Vintage Views

The official publication of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History
April, May, June 2018

GSVSCC 27th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Dinner

by Earl Krause, Area Auto Racing News
All photos by Jim Smith

The Branches Banquet Center in West Long Branch was the elegant setting for the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club's 27th annual Hall of Fame banquet on March 18, 2018. An audience of some 125 GSVSCC members and guests were in attendance. The Banquet Coordinator was Pam Krause, assisted by Ray Shea and Sue Brice. The event began with a moment of silence in memory of GSVSCC members and friends who passed away over the previous year. Next, the invocation was given by club Chaplain **Bob Menscher** of Racing with Jesus Ministries. **Earl Krause**, Wall Stadium and Pocono Raceway Announcer and Area Auto Racing News writer, served as the afternoon's Master of Ceremonies.

Bob Menschner

Highlighting the afternoon was the Hall of Fame induction of asphalt Modified drivers Jerry Cranmer, Joe Hall and Tom Michel; the husband and wife car owner team of Jim and Ruth Bauma; and Area Auto Racing News publisher and journalist Lenny Sammons. Also honored with awards were racing historian Jeff Hardifer ("Bob 'BT' Thomas Memorial Spirit of the Sport" for dedication to New Jersey racing history) and Wall Stadium Announcer/Publicist Jeff Gravatt, also an accomplished racing reporter ("New Jersey Lifetime Achievement in Racing"). Tom Michel and Jim Bauma are deceased, and were proudly represented by family members. All other honorees attended.

Earl Krause

Jerry Cranmer won 27 Modified features at Wall Stadium between 1974 and 1996, including the 1985 Turkey Derby. He was also the 1995 division champion. Jerry grew up around the sport, since his dad Everett and Uncle Tony were race drivers. Uncle Don Cranmer fielded the blue #66 Modifieds, and Jerry joined them as soon as he was old enough. Jerry first competed at age 16, racing Garvey boats in S. Jersey. He began racing Limited-Sportsman stock cars with success at nearby Pleasantville Speedway (Atlantic City) and at Wall in 1972. He drove a Modified for the first time in 1973, then went full-time in the division at Wall the following year. He took his first of those 27 victories at that oval. At then-paved New Egypt Speedway, he won 100-lap and 85-lap NASCAR Modified features, and a 35-lap Main. He also competed on the NASCAR Modified Tour during the 1980s.

Ray Shea, Jerry Cranmer, Ray Liss and John Malsbury

Jerry raced in a variety of cars. He had his own white coupe and Ford Pinto #1 entries. He fielded Modifieds owned by Connecticut's Ralph Solhem (#0), Frenchie's Auto Body (#6) and Barney Truex, Sr. (#59). Jerry also enjoyed success at Wall Stadium during the early to mid-1990s in the immaculate dark blue and gold #11 Modifieds of the husband and wife team of **Jim and Ruth Bauma**. It was fitting that Jim and Ruth were honored by the GSVSCC Hall of Fame at the same time as Jerry Cranmer. Jerry spoke with emotion of how much they meant to him, not only as car owners, but as close, special friends. "All Jim and Ruth wanted for me, and their other drivers, was to enjoy our time at the track," said Jerry. "They gave us the best equipment, then left it up to their drivers and crew members. They would just 'be in the background' at the track on Saturday [race night] at Wall, sitting in the grandstands. Most of the fans never knew that the owners of the winning #11 were right alongside of them!"

Jerry Cranmer retired as a race driver in 1996. He recalled that after his father, Everett [team manager of the #11] passed away the year before, "it just was no longer the same." Jerry's son Brian was beginning to race Quarter-Midgets, and Jerry wanted to dedicate his time to being a "Quarter-Midget Dad".

When Jerry stepped away from the #11, highly-rated drivers Robert Schlectweg and Dan McLaughlin, Jr. took the Bauma Modified to victory. The crew that serviced the Bauma Modifieds attended the banquet to honor Jim and Ruth. *(continued)*

GSVSCC meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday from January through November, 7:30 p.m. at the West Long Branch Firehouse, Rt. 71 (Monmouth Road) and Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ.
For directions call 732-330-8349 or go to www.gsvscc.org.

