and open cockpit racing.

The following is a reprint of the FIRST Area Auto Racing News, dated Friday, June 14, 1963. Thank you to Earl Krause, columnist for AARN and the GSVSCC's racing historian for his help.

### Harmony Opens

June 7, 1963— Miss Warren County, 18 year old Miss Marlin J. Cherry who attends Haggestown College officially opened the new Harmony Race Track by cutting the ribbon stretched across the track. Senator Dumont of Warren County welcomed everyone.

The track is a 5/8 mile clay surface with 5 corners. The distance is 60 feet across from fence to fence with a ten feet safety strip on the inside going around the entire track. The track is very well lighted and from the grandstand which sits on the side of a hill, the view of the entire track is perfect.

Doing the announcing is one of the best, Nat Klienfield, who also handles Flemington on Saturday nights. Continue... see Harmony...page3

GSVSCC meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the West Long Branch Firehouse, 7:30 pm, Rt. 71 (Monmouth Road) and Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ. For directions call 732-840-6307 or 732-223-9388.

### May 2002 Club Minutes

By Loretta Tymko

President Ray Shea called the meeting of the GSVSCC to order on May 15,2002 at 7:45 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Ray reminded all members that there is no parking in front of the building and also to please put all chairs back after the meeting.

Bob Farlee gave the Treasurer's Report for May: He announced that he had just completed our annual report to the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs, Office of the consumer Protection, Charities Registration, Short Form Verification Statement. The purpose is to let them know where our money came from and what we spent it on. We spent \$14,790.00 and took in \$13,178.00. That leaves us with a shortage of \$1,602.00 for the year 2001.

The biggest expense was for the museum in 2001, \$2,829.00 and the newsletter at a cost of \$2,568.00.

The balance for April 2002 was \$3,952.00 with income of \$1,163.00 and expenses of \$947.00 leaving us a balance of \$4,169.00

Ray welcomed Doris and Pete LaVance back from Florida and announced they had brought another bag of goodies for the club. They donated pictures which included Richie Massing in the #14, Dick Lewis in the # 6 , Hank Dudley in the #15 and Bill Farry in the #41 at Old Bridge. There was also a picture of a postcard of Wall Stadium in the early 50's. Thanks to Doris and Pete.

Ray Liss announced that Gary Lafetra was out of the hospital and resting after heart problems. Get well to Gary.

Last month we discussed the handicap ramp donated by Loretta Tymko and forgot to thank Greg Owen for paying for the U-Haul. Thanks Greg for your generosity. Ray also said we need 8 men to help carry the ramps from the side of the trailer to the front so that they can start putting the ramp together. There will be a sign up sheet for those who can help on Sunday morning May 19th.

Shows since our last meeting- April 27th-Wall- 13 cars and 9 went out for track time, for at least 20 laps. We also had the Grand Opening of the Museum. We did the 50/50 and our efforts produced \$455.00 for the club. East Windsor May 10th- 15 cars and 11 went out for track time. Earl Megill announced we were not given enough track time. He spoke to the Jones' and Jack the promoter and was told that when we go back July 12th we will have 20 laps.

Ray said that he shall head a committee along with 2 members-at-large to handle any inappropriate actions by a member. He asked for 2 volunteers, preferably not associated with a car.

Loretta Tymko gave her report on the Bill Gibbons collection donated to the club. Loretta reported that so far she has commitments for \$700.00 and gave Bob Farlee a check for 450.00 which she has collected so far. She has been selling items on E-Bay.

John Fitzgerald showed some jackets which a friend sells and members showed interest in them. He gave some prices and said the woman in charge would come to the next meeting.

Butch Colosimo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gregg Roman seconded the motion.

Heave Ho!  
Some of the volunteers assembling the ramp on May 19th.

N. Shea photo



### June 2002 Club Minutes

By Loretta Tymko

President Ray Shea called the meeting of the GSVSCC to order on June 19,2002 at 7:45 pm. Ray welcomed those in attendance.

Bob Farlee gave Treasurer's Report for June: Bob announced that the past month was exceptional thanks to the hard work of our President and dedicated members. We took in almost \$4,000.00. Most of the income was from the Wall Township Speedway 50/50 and dues. We had \$4,169.00 at the end of last month. Income from the 50/50 and dues was \$3,785.00 and we spent \$207.00 leaving us with an all time high balance of \$8,161.00.

Ray thanked all the members that helped selling the 50/50 at Wall Twp.Speedway and those that sold 50/50's at Long Branch. The club made \$223.00 on 50/50's and sold \$80.00 worth of Gibbon's memorabilia.

Ray welcomed Mary and Bill Brice who are members but had never been to a meeting. Bill is a Tech Inspector for the NASCAR Featherlite Tour and Mary has retired from scoring the events.

