



# Vintage Views

The official publication of the Garden State  
Vintage Stock Car Club

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History  
January, February, March 2011

## Cliff Krause Signs Deal to Bring Weekly Racing Back to Wall.

by Earl Krause/ Area Auto Racing News  
January 5, 2011

Wall Township., New Jersey – New Jersey's legendary Wall Stadium will be racing in 2011; and its future as a racing facility is looking much brighter.

This week, successful New Jersey businessman Cliff Krause; also an established race car owner on dirt and pavement obtained the lease to operate Wall for this year.

Of importance, Krause will have the first opportunity to renew the lease for 2012 and then again each year beyond, if the property remains unsold, so that Wall can continue racing. That's great news for Wall's racers and fans, because they now know that the track is going to remain in operation with a solid management team.

The current lease runs from January 15, 2011 to January 15, 2012.

"Cliff has the passion, and background to make this work, and I'm personally very happy to have racing continue at Wall", said Tim Shinn, a managing partner of the four person ownership group that purchased the track/property from the founding Nicol family in 2001. He has also owned and sponsored modified at Wall. "And, now that the track will be running and not sitting idle, it keeps that ray of hope that it can continue for the future."

Shinn indicated that because the property is listed for sale, and available, a multi-year lease wouldn't work in the event that a sale would take place in the midst of the arrangement. However, with Krause having the opportunity to renew the lease each year the track maintains stability.

"I hope that Cliff gets all of the support to succeed," said Shinn, "because he deserves it after stepping up to keep the track going."

Wall will continue to race on its traditional Saturday nights, beginning in early spring;



Jamie Tomaino, Cliff Krause and son Andrew  
Jim Smith photo's

with the regular small – block Modified Sportsman, Street Stock, Legend Cars and Factory Stocks competing. The popular ATQMRA TQ-Midgets will also be on the agenda for a number of shows. And, Krause has indicated that the dirt Modifieds, which ran at walls 2010 Turkey Derby, would have some special appearances.

As has been the case since 1974, the season will conclude with a Thanksgiving weekend Turkey Derby.

Cliff's son is 19 – year – old Rutgers College of engineering student Andrew Krause, who competes in Wall's Sportsman division and was its Rookie of the year in 2009. Andrew, a feature winner at Wall in that tough division, has been mentored by Jamie Tomaino, highly – regarded as one of Wall's finest "home-grown" Modified drivers since the 1970s and the 1990s NASCAR Modified champion. Jamie who competes regularly on the NASCAR Whalen Modified Tour in a Krause – sponsored number 99, will now become a hands – on member of the Wall operations staff and work closely with Krause in a variety of areas.

*"God has been very, very good to me in life," reflected Cliff Krause. "That is why I've always wanted to give back to racing and help the racers."*

*"People have asked me why I would want to go out on a limb and invest in wall Stadium. Well, I look at it this way. Will Rogers once said words to the effect that "the best fruit is at the end of the limb," so that's why you go out on a limb if you feel something is worthwhile."*

*"That's what Don Ling and I are doing with Wall Stadium."*

"This is something that I wanted to do, and had to do, emphasized Krause." My son has enjoyed racing there, and I know that Wall has been home" to many generations of racers in the pit area and fans. I didn't want to see it end.

Krause will be forming committees, with their emphasis on handling various issues pertaining to rules and race procedure.

"I'm a hands – on person, who likes making decisions, said Cliff. I'll be doing that with Wall, but more so during the week. On race nights, especially with my son racing, I plan to stand back and let my officials and staff do what they do best, run the show, and not look over their shoulders and tell them what decisions to make."

Krause, a resident of Holmdel, NJ., is the owner of Supreme Manufacturing Company. Based in East Brunswick, N.J., the firm right now with 38 employees, produces ice cream toppings and juice concentrates among its key products. He began the business 36 years ago, in his garage in Paramus NJ., and has developed it into a worldwide enterprise.

But while Supreme is as full-time endeavor, his passion has always been auto racing.

He began as a driver in small block dirt modifies in the late 1980s, racing at NY.'s Orange County Fair Speedway after purchasing a car from the Higbie Brothers team. But, he said, "after hitting the all too many times, I realized that I'd be better off as a car owner and sponsor!"

Among those he backed in that era at OCFS were standouts Steve Bottcher and Ralph Heutzler. Most – recently, along with Tomaino's pavement modified, he has fielded/sponsored dirt Modifieds driven by Bottcher (2005-2009) and Rick Laubach (New Egypt) in 2009 and 10.