That group included crew chief Scott Hyers and #11 team members Marco Brucchi, Don Johnson and Bob Risden. Also in that group was AARN staff and Wall/GSVSCC event photographer Jim Smith, who was with the team during the 1990s. Previously, **Jim and Ruth Bauma** had been mentors of Ray Evernham. They provided him with sponsorship through their Bauma Farms during his Modified driving days in the #66 and #19 at Wall, prior to what turned out to be a Hall of Fame career as a champion Cup level crew chief with Jeff Gordon in NASCAR. While unable to attend the banquet in person, Evernham sent a personal letter in which he reflected on what the Bauma's meant to him. "Jim and Ruth Bauma exemplify what short track, grass roots racing in America is all about," noted Ray. "Hard-working, blue collar people who give their time and treasure to support the sport they love."

Ruth Bauma with Ray Shea, John Malsbury and Ray Liss

"Smokin' Joe" Hall was one of the fan favorite race drivers during what is often called the Golden Era of dirt track Small-Block Sportsman division racing at NJ's East Windsor and Flemington Speedways in the 1970s. He had many victories at both tracks, and titles at Flemington in 1973 and '74. His #06 signature cars were white and red with the "power fist" emblem on the side; this was also his "greeting" to his legion of fans. Indeed, win or lose, on any given Friday at East Windsor or on Saturday at Flemington, the party was at Joe's pit site after the races!

Ray Shea, Fred Menschner, Joe Hall, Ray Liss and John Malsbury

In the late 1970s, Joe had a wicked crash while leading a race at Flemington, caused when the car's steering went out. After suffering neck, rib and hand injuries, Joe decided to stop racing. "But just days after I said I was no longer going to race, [Flemington promoter] Paul Kuhl called and asked me to join the track staff," recalled Hall. "I couldn't turn it down!" Joe then took his colorful style to the Official side, as a Flagger, Race Director and General Manager at Bridgeport and Flemington. He was also a flagger at East Windsor.

Now a "forever young" age 77, Joe "lives the good life" in Florida. He always enjoying making trips "back home" to NJ and PA to see his many friends in the sport.

Tom Michel began racing on dirt at East Windsor in the early 1970s. He became an asphalt specialist with a solid career through the 1980s with his yellow #60 cars. He won many features and two titles in the Small-Block Modifieds at Atlantic City Speedway (Pleasantville, NJ). In the full Modifieds of that era, Tom won six main events at Wall and two at New Egypt Speedway. Sadly, Tom died at age 67 in 2006 from cancer. Tom was the inspiration for his race-driving son Dave Michel. Dave enjoyed a great career in NJ pavement Sportsman and Modified competition. In 2015, Dave was inducted into the GSVSCC Hall of Fame. Dave and his family proudly accepted the Hall of Fame plaque honoring dad Tom. In an emotional moment, Dave dedicated it to Tom's memory as "the man, and my best friend, who taught me how to become a race driver and about life." Now, father and son are in the GSVSCC Hall of Fame.

Ray Shea, Dave Michel, John Malsbury, Ray Liss

Area Auto Racing News was founded by Leonard Sammons, Jr. and his wife Maude in June of 1963. Their son **Lenny Sammons** is dedicated to the publication they began. He serves as Publisher, Chief Editor, Columnist and Feature Writer. His dedication extends to the history of our sport in NJ and overall. It's important to note that, while guiding the paper to prominence in current-day local and national coverage of our sport, Lenny continues to have an appreciation and dedication to preserving the history of racing. That's especially so in NJ, PA and NY, where the paper's coverage was initially based over 50 years ago.

Earl Krause, Lenny Sammons, Ray Shea, John Malsbury

Jeff Gravatt received the club's Lifetime Achievement Award. Jeff is the Public Relations director at Wall Stadium. He has served in that role and as a track announcer for over 25 years. He is also a sponsorship and marketing consultant for race teams. Jeff has been on the microphone at other tracks, including NJ's East Windsor Speedway during the 1990s until its final checkered, and at New Egypt in its pavement era. Jeff grew up in Farmingdale (NJ), which is close to Wall. He recalled "watching on my bicycle as the stock cars headed to Wall on Saturday nights". Jeff became a fan of the sport as a youngster, maintains it today and has always been dedicated to the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club's goals.