We have had several events since our last meeting. A 2-day event at Wall Twp. Speedway and one event at New Egypt Speedway. Also Lee Greenwood's Cruise to the Jersey Shore for Ronald McDonald House. 5 club cars were there and Bob Worth with his #61 won for the Best Race Car. The club donated \$100.00 to Ronald McDonald House.

Earl Megill announced that Mahoning canceled our show because of so many rain outs and that we would have no track time. Earl also said that car counts were very good at Wall and New Egypt, however, we ran into the same problem this year at Wall that we did last year at New Egypt. The tracks allow 2 guests per car and the privilege has been abused. Starting the next show you will be given a card with the date and car number. If you don't have a card you will not be able to sign in. Earl also spoke about the good job the volunteers are doing and asked for more of the members to volunteer to help so the people who are always doing the work could have a break.

Ray said that he is in the Museum at Wall Twp. Speedway every Saturday night and has a very enjoyable time with all the people who take an interest in racing history and the museum. Some of the race car fans look around and tell him that they have some memorabilia and would like to donate it to the club. One fan donated a checkered flag that his parents bought for him at Long Branch Speedway in 1949. The flag was signed by several drivers, i.e., Frank Schneider, Bill Bentley #100, Jim Delaney #22D, Bill Chevalier #106 and Al Pomponio. The gentleman who donated the flag was Garrett D. Schnack. Ray thanked him for the donation and said we would have it framed to preserve it. Another donation was from Scott McFadden. A beautiful round painted emblem of Black Horse Norcia Race Team and a jacket for the museum. Thank you .

Earl Krause said that he had the honor of presenting the Pioneer Award to Frank Grippaldi Sr. Frank was not able to attend the banquet and Earl went with Frank's son to do the presentation. Frank was very thankful to the club for remembering what he did back then and expressed "that was the period when racing was fun in the early and mid 50's". Pete LaVance made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded.

Garrett D. Schanck donates the 1949 flag from Long Branch Speedway.  
N. Shea photo



**A dream come true**

By Clark Sutton

After seeing my first stock car race in 1956 at Flemington Speedway, I dreamed of driving a stock car. Upon graduating high school I bought a 1939 Chevy Sedan, GMC truck engine and other parts to build a race car. Before much work was done I became ill and had to stop work and sell all the parts for the race car. After getting over the illness and back to work I kept going to races in NJ and Pa. In September of 1961 I went into the Navy. After being discharged I continued going to races. In July of 1976 I met Dean Applegate who was driving a modified stock car at Bridgeport and East Windsor Speedways. A month later he got a ride in a Bob Cass, Bob Murath and John Progasinis #9 Pinto bodied Modified. They raced East Windsor and Flemington. I helped in the garage and pits.

In 1977 Dean Applegate retired from driving and in 1983 he became chief starter for the URC Sprint Car Club. In September of 1992 Dean told me had had joined the "new" Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club. After joining the club Dean started building a replica of his 9a coupe and he asked me to help. Dean and I worked on the car for the next 6 1/2 months because he wanted to make the first club show at East Windsor Speedway where he was the 1972 Sportsman Champion. After that first show Dean and I showed the blue #9a in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including the 1996 MotorSports Exposition in Pennsylvania. I told Dean that I had always dreamed of driving a race car, so on October 26, 1996 we towed the car to Flemington Speedway for the "National Old Timers Club" track time. And I finally had my dream come true and drove a race car for the first time.

In November of 1996 Bob Murath said he was building a replica of the 9a Modified that Dean had once driven. I talked to Bob and asked him if I could drive the car at the 1999 Legends of the Fall at New Egypt Speedway and he said "Yes". Since then I have driven the 9a in 6 or 7 club shows.

So thanks to Ray Shea and Bill Erbe for creating the GSVSCC and giving Dean and Bob a reason to build replicas of the 9a Sportsman and the 9a Pinto Modified and letting me drive their race cars to fulfill my dream by playing race car driver in the club shows and having lots of fun.



Clark Sutton at Flemington Speedway- Oct. 1996  
Clark Sutton Collection



Clark Sutton at New Egypt Speedway Legends of the Fall October 1999



Name the drivers  
Answer on page 4

**Harmony... continued from first page.**

**Harmony feature won by Sam Beavers**

June 7, 1963. After working his way through the field Sammy Beavers (77A) of Somerville, NJ, won the first feature event at the new Harmony Race Track. Al Tasnady made a bid near the end of the race but, mechanical trouble forced him out of the race. Bobby Pickel (A2a) of Flemington, NJ, was driving a beautiful race, leading the field for several laps but he too, had mechanical trouble. Following Beavers right to the finish line was Bill Cramer (22C) of Martinsville, NJ and in third place was Pat Wohlgeomuth (168) of Morristown, NJ. Also finishing in order was Spud Murphy (2A) Patterson, NJ, Hoop Schieble (95) Upper Black Eddy, NJ, Les Farley, (808) Lebonon, NJ and Augie Lieber, (57A) of Somerville, NJ Charlie Cregar (A4) of Trenton, NJ, Joe Gronowitz (14) of Hampton, NJ and Lee Henderson (Z07) of Lawrenceville, NJ did not finish due to mechanical trouble.