Krause also worked with pavement star Jimmy Blewett when he developed this dirt track program this past year. Cliff has also lent support to his good friend and race driver Whitey Miller, who competes in the factory stock at Wall and also races at New Egypt in the full – fender outlaw stocks.



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 732-330-8349

**NOVEMBER 17, 2010 CLUB MINUTES**

The November meeting of the GSVSCC was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:35pm.

A moment of silence was held for club member Jim Hanley who passed away late last month.

Officer Election ballots are due tonight.

Up coming events; the final dirt show is set for this Sunday at Bridgeport.

Ray asked that anyone bringing a car to Wall's Turkey Derby on Friday to please let him know in advanced so he can let the track know how many to expect.

The Pumpkin Run at Harry Fleming's was a great success with many vintage cars on display.

The GSVSCC will have it's first show ever at Linda's Speedway in 2011. The date has yet to be announced.

There will be no meeting in December.

A motion was made to adjourn buy Bruce Roslin and seconded by Butch Colosimo.

Ray Shea for John Malsbury, Secretary

**JANUARY 19, 2011 CLUB MINUTES**

The January 19th meeting of the GSVSCC was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:40 PM.

A moment of silence was held for Janice Brice who died suddenly last week. Our thoughts and prayers go out her entire family.

Get well wishes for Joe Lanzaro who is back in the hospital. Don Bruno reported Bobby Worth will under go cataract surgery on February 3.

VP Marty Van Druen reported on the meeting he and Ray Shea had with the new promoter of Wall Stadium, Cliff Krause. He stated the meeting went very well and our involvement and future dates for club cars will be worked out soon.

Bill Erbe reported that he is working on having a model car exhibit at February's meeting.

Rich Cooper informed all in attendance that he is hosting the Fillimon Brothers racing videos at the West Long Branch Firehouse on February 26. Doors open at 4:30 show starts at 6 PM, There is a \$10 admission fee with proceeds going to the West Long Branch Fire Company.

Motorsports show is this weekend in Oaks, Pennsylvania. Club cars in our booth will be # 69 of Chris and Lee Allen and the # 16 J of Tom Holdings. See photos on the last page.

Our 20th Annual Banquet will take place on March 19, 2011. See the enclosed banquet form for details.

Ray welcomed Steve Golembeskie and his son S. J. They have found and purchased Steve's 1983 sportsman championship car and are now restoring it.

Ray Liss was welcomed on as a new trustee. The club thanked Bill Erbe for his years as trustee.

The 3" clearance rule for helmets was discussed, we are not sure how this will affect the vintage clubs.

No further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Ray Shea for John Malsbury, Secretary

**Tommie Elliott: One Of New Jersey s Great Modified Drivers** By Earl Krause

Tommie Elliott was an early inductee into the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club Hall of Fame. Indeed, he was one of New Jersey s greatest Modified drivers from the 1950s into the 70s.

By the early-1950s Tommie -- who had come north then to race from his Florida home -- was a winning regular in stock car racing on New Jersey s dirt and paved ovals. For example, he was Modified champion at N.J. s dirt half-mile Morristown Speedway. He was also the titlist at Wall Stadium in 1954, 1960, 62 and 67; and a New Jersey NASCAR State champion. He earned Modified titles at the paved oval at Wilmington, Del., which was similar in configuration to Wall. He also drove in NASCAR? Grand National races in the mid-1950s. During that 1954 season, when he finished second in NASCAR? National Modified points and won a reported 69 features at a variety of tracks, Tommie drove the No. 97A sedan for car owner Millard Wright as a teammate to Florida invader Jack Choquette who ran the No. 97B.

Indeed, Tommie was a true hired gun driver. Rarely did he field his own equipment -- rather, he was in demand by the leading car owners of the day who knew when Elliott was at the wheel they stood a better than average chance of getting the big money. His four Wall championships were in cars of four different owners -- Wright (1954), Joe Racz (No. 41 in 1960), McMann (No. 4 in 1962) and Don House (No.

XL1 in 1967). His 58th and last feature win at Wall, on June 21, 1975, came at the wheel of the Modified No. 88 entered by Ken Graff.

In fact, Elliott is still ranked fifth in all time Modified division wins at Wall -- behind Gil Hearne (101), Dave Michel (66), Charlie Kremer Jr. (64) and Tony Siscione (59). He also took 16 at Old Bridge Stadium (tied for third place in all-time victories there) through 1967; and had eight wins in the Modifieds at Vineland.