Ray Liss, Earl Krause, Ray Shea, Jeff Gravatt, John Malsbury

The Bobby Thomas Award is presented by the GSVSCC board to an individual for his or her love of the sport, while never looking for any reward. That is certainly true of **Jeff Hardifer**. Jeff has devoted many hours searching through regional newspaper and historic archives, preserving stories and related statistics of drivers and action at stock car and open-cockpit racing at NJ tracks. He covers such locations as Flemington Speedway, New Egypt-Fort Dix Speedway, Mt. Holly-Arney's Mount and Trenton's Lincoln Speedway and State Fairgrounds. He has also compiled the stories and career history of Trenton-based race driving legend Wally Campbell, who was the 1951 NASCAR Modified champion and big winner in that era. Hardifer donated a trophy to the club that Campbell received after a 100-lap Modified win at Wall Stadium in 1950.

Ray Liss, Earl Krause, Ray Shea, Jeff Hardifer, John Malsbury

GSVSCC car owners are recognized at the annual banquets for their participation in club events during the previous season. **Al Voorhees, Jr.** and **Butch Malsbury**, owners of the #82 Gremlin, were honored for tallying the most appearances in 2017.

Ray Shea with Car Owners Jim Hawkes, Butch Malsbury and Al Voorhees

Receiving second and third place car owner plaques were **Connie Joyner** (#7J Gremlin) and **Jim Hawkes** (#61 coupe).

Connie Joyner, Ray Liss, Ray Shea

Thank goodness we have professional photographers on site. This guy looks a little uncertain.

MORE BANQUET PHOTOS

2018 GSVSCC Award Recipients

PHOTOS PHOTOS PHOTOS

Bridgeport Speedway

Photo by Ralph Richards

Photo by Jim Brown

Photo by Ralph Richards

Photo by Jim Brown

Photo by Jim Brown

New Egypt Speedway

Photos by Robyn Clickner

Patterson's Fun Day

Photos by Linda Cooper

Photo by Ray Shea

Wall Stadium

Photos by Linda Cooper

JANUARY 17, 2018

The January meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:35 p.m. Twenty members were in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed by the attending members for the passing of longtime member Paul Hayes. Paul was the club's Treasurer for many years. His financial knowledge assisted in making the club a financially sound organization. His work ethic will surely be missed. Another member of our racing family recently left us – Jim Gratton. Jim could often be seen at the scales in the pits at Wall Stadium performing his duties there. Jim loved racing. For several years he fielded race cars for his sons Billy and Bobby.

Welcome back to our Vice President Marty Van Druten. Marty was out for a while due to illness and shoulder surgery. It was also good to see our President Ray Shea doing well after having foot surgery.

Ray Liss reported that progress is being made for club cars to appear at the Vintage Automobile Museum in Point Pleasant, despite the snow and inclement weather.

The club is preparing for this year's Motorsports show in PA. Al Voorhees is to set up the display with the assistance of other club members. This is always a worthwhile event and the club is pleased to be able to participate.

The Hall of Fame banquet will be held on March 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Branches in West Long Branch. This will be the 27th year for this special event, during which we will recognize the people who created the racing history that our organization honors. Honorees this year are: Driver – Jerry Cranmer, Joe Hall and Tom Michel; Owner – Jim and Ruth Bauma; Bob Thomas Award – Jeff Hardifer; Lifetime Achievement Award – Jeff Gravatt.

The 2018 club event schedule is available.

It was noted that a two-year contract was signed for the operation of Wall Stadium. The club and its members are eager to show their support for the facility this season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
John Malsbury, Secretary

FEBRUARY 21, 2018

The February meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Twenty-nine members attended.

The evening's invocation was given by Bob Menschner from Racing with Jesus Ministries.

Condolences were offered to the Krause family on the passing Wall Stadium promoter Cliff Krause. His presence will truly be missed. Also passing away recently was local racer Sam Riggleman. Sam and his wife Carol sold racing memorabilia at Wall Stadium. Sam had a long racing background, which his sons are carrying on. "Uncle Frank" has passed away. Frank was the uncle of John and Jerry Fillimon, racing photographers and videographers. Our sympathies to his family.

Get-well wishes go out to club member and frequent volunteer Tim Day. Tim recently had hip surgery. Also, get-well wishes to club member and track photographer Jim Smith, who also had surgery recently.

The club's display at Motorsports racing expo was discussed. Thanks to the members who put forth their time to make this event a success: Linda Cooper, Paul Ielmini and Robyn Clickner, Alan Voorhees, Steve Voorhees, Butch Malsbury, Don Bruno and Ray Shea.

The club welcomed Mr. Joe Zalscek, who has worked with Area Auto Racing News.

Ray Shea noted that the Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ, located in Pt. Pleasant, will extend the display of race cars until the second week of March. We would like to thank the Museum for allowing our club to participate in their displays.