There were no accidents but many, many slides and spin-outs on that tricky first turn. Jackie MacLaughlin of Thorofare, NJ arriving late did not race but he went out for a ride in a pick-up truck and thrilled the audience on the first turn — Wow! What a slide!

The two heat winners were Sammy Beavers in the first and Bill Cramer in the Second.

Harmony ran into the early to mid 70's and the track and concrete grandstand are still intact.



N.Shea Photo

**Jim Hoffman** 1966 Wall Stadium Modified Champion, visited Wall Township Speedway on Saturday night July 6th.

Pictured above is Jim with a replica of his "Heavy Chevy", Built and owned by GSVSCC member Frank Drogan.

Below- Jim Hoffman with son Steve and grandson Dylan in the Club Museum.



N.Shea Photo

**If you have not yet paid your dues  
Please send \$15.00 to....  
Joyce Peak  
80 Oceanport Ave.  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764**

## Old Iron Trader



For sale...Simpson Nomex driving shoes. Black size 8 1/2.  
Excellent condition. \$25.00 732-840-6307

Wanted.... Parts to assemble 1988 Troyer Modified for the  
Glendola Fire Company show car.  
Contact Dean Textor [dgdb@cybercom.net](mailto:dgdb@cybercom.net)

For Sale....Dick Barney's 1978 Chevy crew cab ramp truck  
427 Chev.-air-auto-new paint-interior-60 gal. fuel tank  
\$7,500.00 call 732-363-2085

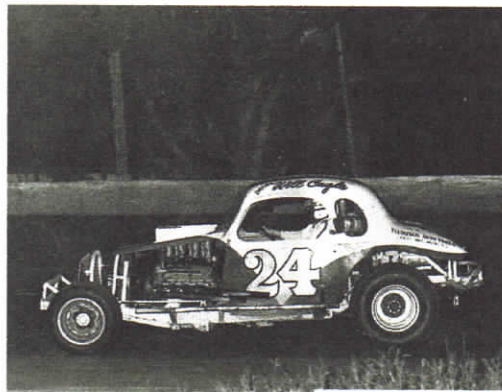


## Looking Back



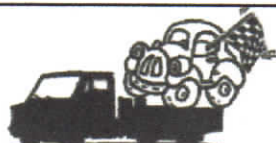
### Will Cagle

Circa 1969-70 Nazareth Speedway



Dave Innes Photo

Will Cagle won many features on dirt and asphalt and was a member of the All Star League. One of many drivers who migrated from Florida to race up north.



## Up Coming Events

Sat. Aug 17	Wall Twp. Speedway	Display/Track
Sat. Aug 24	Mahoning Valley	Display/Track
Sat. Aug 31	Bridgeport Speedway	Display/track
Sat Sep 7	Mahoning Valley	Display/Track
Fri Sep 13	East Windsor	Display/Track
Sat Sep 21	Wall Twp Speedway	Display/Track
Sat Oct 19	New Egypt Speedway	Display/Track
Sun Oct 20	Wall Twp Speedway	Display/Track
Sun Nov 3	So. Jersey Speedway Reunion	Display only
Fri Nov 29	Wall Twp Speedway	Display/Track
Sat Nov 30	Wall Twp Speedway	Display/Track



## Services

Meg-wheels-all types of racing wheels repaired. Also new wheels. John Megill 732-681-4378

Blast Masters- Sand blasting. Bill Force 609-296-2269



Club Picnic Sunday September 8th at Windward Beach,  
located on Princeton Ave. off Rt. 70 in Brick  
From 12 to 5

Call if you plan to attend and what you want to bring  
(salads, desserts etc.)

Ray Liss 732-477-9422 wk-732-920-8507 home

E-mail [racerray@aol.com](mailto:racerray@aol.com)

Cheryl Bayrooty 732-262-8448

Loretta Tymko 732-634-1123

E-mail [ltymko@aol.com](mailto:ltymko@aol.com)

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage & Peppers  
Race cars WELCOME



## Going, going, gone!



What could have been going through Ben Stevens' mind as he exits Trenton Speedway in 1975

Dave Innes photos

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Vice President-Bill Erbe 732-223-9388  
Secretary-Loretta Tymko 732-634-1123  
Treasurer-Bob Farlee 732-222-7740  
Membership-Joyce Peak 732-222-7847  
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