A versatile competitor in a 25-year career, Tommie was also a race and championship winning driver in the Midgets during the 1950s while wheeling cars fielded by top owners such as Ken Brenn Sr. For example, Tommie was the 1958 Midget champion at New York City s legendary Polo Grounds -- home of the baseball Giants and later the Mets -- when open-cockpit and stock car racing took place on a paved oval located around its baseball field.

And, of interest, Tommie was the promoter of stock car racing at N.J. s Fort Dix (New Egypt)?Speedway in 1967 and 68 -- while competing there at the same time in House s No. XL1.

Tommie Elliott s last full year of race driving was in 1975. He passed away, at a very young age 57, in June 1989.

**This years Hall of Fame Inductee's are;**  
**Drivers--** Wally Campbell, Ray Gastelu, Less Katona,  
and Sal Moschella, Sr.

**Car Owner--** Tony Ferraiuolo.

**Bobby Thomas Award--** Jay and Barbara Signore.

**Lifetime Achievement Award--**Harry Fleming.

**Pioneer Award--** Steve Ferrara.

**Jim Delaney Award--**Jerry Allen

Get Well Wishes to Bob Caramella who had pneumonia last month, also to MaryAnn Hayes who was under the weather but is now feeling better.

**GOOD PEOPLE BY LINDA COOPER**

Ask race fans what they like about the sport. It's likely they'll say "the speed!" or "the action!" or "the excitement!". I love those attributes too, but for me, it's the people. I can think of easier sports to participate in – bowling, for example. Sports that don't require hours of travel, hours of hanging around ("hurry up and wait"), weekends spent in the heat, the cold, the on again/off again rain, injuries, wrecked equipment, empty wallets, sunburn. Makes racing sound pretty bad, huh? Sometimes it is. But if you have the good fortune to do it with good people, memories of the bad circumstances fade and are replaced with memories of the good times.

When I was growing up in the 1970s, I went to the races (mainly Wall Stadium, NJ) regularly because that's where the babysitters were – free babysitters. My father raced, and being a divorcé, his teammates' wives came in handy every Saturday night. Of course, they had kids too, mostly around my age, so I was just one more. I don't remember ever thanking them for taking care of me, or telling them how much I appreciated being a part of their family for a time. I'd like to do that now. I still remember things they taught me though, laughs we had (often at my expense, I must say), and adventures we kids got into (often at my instigation, I must also say). I'm quite sure I exhausted the ladies' supplies of patience many times!

Next to Christmas, the event I used to anticipate the most was the Flemington Fair, held during Labor Day weekend for more years than I know. My dad and I would join a group of three families or so and we would caravan out there. The ride to Flemington took 1 ½ hours. It might as well have been in another state. I remember the upside-down loop ride that made me sick, the water fight in the parking area one hot day, the snack and treat stands, and the vendor displays of everything from tractors to add-on sunrooms to hot tubs to personalized wood plaques for your front yard. I was fascinated by the 4-H animal exhibits, and would love to have taken every rabbit home with me. I was amazed that kids my age were raising the animals on display. As a suburbanite, I could not imagine owning a real horse or sheep or even a chicken! Oh yeah – and the racing! Exciting, loud, dusty, hot, all at once. What could be better? And all those experiences would not have been the same if we hadn't been there with our friends. In later years I went to the Fair with my husband and son. Although everything seemed the same, it wasn't. The Flemington Fair hasn't been held in years, but I will always treasure my memories of the good times we had there.

As I got older, the thought never occurred to me that I wouldn't be in the pits helping out a team. I turned 18 in February of 1984 and couldn't wait for the upcoming season! I was finally old enough to go in the pits! I joined my old friends and, over the next several years, made new friends. Some, I have to say, were not such good influences for me, but I can now chalk them up to "learning experiences". My true friends from those days are gems – people I can't imagine not having known. The times we shared – laughs, concerns, drinks, dances, four-wheeling after the races – were sublime. Even though we see each other so seldom, I am always thrilled to meet up with them again. Occasionally I come across an old photo album and marvel at how young we looked, and how much fun we were having racing with practically nothing.



During those days my boyfriend and I met new people and became friends with a racer from Long Island. Who would have thought then that we would still be friends twenty-five years later? Indeed, racing folks take it season by season. We have since joined him and his team for many, many races on the Modified Tour. It's no exaggeration to say that we have put *thousands* of miles on our vehicles chasing races together!