The club's 27th annual awards banquet is scheduled for March 18. It will be held once again at Branches in West Long Branch. We are looking forward to a good turnout.

Ray Liss presented a very nice Club Champion shirt to Al Voorhees (and Butch Malsbury, who was not present) for having attended the most club events in 2017 as car owners.

Thanks to Mary Ann Timmons for her thoughtful donation to the club. Ms. Timmons is a former NJ resident and a friend of racer Parker Bohn and family.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
John Malsbury, Secretary

APRIL 18, 2018

The April meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Twenty-seven members were in attendance.

The evening's invocation was given by Bob Menschner.

Condolences were offered to the Stahl family on the passing of former member Herb Stahl. Also passing away recently was club car owner Bob Nase. Sympathies go out to his wife Diane and family.

Get-well wishes go out to Eleanor Hagerman. Eleanor is a great lady who has done so much for our organization. We wish her the best. Also, get-well wishes to club member Gil Hearne, who is dealing with some health issues.

It was noted that Mike Tidaback was at Wall Stadium's Opening Night. It was a pleasant surprise to see him, as he is recovering from a racing accident that occurred this past winter at an indoor event.

Ray informed the membership that he received a letter of gratitude from Diane Krause, promoter of Wall Stadium. Diane expressed her thanks for our support of Wall Stadium staff in assisting with preparations for this year's racing season.

Earl Krause reported on the proceedings of our 27th annual awards banquet that was held on March 18. The following individuals were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Drivers – Jerry Cranmer, Joe Hall, and Tom Michel; Car Owners – Jim and Ruth Bauma; Media – Lenny Sammons, Jr.; Lifetime Achievement Award – Jeff Gravatt; Bob Thomas "Spirit of the Sport" Award – Jeff Hardifer. Thanks to all who participated in making this event a success. This is always a great event, with good food, good people, and great stories. This event is truly about the preservation of the history of auto racing in NJ. Special thanks to Banquet Coordinator Pam Krause.

The membership welcomed Mr. Bill Yoder to the club at the meeting. Bill donated old photos and articles from many tracks. He also donated an official's jacket from Hatfield Speedway in PA. The jacket is on display in the club's Museum.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The club's season opener will be at Bridgeport Speedway on April 22. The next event will be at New Egypt Speedway on April 28; Patterson Farms' Family Fun Day will be on May 6th and Wall Stadium will be on May 12.

In an effort to attract younger people to the club, we are sponsoring scholarships for high school students. Two students will be awarded $1,000 each to help with the costs of technical school or college. Information about the scholarship is available on the club's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

John Malsbury, Secretary

Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club

2018 Schedule

DATE	ARRIVAL TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
July 14	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
July 21	5:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
August 11	3:00 p.m.	Bridgeport Speedway *5/8 mile track*	Regular Show
August 18	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
August 25	3:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
September 9	**8:00 a.m.**	**Warren Twp. Municipal Grounds**	**Car Show**
September 22	3:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
September 22	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
October 14	**9:00 a.m.**	**Patterson Farms, Freehold**	**Family Fun Day Car Show**
November 3		Bridgeport Speedway	Regular Show
November 23	9:00 a.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
*Events listed in **BOLD** are **static display** events*			

GET WELL WISHES

John and Barbara Bate
Ken Brenn
Kevin Eyres
Eleanor Hagerman
Sandy Kelleher
Al Voorhees

NEW MEMBERS

Bobby Hall, Flemington, NJ
Nate Strunk, Hampton, NJ

CONGRATULATIONS

...to club member and Trustee Ray Liss (left, in hat). On March 10, Ray received the 2018 Tas Award, along with Kenny Brightbill, Harry Dee, and Bill Osmun, at the 11th Annual Quaker Steak & Lube Dirt Track Heroes Car Show in Phillipsburg (NJ). The award was presented by the Flemington Speedway Historical Society.

HERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Track announcer, writer, and racing historian Earl Krause was the *interviewee*, rather than the *interviewer* at February's club meeting. Ray Shea asked the important questions and Jim Hall served as cameraman.
L Cooper photo

The 27th annual induction ceremonies of the **Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame** will be held on **Thursday, July 26, 2018** at the Hall of Fame Museum on the grounds of **Weedsport Speedway** in Weedsport, NY. The evening's event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with drinks and hors d'oevres. The award ceremonies will begin at 7:00 p.m., with an after-party following. Weedsport Speedway will host the **Hall of Fame 100** on **Saturday, July 28**.

