



If you do not have a yellow membership card, you have not paid your dues for this year and this will be your final Newsletter. Please send in your membership renewal today. Thank you, Nancy Shea

Officer and Hall of Fame ballots are enclosed.

#### ATTENTION CAR OWNERS

If our Sunday track time at Wall Speedway is rained out, the rain date will be the following Sunday.

Pit gates open at 10, track time starts at 12 noon.

Any questions call 732-840-6307

[New pit fee for drivers \\$25.00](#)

We at the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club want to extend our sympathies to Parker and the rest of the Bohn family on the loss of Barbara Bohn, she will be missed by many.

Thank you to all who helped with the 50/50 at Wall Speedway on June 25th.

Ray and Nancy Shea are pleased to announce the birth of their 4th grandson, Jacob born July 6th.

Welcome new members  
Chad Culver,  
Bill Salmons, Dennis DiBrizzi and  
George Wambold

# Vintage Views

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History  
July/August 2005

## READING: THE END OF AN ERA

By Andy Fusco  
From Stock Car Racing Magazine Feb.1979

"The Home of Champions" is gone. Last October's 13th annual Schmidt's 200 at the Reading (Pa) Fairgrounds Speedway ended more than a half-century of motor racing at the track. Exit racetrack. Enter shopping Mall.

It was a day symbolized by sorrow for the speedway, nostalgia for its memorabilia, and prayers for Mike Grbac.

The Reading finale was much more than a stock car race. In fact, the 200 lapper itself was rather anticlimactic. It is best dealt with summarily at the outset, while those aspects deserving greater

detail are examined later.

Kenny Brightbill won the event, displaying the same boring superiority which made him the winningest driver in Reading history. He led all the way, except for those few laps immediately following his pit stop.

Gerald Chamberlain provided the most entertainment coming from the back of the pack twice and finishing in the runner-up spot about a straightaway behind. Had a Brightbill-Chamberlain shootout materialized, it would have been the story of the race. After all, the thought of the two most triumphant chauffeurs in Reading history (133 and 91 wins, respectively), battling for victory in the track's final program is a plot of storybook quality.

Unfortunately, reality prevailed and Chamberlain never got quite close enough. The top five, incidentally, was rounded out by Frank Cozze, Jimmy Horton and Kevin Collins.

Any newcomer attending the show could have found it difficult to believe that the track's attendance had dipped in recent years. Indeed, the crowd was of overflow proportions. Not as large as some of those "standing 14 deep along the front stretch fence" throngs which used to assemble for the Reading March opener, but SRO nonetheless.

A quick scan of the parking lots revealed license plates from virtually every state East of the Mississippi. The unseasonably warm (60s) weather contributed to the attendance, but a far more important factor was the affair's swansong nature.

I spoke to many, many fans who had never been to Reading before and who just had to catch a show there before the place closed. What they saw was Reading-but not the Reading so many of us had come to love.

For instance, the track surface became hard, slick, and one-grooved early in the qualifying heats. Furthermore, during the feature the speedway was enveloped in a gritty haze. The oval was a mere remnant of the half-mile, dust free, multi-grooved racing strip which had become legend.

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Color photography by Emil Schenzerbach and Jack Oviatt



**May 18, 2005 GSVSCC Minutes****By Loretta Tymko**

Vice-President Bill Erbe called the meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club to order on May 18, 2005 at 7:40 p.m.

President Ray Shea and Treasurer Paul Hayes were both at Loudon, NH with several other club members enjoying some hot laps at the annual Vintage Meet.

June 15, 2005 meeting will be held at IROC Facility, Tinton Falls, NJ.

Officer's and Hall of Fame Nomination forms will be coming out in August so it is time to start thinking about whom you would like to nominate.

Thanks to Janice Brice who won the 50/50 at our Banquet and from her winnings she donated \$125.00 to Victory Junction Gang Camp in the name of the GSVSCC.

15 cars were at Wall Township Speedway Sunday track time and 20 paid drivers which is a little under what we need to keep going at the same cost.

Don Patterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Patterson seconded the motion.

**Continued from front page.**

And the famed Reading broadside was non-existent. Oh, a few guys, most notably C.D. Coville and Elvin Fetty, really tossed their machines sideways for old time's sake in the warm-ups, when the track was still muddy and tacky. But when it counted, everybody was running left rear weight, driving the turns, and hugging the rail.

The Grbac mishap further dampened spirits. The personable and popular modified veteran was critically injured in a 99th lap accident. Ironically, Reading had become almost as infamous for its fatal and critical smashes as it was famous for its races.

Running back in the field, Grbac got tangled in traffic and flipped on the front chute. As his black racer lay prone on the race track, with its roof facing oncoming traffic, an automobile driven by Chuck Skias drilled the Grbac car at well over 100 mph. The car was destroyed and Mike sustained a multitude of serious injuries.

The Grbac crash brought back to six the total of Northeastern modified drivers who suffered fatal or critical injuries in 1978. It is an alarming figure. The six, and the speedways at which they wrecked are as follows: Fred DeSarro at Thompson, Conn.; Kurt Bronson at LaFargeville, N.Y.; Rich Wrobel at Lancaster, N.Y.; Ollie Silva at Winchester, N.H.; Pete Walker at Oswego, N.Y.; and Grbac at Reading. Bronson and DeSarro succumbed to their injuries, while the others still remain seriously impaired.