It's kind of funny to think that my boyfriend – now my husband of almost 15 years – and I are now the "old timers". Oh, now wait a minute – since we do have actual senior citizens on our team, I guess that makes us the "middle agers". New (read: younger) guys have since joined us, and I enjoy getting to know them. Even though we've had our share of "downs" as well as "ups", I wouldn't trade a minute of it. Okay, maybe I would trade the 105° day at Jennerstown (PA) when, during the feature, the lights on the frontstretch went out as the leaders were approaching and we were close to getting struck by lightning while watching from on top of the hauler. And then the unbelievable down-pour which followed prevented us from leaving promptly. But still, that was exciting! You don't get that from bowling.

There isn't enough space in this newsletter to describe our adventures (good and bad). Over the years we have attended weddings, funerals, graduations, birthdays – you name it – together. I might not see my racing friends for weeks or months, but when we meet up again at yet another event, it's like no time went by at all. We take about ½ hour to catch up, and then we move on to new topics. We used to talk about music concerts and nightlife. Then we would talk about parenting (still a current subject for me) and work. Now we talk about decidedly boring stuff like cholesterol levels and school taxes. How did this happen?

A few years ago (hah), I remembered hearing about some old timers' club that was being formed to preserve the history of stock car racing in New Jersey. I thought it was a great idea. I was pleased to join the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club, and I have been a member for 19 years. Again, I have really enjoyed meeting folks through the club, especially during my tenure as Secretary. I love seeing our club members' cars on display and reading about our events in the club newsletter.

When I think back on the people I have been blessed to have known as a result of my interest in racing, I realize how thankful I am to have spent time with them. Over the years, life has taken us in different directions. Some never left Wall Stadium. Some moved away from NJ. Some have become well-known, and some have dropped out of the scene altogether. One of my friends has become a track announcer, and I couldn't be happier or prouder of him! I'm so glad that others are able to enjoy his talents that I took for granted as a kid (doesn't everyone have a friend who can memorize dozens of car numbers and drivers' names and call the action without missing a beat?).

Although I have spent more time with some folks than others over the years, I always learned something valuable from each person and enjoyed the times we spent together while it lasted. I cannot imagine having missed these friends and mentors in my life. I hope that I have made a positive impression on them as well.

As we age, it will be inevitable that birthday parties and weddings will be replaced by retirement parties and funerals. No matter how many years may pass, additional pounds we may carry or gray hairs we may sport, I know that we will be just as happy to see each other as we were during our salad days. And, after catching up with each others' lives, we can move on to talking about our cholesterol, the government and, of course, the old days.

photos— Linda's Dad Stan Van Brunt  
and #31 of Tony Ferranti.  
*Linda Cooper collection*





## Up Coming Events

Dirt, Asphalt Other

Saturday	May 14	New Egypt	Display/ Track
Fri/Sat	May 21/22	NJMSP	Display/ Track
Saturday	June 4	Bridgeport	Display/ track
Saturday	June 18	Mountain	Display/ Track
Saturday	July 2	New Egypt	Display/ Track
Saturday	Aug. 13	New Egypt	Display/ Track
Saturday	Aug 27	Mountain	Display Track
Saturday	Sep. 3	New Egypt	Display Track
Saturday	Sep 24	Linda Speedway	Display Track
Saturday	Oct. 15	Grandview	Display/ Track
Sunday	Oct 16	South Jersey Reunion	Display only
Saturday	Oct 29	New Egypt	Display/ Track
Saturday	Nov 20	Bridgeport	Display/ Track

Please check our website for updates on track schedules.  
[www.gsvscc.org](http://www.gsvscc.org)



Club display at MotorSports 2011 #69 Chris and Lee Allen.  
# 16J owned by Tom Holding. Jim Smith Photos



Also at MotorSports were Frank Drogan with his replica of Kevin  
Eyres #2 Modified and the  
#126, Kevin Eyres Dirt Modified. Wayne Weaver photos

## Looking Back



Car owned by Ron Lane. Turkey Derby #XXXVII  
Nancy Shea Photo

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter the 20th year of the GSVSCC, I find it difficult to realize we have been together that long. We have come a long way in that time with the induction of many deserving drivers, car owners and officials into our Hall of Fame.

We have seen many famous cars restored to their original beauty and reproduction of others.

Thanks to all of the officers that served now or in the past for their direction and guidance.

Our members have been loyal and true for many years and it is greatly appreciated.

Let's set our sights on another 20 years.

Thank you, Ray Shea

### WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Tony Siscone, Rob Longo, Fred Simmons, Garland Bobst,  
Thomas Herbert and Gary Herbert.

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