NORTHEAST DIRT MODIFIED MUSEUM & HALL of FAME
1 SPEEDWAY DRIVE WEEDSPORT, NY 13166

We're Searching for Volunteers

Folks are needed to catalog the club's archived items. Contact Ray Shea if you can **help out**.

Connie Joyner (L) and Paul Ielmini (R) were recognized at the June meeting for receiving car owner awards at the RJC Charities car show in June. *L Cooper Photo*

Bob Menschner (L) and Bill Yoder had a nice chat at the June meeting.
Nick Piscitelli Photo

Nick Piscitelli signs over ??? To Ray Shea.
Photo

PHOTO TRIVIA *ANSWER*

from the Winter 2018 issue

King of _____! Who is this guy and why does he look happy to be crowned?

Parker Bohn is smiling here because he is being crowned King of the Modifieds for the 1953 season at Wall Stadium. Also in 1953, Bohn won 3 features at Wilmington Speedway (DE), a 1/3 mile track built similarly to Wall Stadium. His efforts at Wilmington brought him a Modified Championship there as well.

For those who are not familiar with Parker Bohn's racing career, here's a synopsis: Bohn, a resident of Freehold, NJ, started racing in 1950 at age 37 at Long Branch (NJ) Stadium in a 1937 Ford coupe #52 that he built with his cousin Fred Lange. Four feature events later, he captured his first checkered flag. The cousins would go on to win over 100 events all over NJ and Wilmington.

Bohn is most often associated with the black and white #659 owned by Tom Skinner of Hammonton, NJ. The two teamed up in 1961 at Vineland (NJ) Speedway. They remained a team for the next 17 years, running in the Sportsman division of NASCAR and Wall Stadium. The #659 was no ordinary Sportsman car. Skinner himself made the heads for the 6-cylinder engine. Race fans (and fellow competitors) recall that the engine had a distinctive sound as Bohn raced to the checkered flag. At Wall, they were the Sportsman points champs from 1965 through 1968 and in 1973. Not only that, the team often ran the Sportsman car against Modifieds with bigger V-8 engines.

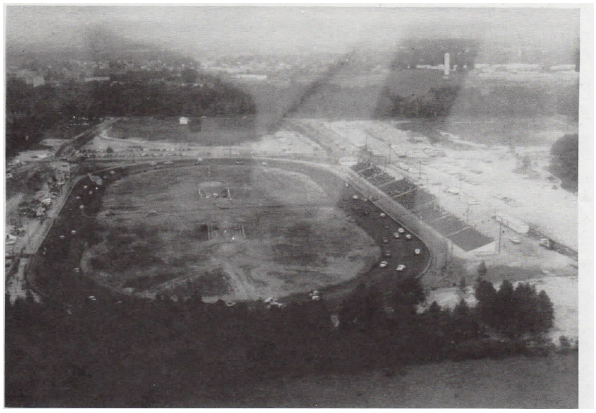
Bohn was not just a good Sportsman driver; he was also a good sportsman. Many folks remember that night at Old Bridge (NJ) Stadium in 1957 when, after an accident interrupted the feature, he got out of his car and pulled fellow driver Pete Frazee free of his burning racer, saving Frazee's life. For his heroism, Bohn received the Dr. Ray N. Sabourin Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship.

After many exciting adventures in racing, Bohn ended his career in 1978. He and his wife Barbara continued to go to Wall Stadium, as he and Skinner sold Hoosier racing tires there into the 1990s.

The racing world lost quite a character and quite a racer in Parker Bohn on July 13, 2008, when he passed away at the age of 90.

Credit for contributions to this piece go to: Eastern Motorsports Press Association (www.empaonline.org); Auto Racing Research Associates (https://sites.google.com/site/arradocumentingracinghistory//); and Earl Krause (earl@aarn.com).

PHOTO TRIVIA



Can you identify this popular NJ race track? Sadly, it closed in 2002.

Look for the answer in our next issue, or go to our website www.gsvscc.org if you can't wait that long. Sometimes the website answer contains more information than we have space for in print.

If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to Linda Cooper via e-mail at: vintageviews@gsvscc.org or by mail to: 7 Thompson Street, West Long Branch, NJ 07764. Prints will be returned promptly.

Be sure to provide the pertinent facts!

This is what it's all about.

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