



Vintage Views

*Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History
July/August 2006*



Bill Erbe photo

*Area Auto Racing News
June 13, 2006
Article by EARL KRAUSE*

HAMMONTON, NJ-

Tom Skinner, one of the premier stock car builders, mechanics and owners in New Jersey during the 1950s and 70s, has passed away. Mr. Skinner, 76 died on Monday, June 11. His health had gradually worsened after suffering a stroke in late April. He had been under care at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, N.J. since then.

From the 1950s through the mid-1970s, Tom fielded the legendary white & black trimmed coupe and then Chevrolet Vega No. 659 stocks cars powered by straight six-cylinder GMC engines. Driven primarily by the aforementioned Parker Bohn from 1961 on at Wall and many other ovals, and before that by top rated of era Carl Van Horn and Sal Moschella Sr. in the 1950s at tracks such as South Jersey's famed dirt Alcyon speedway in Pitman, those mounts with their six-cylinder engines were more than a match against the typical big-block Modifieds of the Day.

The Skinner/Bohn team earned Sportsman division championships at Wall from 1965 through 1968 and again in 1973. Back then, the under-powered Sportsman cars ran in the same races as the Modifieds. Bohn and Skinner often soundly defeated their Modified competitors to take wins in feature events.

The "659" came from the number of the Gates Company belt used on the motor.

The Skinner/Bohn team was also top contender at N.J. paved tracks such as Old Bridge and For Dix (New Egypt), and at dirt and paved ovals around the Northeast.

Always, those cars and motors were created, and maintained, at Tom Skinner's shop in Hammonton, N.J. Two of Tom's stock cars-one of the classic 1936 Chevy coupes and that Vega-have been wonderfully-restored by another close friend, Charlie Santilli.

"Most importantly, the great knowledge he (Tom Skinner) has shared with the racing community and the unquestioned *help* he has given to people, in and outside of racing, is priceless," said Santilli recently. "Think about the accomplishments of Tom Skinner, of what he created and raced with - *successfully* - years ago. He had a dry sump oil system (for the No. 659), back in 1956. Everything he did with that GMC motor was something he created - the cylinder heads, fuel injection system and front timing covers were made at home, in his shop. He also built his own transmissions cases."

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May 17, 2006
Minutes of GSVSCC

The May 17, 2006 meeting of the GSVSCC was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:40 PM.

Get Well wishes for Tom Skinner who suffered a stroke and will be headed to Rehab, Robert Romer who will be having his hip replaced next week. Steve Elias is recovering nicely from his illness.

Treasurers Report Paul Hayes reported the Club has a Cash Balance of \$15,710.51 as of March 31, 2006.
Collections Totaled: \$2,161.76
Disbursements was: \$2,028.54
Total balance as April 30, 2006 \$15,843.75

James Kelleher made a donation to the Club (\$500.00) in memory of Pete LaVance. A Plaque will be bought and hung in the museum and the balance of the donation will be used on the museum. The Club Thanked John Malsbury for work done on several signs at the museum. Also thanked were Marty VanDrueten, Terry Van, George Klein who helped paint lines at Wall Township Speedway.

Nancy Shea has new Tee Shirts \$15.00 each and Sweatshirts \$20.00 each for sale, larger sizes are a couple dollars more.

Motor Vehicle update: A letter has been sent to the Fatal Accident Unit's, Sgt Eric Heitmann requesting several exemptions for such items as seat belts usage longer than 2 years, Fiberglass seat only up to October of this year and gas tanks, Stainless Steel Beer kegs, Professionally constructed metal tanks, Fuel Cells with poly or hard rubber tank within a metal container (no exposed poly/rubber). Also need another letter for exemption for May 28, 2006. The State requires at least 60 days notice when applying for exemptions (Need to review then send to Commander for final approval).

The 2007 Banquet will be held at Branches on March 17, 2007 a deposit has been made to secure the date.

A committee of 2 or 3 members is need for a picnic to be held later on in late summer/early fall to celebrate our 15th Anniversary.

Being no further business a motion was made by Larry Patterson and seconded by Ken Thompson that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted: William T. Dietrich, Sect.

The members of the GSVSCC extend their sympathy to Paul and Wayne Weaver on the loss of they're father.

Get well wishes go out to Kathy Morsch and Paul Hayes.

Congratulations to club member Jim Morton who has been named as General Manager of Wall Speedway.

Welcome new members:
Tim Pitts, Bob Holmes, Dawn Worth, Brian Gray
Bill Barker, Philip Nase, Russell Dodge.
Walter Endy and Lew Boyd

If you have not yet paid your dues, this will be you last newsletter.

There are no minutes for June as there was not meeting.

Come join us for our August 16th Anniversary meeting held at the museum ,Wall Speedway. Meeting starts a 7:30 pm.