Indeed, it was the Northeast's worst year in recent memory for grim crashes; (especially when one also considers Dick Tobias's sprint car accident at Flemington, N.J. and Tommy Thompson's Formula Vee accident at Trenton, N.J., both fatalities). Perhaps it is mere coincidence. Nevertheless, I believe that the fates of the above mentioned men raise solemn questions about the safety of modified racing.

**June 15, 2005 GSVSCC Minutes****By Loretta Tymko**

President Ray Shea called the meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club to order on June 15, 2005 at 7:40 p.m. Regular monthly meeting was held at IROC Facility, Tinton Falls, NJ.

Paul Hayes gave the Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March, 2005 was \$ 9,931.00; Income was \$ 2,495.06; Expenditures were \$ 2,546.02 leaving a balance as of April 30, 2005 of \$ 9,880.18. Balance as of April 30, 2005 was \$9,880.18; Income was \$ 1,696.22; Expenditures were \$ 687.12; Balance as of May 31, 2005 was \$ 10,889.28.

Thanks to Barbara, Jay and George Signori for inviting us to have our meeting at IROC, Bob Thomas for setting the meeting up and the entire IROC staff for staying on their time and taking us on a tour.

Car owners – we need a better turn out for Sunday Events at Wall Township Speedway.

Trophy presented to Alice and Frank Drogan for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for Car Owners.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – New Egypt Speedway, Legends of the Fall

Bob Thomas on behalf of IROC presented the club with a panel from an IROC car signed by all the drivers that ran the series this year.

Jim Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Nancy Shea seconded the motion.

Some rule changes are necessary. Firewalls are virtually non-existent in today's super light mods. And everybody knows that the cars are just going to dammed fast. Also, and absolute prohibition on cars painted black or dark blue is in order. The reason's for the ban are obvious. In fact, had Grbac's Grem-lin-bodied modified been a lighter color, he may well have avoided any serous injury.



The last race at Reading was a somber occasion. Funerals are seldom otherwise. But there was at least one whimsical moment. It occurred during the pre-race pageantry, which was incredibly time-consuming. It consisted of marches, music, twirlers, introduction, and a profusion of awards bestowed upon Reading promoter Lindy Vicari from almost every

individual in the world either connected with racing or running for election.

Although being unquestionably appropriate, the ceremony did considerably delay the racing, causing one disgruntled and impatient spectator to utter, "I'll tell you one thing. I ain't never comin back to this place again."



Emil Schanzebnach photo



# Loudon N. H. May 2005

19 club cars ,along with pit crews and family members went to NHIS in Loudon N.H. on May 18 & 19th for the 15th Annual Vintage Celebration



**John Malsbury**



**Craig Ford**



**Wayne Weaver**



**Ken Pullen**



**George Henshaw**



**Frank Drogan**



**Ray Shea**



**Alan Jensen**



**Woody Nyce**



**Tom Fisher**



**Ray Newman**



**Dick Volante**



**Bill Wayland**



**Ray Liss-Owner Paul Hayes**



**Bill Force - Owner Bill Morsch**



**Lance Smith had 4 cars**



**Old Iron  
Trader**



WANTED-Alum. Intake manifold (4.BB2) to fit Ford FE engine (352 thru 428). Also steel bell housing, or any other parts for same. Call Charlie Larew after 5PM.



The GSVSCC had a show at Mahoning Valley Speedway in Pa. on Saturday July 9th. Cars attending were; #44, Alan Jensen- #3M, John Malsbury- #2, Woody Nyce- #92, Craig Ford- and #50, Ken Pullen.

Jim Hall Photo

Fred Burdge, long time car owner at local tracks recently passed away. Fred was the owner of the # 57 cars that Joe Severage drove at Wall, East Windsor and other tracks.



**Up Coming  
Events**

	GARDEN STATE VINTAGE STOCK CAR CLUB 2005 SCHEDULE	
Sat. Aug 6	Wall Twp. Speedway	Dsply/ Track
Sun. Aug 21	Wall Twp. Speedway	Track
Sat. Aug 27	Mahoning Speedway	Track
Sat. Aug. 27	Thompson Speedway, Conn. Vintage Racers Extravaganza	10am- 5pm
Sat. Sept. 3	Bridgeport Speedway	Dsply/ Track
Sat. Sept. 10	Mahoning Speedway	Track
Sun. Sept. 11	Wall Twp. Speedway	Track
Fri. Sept. 23	New Egypt Speedway	Dsply/ Track
Sat. Sept. 24	New Egypt Speedway	Dsply Only
Sat. Oct. 1	Wall Twp. Speedway	Dsply/ Track
Sun. Oct. 16	Wall Twp. Speedway	Track
Sat. Oct. 22	Catskill Mountain Speedway White Lake NY	Track
Sat. Nov 5	Fleming Pumpkin Run	Dsply Only
Fri. Nov 25	Wall Twp. Speedway	Dsply/ Track



**Looking Back**



Ernie Johnson works on the Dick Barney # 14



Al Pomponio a 17 time feature winner at Wall Stadium

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