LETS GIVE ONE AND OTHER THE BUSINESS!
If you would like your business listed in a new club directory send you name, business name, address, email and phone number so other members can give you their business.
Send to--- 2shea2u2@comcast.net or Nancy Shea 438 3rd Ave. Brick, N.J. 08724

New Cars & first time cars at our Sunday track time at Wall Speedway.
Nancy Shea photos

Bob Nase, car owner
Jack Patterson Driver



Car owner and driver
Steve Bacik



Robert Hall
owner and driver.



Sunday track time June, 2006
L- George Henshaw in the #64
below- Craig Ford #92-
Ken Pullen #50-
Stan Hawk # 17.
Jim Hall photos



In his younger days, Tom Skinner was a machinery supervisor and repairman at the Skinner family glassworks in Hammonton, N.J. He was also a premier glasscutter in his own right, at the company founded in the late 19th century by his grandfather, Tom Sr. and then run by father Tom Jr.

While a key person in the Skinner crystal glass business, which manufactured specialty items such as high-end black glass pen sets and a wide range of products. Tom III also enjoyed dabbling in automobile mechanic projects. It led to his career in the stock cars.

Tom Skinner and Parker Bohn were inductees into the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club Hall of Fame.

After Tom parked the No. 659 as an owner some 30 years ago, he became a mentor to Parker's son, Eddie Bohn, when he began his driving career at Wall in 1978. He was also a mentor and inspiration to Eddie's sons as they competed, and to many others in the sport.

The grand tradition of the No. 659 is continuing at Wall with Danny Bohn driving one of dad Eddie's former No. 659 Modifieds in the RMP Crate Motor MAD division. That car is owned by Santilli.

"My son C.J. and I will continue to support the No. 659 and what it represents for many years to come," reflected Charlie. "That number, 659 is Tom Skinner's, forever."

The family requested that donations in memory of Tom Skinner go to the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club, 438 3rd Ave. Brick, New Jersey 08724

Cruise to the Jersey Shore Long Branch, New Jersey Club Members and their "Other" Cars

Ray Shea photos



Ray Liss stands by the yellow 1977 Cadillac owned by Paul Hayes.



Frank and Alice Drogan with their 1937 Ford Coupe.



Al Gehrum with his 1982 Excalibur.



Chris Felber's Custom Chevy Suburban and vintage race car.



Vice President Bill Erbe with his 1937 Ford two door Flat back sedan.

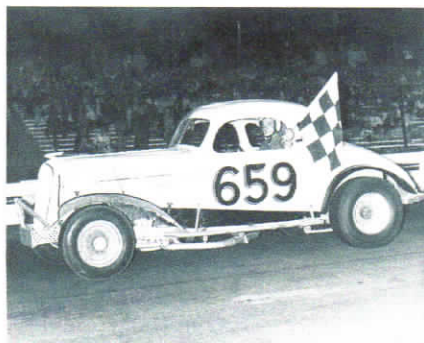


Ray Liss and Loretta Tymko raised \$200.00 for Ronald McDonald House selling 50/50 tickets.



Tom Skinner and Charlie Santilli.

Bill Erbe photo



Parker Bohn 1967

Charles H. Taylor photo.



L-R Parker Bohn-Tom Skinner-Charlie Santilli-unknown crew member.

Richard L. Sprague photo

Old Iron Trader



2 vintage stock cars for sale. Call Joe Merlino for details.
609-412-7532

Looking for Alum. intake manifold (4.BBL) to fit ford engine, (353 thru 428).
Also need bell housing.
Any other part for same. Let me know what you have.
Charlie Larew, after 5pm.
609-567-4297

September 20th club meeting will be held
at IROC in Tinton Falls.



Up Coming Events

Sat. Aug 5	Mahoning	
Sat. Aug 12	Wall	
Sun. Aug 13	Wall	Track 12-3
Sat. Sept 9	New Egypt	
Sun. Sept 10	Warren Twp. Show	Display only
Sun Sept. 17	Wall	Track 12-3
Sat. Sept. 23	Mahoning	
Sat. Oct. 7	Wall	
Sun. Oct. 8	Wall	Track 12-3
Sat. Oct. 14	Grandview	
Sat. Nov. 4	Pumpkin Run	Display only
Sat. Nov. 18	Bridgeport	
Fri. Nov. 24	Wall	

Wall (Saturday)	4 PM	732-681-6400
Wall (Sundays)	10 AM	732-840-6307
Bridgeport	3:30 PM	856-467-4408
Mahoning	3:30 PM	570-386-4900
New Egypt	3:30 PM	609-758-1900
Grandview	3:30 PM	610-754-7688



Looking Back



Jackie Hamilton at Flemington-1968
Dave Innes photo



Al "Peanuts" Wardell at Manahawkin
Speedway in 1953.
Tom Wardell collection.

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GARDEN STATE VINTAGE STOCK CAR CLUB

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